

One contribution which Canada has made to the United Nations is to try the experiment of sending to the United Nations Assemblies delegations which include not only members of the government and government officials but also members of the opposition parties. This is a new experiment for Canada, an experiment which was begun at San Francisco. So far as I know, we are one of a very few countries trying this experiment. One valuable result is that a constantly increasing number of members of parliament on both sides of the House of Commons and Senate possess first-hand knowledge of the work of the United Nations.

Under our system of government, the government of the day, of course, must and does accept full responsibility for every action of a delegation at an international conference. Nevertheless, the members of the opposition parties who have been included in the Canadian delegations to the Assembly of the United Nations have been extremely useful advisers to the delegation and each delegation has worked as a team.

One reason that Canadian delegations to the Assembly are able to work as teams is that they are relatively small. We can all - representatives, alternates, advisers - meet around a table in an ordinary hotel sitting-room and we meet that way every week-day morning from 9 to 10. One advantage of working as a team is that we avoid the danger of pursuing inconsistent policies in the various committees of the Assembly which are meeting simultaneously. Some of the great powers with larger delegations find it more difficult to do this. The importance of this lies not so much in the fact that Canada pursues a consistent policy in the various committees as that by pursuing a consistent policy we draw the attention of other delegations having greater influence to inconsistencies in their policies. That is sometimes the most effective contribution which a secondary power can make. It may affect the whole issue of a debate.

Thus, at the last General Assembly one of the most important issues discussed was the disarmament resolution originally introduced by the Soviet delegation. As soon as the resolution was introduced, we had a meeting of our representatives on the Atomic Energy Commission and our representatives on the Political Committee of the Assembly - a half dozen people. Jointly we worked out the outlines of a policy on disarmament. For the next six weeks we argued in private conversations and on the floor of Assembly committees and sub-committees that the proposals on disarmament which a number of other delegations, particularly that of the United States, were supporting in the Political Committee of the Assembly were at variance with the policies they were supporting in the Atomic Energy Commission. Our efforts were finally successful.

Another contribution which we have made to the United Nations is to set an example by submitting to the parliament and people of our country extensive reports on the participation of the Canadian delegations in the work of the San Francisco Conference and the regular Assemblies in London and New York. So far as I know, these reports are the fullest, the frankest and the most explanatory published by any government. Together these three reports describe the progress of the United Nations and Canada's participation in it from the opening of the