

states and the principles of the Charter dealing with non-intervention in the domestic affairs of states.

While Canada has expressed agreement in principle to the establishment of an international criminal court, at the General Assembly in 1952 the Canadian Representative stated "The important question . . . is not the theoretical possibility of setting up an international court but whether, as a practical matter, there is reasonable prospect, first, of states signing a Convention to confer jurisdiction upon a court if it is established, and, second, of the court being able to function effectively on the basis of the consent of states to such a Convention." In the light of the general discussion in the Legal Committee and in the special committee, there appears to be little prospect of any such general agreement.

As the Legal Committee was reluctant to make a definite pronouncement on whether or not further steps should be taken to establish an international criminal court, it decided to postpone further consideration of the question until the two related questions,—definition of aggression, and a draft code of offences against the peace and security of mankind—have been taken up.

Correction of Votes

The rules of procedure of the General Assembly contain no provision concerning the correction of votes. When a question arises, it is left to the discretion of the President of the General Assembly or the chairman of a committee to decide whether a correction is to be allowed.

The desirability of new rules to govern the correction of votes was discussed briefly by the Legal Committee at the ninth session of the General Assembly. A resolution was adopted requesting the Secretary-General to report to the tenth session on the voting procedures in force in other inter-governmental organizations as well as in national parliaments, and the Secretary-General was asked to include in his report provisions designed to prevent and correct any mistakes which might occur during the voting procedure in the General Assembly. The Secretary-General's report¹ showed that the practice in the United Nations was to allow corrections requested before the result was announced, and clerical errors were corrected if discovered. The Secretary-General proposed several minor changes in present procedures "not necessarily as desirable for adoption but as an aid to discussion". It was also suggested that for the purpose of preventing mistakes, the General Assembly might wish to consider the installation of electrical voting equipment.

The majority of members, including Canada, thought that rules were not required for the correction of votes; the practice of the General Assembly and its committees was considered to be satisfactory; an attempt to draft rules might well create more problems than it would solve; and an electrical voting system was considered neither necessary nor desirable. In a nearly unanimous vote (50 to 0 with 1 abstention) the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's report, decided to take no further action on the question for the present, but recommended that member states give some study to the question.

¹General Assembly document A/2977.