

It has been stated at previous sessions that enlargement was an unattainable ideal in view of the objections raised by a permanent member of the Security Council. It should perhaps be stated again now that no great power can veto a decision of the General Assembly; we have therefore only to develop a united front to reach the two-thirds majority required to approve enlargement. If the support were strong enough at this stage, an almost irresistible moral pressure would surely be exerted to obtain ratification from all the great powers. The suggestion has been made that to bring pressure for a final solution by an Assembly vote was somehow unjustifiable, since it was not a technique of conciliation. Whether one agrees with that view or not, it must nevertheless be recognized as a method of democratic procedure which the Assembly has adopted without protest in dealing with many other perennial agenda items.

The Canadian delegation followed attentively the comments on Friday of the distinguished representative of India. We did not agree with his argument that geographical areas should consider themselves sufficiently represented merely because a permanent member of the Security Council happened to belong to their particular area, but we have a further misgiving arising from his proposal to refer this question to a Charter review committee, or some similar body, such as that envisaged in Res. 1404 (XIV), before Assembly action is taken. The net result of this, in our opinion, is that nothing will be done, for at least another year, to set in motion the process of amending the Charter. When one adds this delay to the inevitable time required in obtaining ratifications under Article 108, it would be another year again before additional members could actually be seated. We believe that the areas of the world now under-represented deserve something better than this. Also, we hope we did not misunderstand his recommendations to imply that responsibility for solving the problem before us should not be the concern of all the smaller powers of this Assembly, but should be left solely in the hands of the great powers through a small Committee. In a matter such as this, in which the interests of all member states are affected, none can afford to abdicate his responsibility.

My government has carefully considered the three alternative solutions so far proposed, and would be prepared to support the draft resolutions now before this Committee for enlargement of the two Councils, as the best guarantee of equitable geographic representation for all, while maintaining the Council at a size consonant with efficiency of operation. Once this has been accomplished, we can then determine the method or system by which these new seats may be distributed.