

Addendum for
External Affairs
Supplementary Paper No. 54/32/UN9/9

(Please attach to original)

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The General Assembly in plenary session on November 23 adopted unanimously the resolution which had been approved in the Ad Hoc Political Committee on November 12.

No. 54/32/UN9/9

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Text of a statement on November 5, 1954, by Mr. G.D. Weaver, M.P., Canadian Representative in the Ad Hoc Political Committee at the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda item 21 - Admission of new Members to the United Nations: (a) Report of the Committee of Good Offices; (b) Admission of Laos and Cambodia.

Note: The text of a resolution adopted by the Committee and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

The Canadian Delegation has again examined the question of admitting new members to the United Nations, and has listened with careful attention to the statements of other delegations. We are forced to conclude that we have made very little progress towards a solution since our last Assembly debate on this subject.

The situation still remains that 14 states whose admission is overwhelmingly supported by the General Assembly and by the Security Council are kept out by the veto of one member of the Security Council. A further 7 applicants have been unable to obtain the seven supporting votes in the Security Council necessary for a positive recommendation to the General Assembly. 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 should like to join with other delegations in paying tribute to the efforts of the Committee of Good Office (established by the 8th Assembly to explore possible solutions to this problem) and its able Chairman, the distinguished representative of Peru. I am sure that our failure to make progress is not due to any absence of zeal on the part of this Committee. On the contrary, there is no doubt that it approached its task with great persistence and ingenuity. In our view this Committee of Good Offices should be kept in being in order to be ready to take immediate advantage of any new development which might make a solution possible.

One possible avenue of advance we had hoped might be explored at this session is the suggestion made by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his Annual Report for the year ending June 30, 1954. After some very pertinent remarks on the serious damage

done to United Nations effectiveness and influence by the absence of so many countries, from all parts of the world, including almost half the countries of Europe, he suggested that a beginning towards breaking the present log-jam might be made with some of those countries which "do not directly enter into the balance between the conflicting camps". Our delegation would gladly support any endeavour to implement the Secretary-General's suggestion as a first step towards the goal of universality, and it was therefore with regret that we listened to the unfavourable comments on this idea made by the distinguished representative of Poland. It is true that the Polish representative did not specifically mention the Secretary-General's proposal but he did refer to the central idea of this proposal.

Mr. Chairman, I wish now to consider the first resolution tabled for consideration in this Committee on the question of membership. This is, of course, the proposal submitted by the delegations of Australia, Pakistan and Thailand recommending the admission to the United Nations of the states of Laos and Cambodia. The Canadian delegation will give its wholehearted support to this resolution. As Sir Percy Spender, speaking on behalf of Australia, has intimated, this proposal could have the effect of breaking the log-jam and might conceivably lead to the admission of other applicants. Canada has recognized these two countries as independent states, and on previous occasions our delegation has supported resolutions in the General Assembly calling for their admission to the United Nations. It might be suggested that, since the Canadian Government has assumed the responsibility of membership of the Supervisory Commissions in Indo-China, we should perhaps now suspend judgment on the admission of Laos and Cambodia pending the completion of the final stages of the cease-fire arrangements. However, we have examined this question very carefully, and we can find no reason for abandoning our previously adopted attitude on the admission of Laos and Cambodia to the United Nations. As to the possible suggestion that action on these two applications might be deferred until the work of the Supervisory Commission is completed, it seems to us that the fulfilment of the terms of the cease-fire agreement would have no significant bearing on the international status of these two countries since their independence received very general recognition at Geneva and, so far as we can see, there is nothing to be gained from even temporarily denying them the benefits of membership. We are, therefore, glad to welcome the initiative of the delegations of Australia, Pakistan and Thailand, and we shall vote in favour of their resolution.

Voting Results

Following is the text of a resolution (U.N.Doc.No.A/AC.76/L.11/Rev.1) on agenda item 21 (a) adopted by the Ad Hoc Political Committee on November 12, 1954, by a vote of 59 in favour, none against and no abstentions (Costa Rica was absent):

Text of
Resolution

The General Assembly,

Noting the growing general feeling in favour of the universality of the United Nations, membership in which is open to all peace-loving States which accept the obligations contained in the Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able and willing to carry out those obligations,

Having considered the report of the Committee of Good Offices established by resolution 718 (VIII),

Noting that, notwithstanding the best endeavours of the Committee of Good Offices, the problem remains unresolved,

Further noting the views recorded by the Committee of Good Offices that possibilities of reaching an understanding remain and that "different views may eventually be harmonized within the spirit of the Charter",

1. Expresses appreciation of the work and the efforts of the Committee of Good Offices;
2. Decides to send back the pending applications to the Security Council, together with a full record of the discussions in the present session of the General Assembly, for further consideration and positive recommendations;
3. Suggests that the Security Council consider the desirability of invoking the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 28 of the Charter to help resolve the problem;
4. Requests the Committee of Good Offices to continue its efforts;
5. Requests the Security Council and the Committee of Good Offices to report to the General Assembly during the present session if possible and in any event during the tenth regular session.

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