

## **The government's proposal to the Parliament to give consent to Finland joining the United Nations .**

According to the Charter signed on June 26, 1945, the mission of the United Nations, an international organization established after the Second World War, is to maintain international peace and security and at the same time to promote international peaceful cooperation in various fields. Securing peace is the main task of the organization but at the same time it is supposed to promote international cooperation by solving international, economic, social , cultural and humanitarian issues and, by promoting and revitalizing the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms that belong to everyone.

In order to secure peace, the Charter requires two main methods, viz. peaceful settlement of disputes and joint action to prevent or eliminate the use of violence. All members of the organization must settle their international disputes by peaceful means. As for the prohibition of the use of violence, the members of the organization must refrain from the threat or use of violence in their international relations against the territorial integrity or political sovereignty of any state, or in any other way that is in conflict with the goals of the organization. However, a member must in every way assist the organization in every measure it undertakes in accordance with the Charter, and refrain from providing assistance to the state against which the organization takes preventive or coercive measures. In order to realize these objectives, the organization has available the following main bodies: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Supervisory Board, the International Court of Justice and the secretariat. In addition to these, the organization has auxiliary bodies; such are, for example, the staff committee with its regional subcommittees and the committees appointed by the Economic and Social Council. In the Charter, special attention has been paid to bringing international specialized bodies operating in the economic and social field into relations with the organization.

The General Assembly is made up of all members of the organization. It can discuss and present recommendations on all issues within the scope of the organization's activities, but not on issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security now dealt with by the Security Council. A majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting is required for decisions of the General Assembly in important matters, but other matters are decided by a

simple majority. The General Assembly, in which each member state can have a maximum of five representatives, meets annually during the regular session and, if necessary, during extraordinary sessions.

The Security Council has primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. It is made up of eleven members of the organization. The permanent members of the Security Council are China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. The six rotating members of the Security Council are elected for a two-year term; when in the first election of rotating members three members were elected for only one year in accordance with the Charter, it is because three members are elected to the Security Council each year. A resigning member cannot be immediately re-elected.

In Security Council voting, decisions on questions concerning the order of procedure are made with at least seven affirmative votes. In all other matters, decisions also require seven votes, but it is also required that they include the votes of all five permanent members. In matters concerning the peaceful settlement of disputes, the state as a party to the dispute must refrain from voting. A permanent member of the Security Council has the right of veto.

The task of the Economic and Social Council, under the General Assembly, is to deal with international economic, social, cultural, educational, health care and other issues of that nature. It consists of 18 members, six of whom are elected every year for three years at a time. Decisions are made by a simple majority of votes.

The Trusteeship Council assists the General Assembly and the Security Council in the administration and supervision of territories that are brought under the organization's control by separate agreements. It includes as members the five Great Powers, the states that have trustee territories in their administration, and as many members elected by the General Assembly for three years as necessary, so that the number of members of the Council is evenly distributed among those members of the organization that have these areas in their administration, and those that who don't have them.

The International Court of Justice, aimed at be the successor of The Permanent Court of International Justice, which began its function in 1922, does not differ from it in terms of its organizational form, except for some minor points. The seat of the court is The Hague. It consists of fifteen judges, whose term of office lasts nine years; however, the term of office of one third

of the first judges expires after three years, and the term of office of the second third expires after six years. The jurisdiction of the court covers those cases which the parties submit to it for resolution or which are required in valid agreements; in addition, states can recognize in advance mandatory jurisdiction over every state that has made a similar commitment in all questions of a legal nature, which are defined in the statute of the court. Such an explanation can be given either unconditionally or subject to reciprocity on the part of several or some states or for a limited period of time.

When the provisions in previous agreements regarding the transfer of disputes to the previous Permanent Court of International Justice have become inapplicable when the aforementioned court ceases to function, it has been tried to avoid the difficulties arising from this by the provision of the new statute that, when a valid agreement between the participants in the statute requires that a matter be left to be decided by a judicial body established by the League of Nations or the Permanent Court of International Justice, the new International Court of Justice will be this body. Explanations of mandatory jurisdiction issued on the basis of the corresponding provision of the old statute of the court are considered to have been issued according to the new statute and are therefore valid for the agreed period between the states participating in the new statute. In 1937, Finland last approved the so-called optional regulation in question for a period of 10 years (decree 210/37).

The secretariat comprises the staff needed by the general secretary and the organization, and when hiring, due attention must also be paid to ensuring that the geographical base of its composition is as broad as possible.

When a threat to the peace or a breach or an act of aggression has been found to exist, it is up to the Security Council to make proposals or decide on the coercive measures that the member states must take. As far as coercive military measures are concerned, the member states do not have military obligations directly under the Charter, but under special agreements concluded between the Security Council and various members or groups of members. The security system of the United Nations is therefore finally ready only when such special agreements have been concluded according to the plan of the Security Council and each signatory state has ratified them in the order in accordance with its state constitution.

The organization's expenses are divided among the member states according to the apportionment determined by the General Assembly. The organization's 1946 interim budget rose

into approx. 25 million dollar. In this context, however, it must be taken into account that in connection with the dissolution of the League of Nations, quite considerable funds were left for the use of the United Nations and its members.

The founder members of the United Nations are the following 51 countries that signed the Charter: China, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and France, and the Netherlands, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Federated States of South Africa, Ethiopia , Commonwealth of the Philippines, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iraq, Iran, Yugoslavia, Canada, Colombia, Greece, Cuba, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Peru, Salvador, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Uruguay, New Zealand, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and Venezuela. Later, Afghanistan, Iceland, Sweden and Siam have been accepted as members of the United Nations.

In considerations for Finland to access to the United Nations, it must be stated that Finland fully supports the program of the universal organization, which aims to maintain international peace and security and promote international peaceful cooperation. With full satisfaction it should be noted the statement contained in the preamble of the Peace Treaty signed on February 10, 1947, that the conclusion of this Peace Treaty makes it possible for the Allied and their Associated Powers to support Finland's request to become a full member of the United Nations.

Accepting Finland as a member of the United Nations can take place next September during the annual session at the earliest. As the issue of Finland's aspiration to become a member of the United Nations may soon become relevant, the Government has deemed it necessary to make a proposal to the Parliament to give its consent to take measures for Finland to become a member of the organization. In addition to this, the Government's purpose is that in due course the necessary bills will be presented to the Parliament on special issues arising from the organization's membership. These include, in addition to the appropriations proposals, formulation of the stand for the option on the mandatory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice and the adoption of a special agreement on the privileges and exemptions enjoyed by the organization under the jurisdiction of each member state.

Based on the above, the Government presents,

*that the Parliament would give its consent to the Government authorizing them to take the necessary measures for Finland to become a member of the United Nations.*

In Helsinki on June 12, 1947.

**President of the Republic**

**JK PAASIKIVI.**

Minister of Foreign Affairs *Carl Enckell.*