

on behalf of all the peoples represented at the General Assembly who were not already prejudiced against the free world. As you know, sixty nations are now represented at the General Assembly, and I think that our own Secretary of State for External Affairs unquestionably stands highest in general regard among the representatives of all these nations.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: He is esteemed in that enviable way not alone by the delegates representing members of the Atlantic Pact, and our sister nations of the British Commonwealth, but as well by the delegates of all the free countries, regardless of their geographic location and to a large degree regardless of the political views held by them.

As honourable senators know, in addition to its five official delegates Canada was represented by five alternate delegates. Then there was a group of departmental advisers and assistants, mainly from the Departments of External Affairs and Finance. And I would not be true to myself if when speaking here today I did not at once pay tribute to those departmental advisers and assistants for the manner in which they carried out their duties. They worked hard, very hard, day and night, their work was always well done, and their advice was always substantial and well worth the most serious consideration.

We also were fortunate in having there with us a group of unofficial parliamentary advisers. It is unnecessary for me to tell you that all our political parties in parliament were represented there—Conservatives, CCFers, Social Crediters and Liberals. Every morning, six days a week—every day except Sunday—the Canadian delegation met in the Biltmore Hotel at 9 o'clock. We went from there about a quarter after ten by motor cars to Lake Success or Flushing Meadow, and we got back at night whenever the work was finished, anywhere from half past six to eight o'clock, and then carried on our studies in order to be ready for the next morning's meeting. And at our morning meetings everything was discussed openly among us all; nothing was given only to the official delegates and held back from the parliamentary or departmental advisers. We discussed what had taken place the day before and the attitude that it would be wise for the Canadian delegates to take on matters expected to come up that day and possibly the next day. And I want to say here that at no time whatever did the government send us any direct instruction as to what action we should take on any particular item that

was coming before the General Assembly. The official delegates discussed everything freely with the parliamentary and departmental advisers and in this way we formed the best judgment we could.

I also wish to point out that two members of this chamber—the leader of the government (Mr. Robertson) and the senior senator from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert)—joined us after awhile and, although not official delegates, sat around the table in conference with us. Two other senators were in New York, but found it impossible to take part in our deliberations.

In June last the honourable gentleman from De Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Gouin), Chairman of the Senate Committee on External Affairs, presented to this house the committee's report, which contained an item drawing attention to the fact that Canada's contribution to the expenses of the United Nations was, in the committee's opinion, too large in proportion to that of other nations. Without question the implication of the report was that the Soviet bloc were not contributing the same percentage of their national income as was Canada. Now, as honourable members here know, the assessment against each member country of the United Nations is based first upon the national income, and then other factors are taken into consideration, such as the per capita income, the ability of the nation to secure foreign currency, and particularly the degree of destruction and economic disfigurement suffered by the country during the last war. Now it is unnecessary for me to point out that certain countries did suffer much more in that respect than Canada did. This was the first time that I was present at a General Assembly of the United Nations, but from what went on when the United Nations Administrative and Budgetary Committee was dealing with the question of national assessment, it was quite apparent that members of the Canadian Parliament—both from the Senate and from the House of Commons—who had been previous delegates to the United Nations, had performed their task well in laying the foundation for changes in the appropriations.

The changes provided that the percentage to be paid by the Soviet Union be increased by ten per cent, while that of Canada be increased by one-tenth of one per cent. An increase of ten per cent was imposed also on Byelorussia and the Ukraine. I may say that this is the first time since the United Nations came into existence that there has been an increase in the percentage paid by the Soviet Union.