

7. CONSIDERATION OF THE VETO

In 1946 at the second part of the First Session of the General Assembly, a number of proposals were made with regard to the right of veto possessed by the permanent members of the Security Council. It was, however, the view of the majority that it was premature to call in question the rule of unanimity among the permanent members of the Security Council as set forth in the Charter. The discussions revealed, however, that almost all the Members of the United Nations believed that the Security Council should reform its practices and procedures. In the end a resolution was adopted which requested the permanent members of the Security Council to ensure that the use of their special voting privilege should not impede the effective operation of the Security Council and which recommended to the Security Council the adoption of procedures to ensure the prompt and effective exercise by the Security Council of its functions. During the debate in the First Committee, preceding the adoption of this resolution, the Canadian delegation submitted an eight-point programme containing certain procedural suggestions which it was considered might be adopted by the Security Council.¹

At the Second Session of the General Assembly, as a result of the continued use of the veto in the Security Council during the preceding months, the Argentine delegation proposed that a general conference of the United Nations be called under Article 109 of the Charter, which deals with the procedure for amendment, to consider the abolition of the veto. A second approach to the problem of the voting procedure of the Security Council was made by the United States delegation. In his opening speech before the General Assembly on September 17, 1947, the United States delegate announced that the United States would waive its right of veto on all subjects in the Security Council, except on those which came under Chapter VII of the Charter concerning action to be taken with respect to threats

¹For a full discussion of the proceedings concerning the practices and procedures of the Security Council at the First Session see "United Nations 1946", Conference Series No. 3, Department of External Affairs, pp. 41 to 46.