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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA
OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

RATIONALIZATION OF THE PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 26 June 1970 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions from my Government I have the honour to request you to include an item in the agenda of the twenty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly under the title "Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly". It is suggested that the General Assembly may wish to consider this matter as a sub-item of the agenda item "Celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations". I would also suggest that this item be considered as early as possible after the opening of the twenty-fifth session.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I attach an explanatory memorandum and a copy of a draft resolution.

(Signed) Yvon BEAULNE
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The number of States Members of the United Nations has more than doubled in the past quarter of a century and the United Nations has assumed responsibilities in the field of social and economic development of a magnitude that were not foreseen when the Charter was adopted; science and technology have opened up new possibilities for human advancement and at the same time created a whole new complex of problems.
2. The institutional practices of the United Nations General Assembly have nevertheless continued almost without change since the earliest days of the Organization. It is now widely recognized that they often no longer permit the Organization to respond effectively to the demands made upon it. It is true that some of these practices arise from necessary accommodations to differing interests. This need not, however, preclude the consideration of ways and means of improving the procedures and organization of the General Assembly which would be of benefit to all Members.
3. One such area may be the reallocation of agenda items to plenary and the Main Committees whose workload at present is unevenly distributed, with considerable overlapping of responsibility for some subjects. Other reforms in practice and procedures, minor in themselves but promising improved performance, can readily be envisaged.
4. The Canadian Government, therefore, requests inscription of an agenda item, the purpose of which would be to make the General Assembly a more effective instrument for dealing with the problems of the 1970s and beyond, and suggests that the General Assembly should consider this matter as a sub-item to the agenda item "Celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations".
5. The Canadian Government considers that a committee should be appointed by the President of the twenty-fifth session with an express mandate to examine the established system of Committees and the allocation of agenda items, organization of the work of the Assembly, documentation, rules of procedure and related questions, taking into account all suggestions that might be submitted to it. It should be asked to prepare a final report for the twenty-sixth session containing its findings and recommendations on specific measures.

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6. A draft resolution designed to establish the proposed committee is attached for the consideration of Members. The Canadian Government has consulted with the Governments of Cameroon, India, Italy, Japan, Liberia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Sweden, Venezuela and Zambia, which support this proposal and will join in co-sponsoring the draft resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

RATIONALIZATION OF THE PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the growth of its responsibilities and its membership makes desirable a review of its procedures and the organization of its work,

Conscious that the resources of both the United Nations and the delegations of Member States must be used to maximum effect if it is to meet the challenges of the future,

1. Requests the President of the General Assembly to establish as early as possible during its present session a committee of () persons with wide experience in General Assembly activities to study ways and means of improving its procedures and organization, including the allocation of agenda items, the organization of its work, documentation, its rules of procedure and related questions, its methods and practices, and to submit a report to the Assembly at its twenty-sixth session;

2. Requests all Member States as well as the specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations organs to give the committee all information and assistance that it may require in pursuance of this resolution;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General to give every assistance to the committee in the performance of its task.
