

No. 53/50

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

Text of a statement made on October 6, 1953, by the Alternate Representative on the Canadian Delegation, Mr. G.B. Summers, Q.C., in the Ad Hoc Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, dealing with Agenda Item 22

Note: The text of the resolution passed by the Ad Hoc Committee, and the results of the voting are given at the end of the Canadian Statement

The problem of enlarging the membership of the United Nations in order to make it a truly world-wide organization in accord with the intention of its founders has been with us for many years. Every aspect of the problem whether legal or political has been ably discussed in this Committee during the session and many times before. The position of the Canadian Delegation has been stated in previous sessions and has recently been re-stated to the special committee on the admission of new members, the report of which is now before us. I do not propose, therefore, to deal now with the matter once again in any detail and would wish merely to state very shortly the views of the Canadian Delegation on the broad problem and in relation to the proposals which are before us.

The wish of the General Assembly as a whole is clearly in favour of the enlargement of our membership. Every delegation has so stated and put in these broad terms, it can be said that we are unanimous. It is therefore a sad commentary on our statesmanship that it has not been possible to achieve this desired end. Until some solution has been found and deserving applicants have been admitted, we cannot claim that the United Nations is in a position to speak for the world as a whole and to exercise its functions as it should. The Canadian Delegation considers it a matter of great importance that some means should be found to solve this problem, and that all of those states which are eligible for admission under the provisions of the Charter should be added to our councils as soon as possible.

I must state from the outset, however, that the Canadian Delegation does not consider that this end should be achieved by circumventing the provision of the Charter. With due respect to the legal opinions of those who hold a contrary view, and recognizing the goodwill and good intentions of those countries who would endeavour to solve this problem by taking the matter out of the hands of the Security Council and dealing with it in the Assembly, we remain convinced that the matter should not be settled in this way. The provisions of the Charter are, we believe clear and the decisions of the International Court of Justice must be respected. Before we can solve the problem here, therefore, we must have before us a recommendation of the Security Council.

Some of the permanent members of the Security Council have indicated that they will not, notwithstanding their views in respect of any particular application, prevent the General Assembly from considering an application by the exercise of the veto. If all the permanent members of the Security Council could give us a similar assurance, this would be a great step ahead and we could perhaps see a ray of hope.

Believing as we do that the deadlock which has developed over the admission of new members is essentially a political problem and requires a political solution, we might have hoped that during the past year which has seen a number of changes for the better, the Soviet Government might have seen fit to make some change in its proposal concerning the admission of new members. However, the resolution which they have presented to the Assembly this year is identical with their proposal not only of last year, but of previous years.

No matter how broad and liberal an interpretation of Article 4 of the Charter we would like to adopt and see others adopt, we cannot ignore the qualifications of individual countries whether or not the applications are presented individually. The Soviet Delegation know very well that although our founding fathers at San Francisco assumed the eventual universality of our Organization within the framework of the Charter, it is well nigh impossible for us to accept Outer Mongolia as a member state, while excluding other states fully qualified for membership.

In other words, from our point of view, the Soviet proposal has both sins of omission and commission. Much as we would like, therefore, to see the largest possible number of qualified outstanding applicants admitted to the United Nations, we shall once again be compelled to cast our vote against the Soviet resolution.

The resolution proposed by the distinguished Representative of Peru is, we believe, worthy of support. As I have said above, surely by some means, a solution of this problem can be found and we believe it would be appropriate for a Special Committee to undertake this task, to use its best endeavours, and report back to the Assembly. With regard to the amendment submitted by the distinguished Representative of Argentina, while we agree that the sooner a solution can be found the better, we do not consider that having regard to the known difficulties and complexities of the problem it would be right to attempt to set a time limit of four weeks within which the Committee must report.

The Canadian Delegation will therefore support a proposal for the establishment of a Committee of good offices, will vote against the amendment to this resolution and will vote against the Soviet resolution for simultaneous admission of the states enumerated in that resolution.

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External Affairs
Supplementary Paper
by the Alternate Representative of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. G.B. Summers, P.C.
Reso.
Adopt
A/2

The following is the text of the resolution (U.N. Doc. A/2520) passed by the Ad Hoc Committee of the eighth session of the General Assembly on October 15, 1953, dealing with the admission of new members. It was passed by a unanimous vote of the Committee, i.e. 60 in favour, none against and none abstaining. In a plenary meeting on October 23, 1953 the resolution was adopted without change by a unanimous vote of the General Assembly.

It is of interest to note that there are at present twenty-one applications for membership outstanding, but no applicants have been admitted since Indonesia became the sixtieth member in September 1950. Outstanding applicants are as follows:

States sponsored by the U.S.S.R.:

Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Mongolian People's Republic, North Korea, "the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam" (Viet-Minh) and Roumania;

Other States:

Austria, Cambodia, Ceylon, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Libya, Nepal, Portugal and Viet-Nam.

"The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on Admission of New Members (A/2400),

Considering that universality of membership in the United Nations is subject only to the provisions of the Charter,

Considering that the aims of the Charter of the United Nations would be furthered through the co-operation of all peace-loving States,

Believing that a new effort to find a solution to this problem should be without prejudice to the juridical positions maintained by individual Members of the United Nations and to any further consideration of the subject by the General Assembly,

1. Decides to establish a Committee of Good Offices, consisting of the representatives of Egypt, the Netherlands and Peru, empowered to consult with members of the Security Council with the object of exploring the possibilities of reaching an understanding which would facilitate the admission of new Members in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter;

2. Requests the Committee of Good Offices to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its eighth or, at the latest, at its ninth session."

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It is of interest to note that there are at present twenty-one applications for membership outstanding, but no applicants have been admitted since Indonesia became the sixteenth member in September 1950. Outstanding applicants are as follows:

States sponsored by the U.S.S.R.:

Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Mongolian People's Republic, North Korea, "the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam" (Viet-Minh) and Rumania;

Other States:

Austria, Cambodia, Ceylon, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Libya, Nepal, Portugal and Viet-Nam.

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Resolution
Adopted
(A/2320)