

Understandably, the new states from Asia and Africa have pressed for greater representation in the various organs. In part, their demands have been met. Last autumn, after nearly ten years of effort, the Assembly adopted resolutions containing Charter amendments for enlarging the Security Council and ECOSOC.

Ratification of those amendments is required and it remains to be seen whether Soviet opposition will be relaxed. Canada believes that these amendments should be made, but we also believe that the members should be equally concerned about improving the functioning of the Councils. We have urged that, in determining their composition as such, attention could be paid to the actual contribution which member states can make as to the factor of geographical representation.

More members means more work for the organization and longer sessions for the Assembly. Since San Francisco, Canada has pressed for improvements in its methods and procedures. This is why I support Dean Rusk's remarks about the desirability of making greater use of working groups and sub-committees, since obviously committees of 113 are cumbersome. As well, we have suggested that greater use could be made of regional groupings, like the Organization of American States and the Organization of African Unity. The Security Council could be given a greater share of the political burden; mechanical voting devices would shorten Assembly proceedings; and naturally all debates would benefit if repetitious statements could be avoided.

Steps like these would do much to enhance the United Nations in the public eye. They would dispel the notion that the Assembly is a noisy debating society. They would give credence to Dag Hammarskjold's vision in his last report of an international instrument for effective co-operation:

Two years before his death and ten months before the Congo crisis, Mr. Hammarskjold told a press conference that the United Nations must respond to those demands made of it. In his prophetic words: "It did take the very steep hill of Suez; it may take other and even steeper hills". There is no doubt in my mind that in the Cyprus situation the organization faces a long and arduous journey uphill.

This alone is not a cause for discouragement or lack of confidence. We should recall that the United Nations has successfully passed through periods of severe trial -- in Korea, at Suez, in the Congo -- and withstood upheavals, such as the intensive cold war debates of the early fifties and the Soviet assault on the Secretariat in the sixties.

I believe that the United Nations can and will overcome the present difficulty in Cyprus. In expressing Canada's faith in the United Nations way, I am voicing our continuing determination to follow a firm policy of support for the United Nations. Canada has always done its utmost to make the United Nations as effective as possible within the limitations imposed by the international situation. This policy has been patiently pursued notwithstanding doubts from time to time about departures from principle and the adoption of questionable methods.