

A significant feature of the debate in the Sixth Committee was the strong opposition voiced by the Soviet bloc countries not only to Charter amendments but even to preliminary studies in connection with a possible Charter review conference. This attitude caused some delegations to express doubt as to whether any agreement on Charter amendments could be reached.

Studies of possible Charter amendments are now being carried out by governments and private organizations in a number of countries. In the United States the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has set up a sub-committee on the United Nations Charter which has been obtaining the views of both official spokesmen and private citizens in public hearings since January 1954. In the Netherlands, the Government has set up a commission, composed of officials, scholars, lawyers and members of parliament, to study the Charter.

The Canadian Department of External Affairs has set up a Departmental Working Group to prepare and discuss working papers on possible Charter amendments, and the Standing Committee on External Affairs of the House of Commons has expressed an interest in eventually considering and proposing to the Government possible revisions of the Charter. Various private groups in Canada have also begun to work on the subject.