

Nations and the Specialized Agencies can do to assist the Governments in the less developed areas to bring about economic and social stability serves significantly the cause of political stability and ultimately the cause of peace.

The first substantive debate in many years on the question of the representation of China took place at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly. It was widely hoped that this might prepare the way for an equitable and generally acceptable solution of an issue which has divided the membership of the United Nations for 12 years. Many delegations expressed the view that a question of such obvious importance to all parties concerned should not be settled by recourse to a narrow voting majority. In support of this view, Canada voted for a resolution declaring in effect that a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly would be required to effect a change in China's representation. Canada opposed a Soviet resolution seeking to exclude Nationalist Chinese representatives from all United Nations organs and to replace them with Communist Chinese representatives.

In the Canadian view, the Soviet resolution prejudged the issue, was inequitable and was contrary to the interests of the United Nations. The Canadian statement to the General Assembly was explicit in expressing two basic views: that there must be preserved for the people of Formosa the right to determine their own destiny; and that Canadians would never understand or accept a solution by which the United Nations Organization sanctioned the forcible extinction of the political identity of Formosa.

In many quarters, questions have been raised anxiously about the continuing usefulness of the United Nations. Nevertheless, the Organization has shown an ability to adjust to rapidly changing conditions and to meet many of the challenges which the world faces today. The conditions within the United Nations are no more or no less complex than the actual state of international affairs which they reflect. Moreover, the elements exist in the United Nations system for the kind of co-operation required to bring about accommodation, compromise and ultimately the harmony essential to international order.

Even with its limitations the United Nations has much to its credit. Despite disappointments, irritations and frustrations, no member state has left the Organization. Instead, it has continued to gather in the emerging new nations which have made admission to the United Nations the hallmark of their attainment of independence. In 1961 Sierra Leone, Mauritania, the Mongolian People's Republic, and Tanganyika were admitted to raise the membership to 104. Today the Organization is approaching universality in its representation of the people of the world. It provides a forum where all nations can mingle and exchange ideas in an atmosphere of comparative equality and cordiality which cuts across regional, racial and ideological lines.