

*Prevention of Military Aggression*

majority of the council and of how they could be enforced, perhaps against another member of the council or against a member of the General Assembly. If that is what he is talking about, then we are dealing with a very different kind of question. The wording of section 1 of the motion leaves unclear exactly what he is recommending and there is a world of difference between these two questions or issues.

The second matter he recommends in his motion is that the unused provisions of the charter be activated. I suspect that here he is referring to the military standing group which has met continuously but which has never managed to agree upon anything. The members who arrive for it open a meeting, sit there for half an hour and then leave without saying a word to each other. The reason for the inactiveness of this group is quite simply that dispute which has obviously dominated the United Nations for a great deal of its history, that split which developed in the cold war, that lack of unanimity and consensus among the great powers on the Security Council. There would be no problem in the activation of these provisions of the charter if we arrived at the stage where the United Nations was an institution working on the basis of the consensus of the great powers and if the great powers themselves were able to arrive at that consensus.

To continue with the hon. member's motion, the next section asks that the International Court of Justice be empowered to interpret the United Nations Charter. I point out that the members of the International Court have that power but the question is whether the court's interpretations will be binding on all the members of the United Nations. This, I suspect, Mr. Speaker—if a private member is allowed to suspect—reflects the bias of the hon. member whom we know is the president, and I may say the distinguished president, of the World Federalists Association of this Parliament.

While not saying so explicitly in his motion, I think what he is working toward is a conception that we should push the United Nations into becoming an institution of world government rather than an instrument of international political operation and co-operation. I would like to make some comments about that matter later on.

**Mr. Allmand:** May I ask the hon. member a question?

**Mr. Roberts:** Willingly.

**Mr. Allmand:** I wonder if my former tenant is aware of the fact that the words of my motion are taken directly from the speech of the Secretary General of the United Nations in 1970 on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization? In other words, the words in this motion are not my own simple ideas but the ideas of a man who has been Secretary General of that institution for several years.

**Mr. Roberts:** No, Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of that and I am delighted to hear they are not the simple ideas of the hon. member but the simple ideas of the Secretary General of the United Nations. That may explain some of the difficulties. I am glad the hon. member has seen fit to bring them to the attention of the House, but having

[Mr. Roberts.]

done so I am afraid he must take responsibility for the wording.

The fourth item he mentions in his motion is the desire to attain universality of membership in the United Nations, which is one of the explicit goals of the organization and something we all agree is necessary and desirable. But it raises practical questions. This relates most importantly to the question of the admission of Mainland China to the United Nations, that great nation which is now beyond the pale in terms of United Nations operations. It is no secret, Mr. Speaker, that I have long supported what has now become the government's approach to that question through recognition of Mainland China and the entry of Mainland China to the United Nations. That is an essential step for us to take. It is absurd for this institution to exclude from its membership—or "not have participation in its deliberations"—would be a much better way of putting it—the representatives of 800 million people.

But this will create great practical problems and here we arrive again at some of the things that the hon. member has recommended in other parts of his motion. For if Mainland China becomes a part of the organization and has a seat on the Security Council, will the possibilities be enhanced or diminished for agreement within the Security Council—something which is a prerequisite for making its decisions enforceable, which is the first thing recommended by the hon. member in his motion?

It is fine to be in favour of the universality of membership and the entry of Mainland China as a member, but we have to calculate what are the practical consequences of that. I suggest one of the consequences will be that it will not be easier for the United Nations to move in the direction of world government, to the type or idea of the institution that the hon. member supports, although it may well make it easier for the United Nations to become a better instrument of international negotiation and co-operation.

In the fifth section of his motion the hon. member recommends the establishment of United Nations authorities to deal with global problems such as the environment, population, development of seabed resources and economic and social stability. The hon. member who spoke before me dealt in part with this section of the motion. This is one of the areas where I think I would support the hon. member although, if I may say so, I think that the word "deal" in "deal with serious global problems" is a bit of a weasel word. What does it mean? Does it mean one can produce regulations, rules and quasi-legislation which can be applied to countries against their will, or does it mean that these authorities will deal with the problems in a co-operative manner, based on a consensus approach to international politics?

The last item the hon. member mentions is the provision of a United Nations stand-by peace force. Perhaps I could deal with this question a little later on in relation to my comments on the report of the subcommittee dealing with United Nations peacekeeping. Of course, most of the members of this House share the hon. member's sympathy and concern to enhance the United Nations, to