

as in the case of any other treaty. Similarly, it would always be open to the General Assembly or to the Security Council, in appropriate circumstances, to ask the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion concerning the meaning of a provision of the Charter. Should the General Assembly or the Security Council prefer another course, an ad hoc committee of jurists might be set up to examine the question and report its views, or recourse might be had to a joint conference. In brief, the Members or the organs of the Organization might have recourse to various expedients in order to obtain an appropriate interpretation.

14. AMENDMENTS

Committee I/2 was charged with the responsibility for drafting provisions relating to amendments to the Charter.

Chapter XI of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals contained only one Article on amendments. This was amended as follows:

Amendments to the present Charter shall come into force for all Members of the United Nations when they have been adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the Members of the General Assembly and ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all of the permanent members of the Security Council.

The Dumbarton Oaks Proposals did not provide for the calling of a general conference to review the Charter. The sponsoring Governments proposed an amendment providing for such a conference to meet the wishes expressed by several delegations. After lengthy debate on the voting procedure and the time limit for calling a general conference, the Committee decided to recommend the following provisions:

A General Conference of the Members of the United Nations for the purpose of reviewing the present Charter may be held at a date and place to be fixed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the General Assembly and by a vote of any seven members of the Security Council. Each Member of the United Nations shall have one vote in the conference.

Any alteration of the present Charter recommended by a two thirds vote of the conference shall take effect when ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations including all the permanent members of the Security Council.

If such a conference has not been held before the tenth annual session of the General

Assembly following the coming into force of the present Charter, the proposal to call such a conference shall be placed on the agenda of that session of the General Assembly, and the conference shall be held if so decided by a majority vote of the members of the General Assembly and by a vote of any seven members of the Security Council.

15. SIGNING OF THE CHARTER

At the final plenary session of the San Francisco Conference on June 25, 1945, the Charter of the United Nations was unanimously approved, the heads of the 50 delegations standing to mark their vote in favor.

President Harry S. Truman attended this final session in person and addressed the Conference on the conclusion of its historic task. He congratulated the delegates of all 50 nations upon having produced a solid structure on which could be built a better world.

On the following day the signing ceremony took place in the Veterans War Memorial Building at San Francisco. China, in recognition of its long-standing fight against aggression, was accorded the honor of being the first to sign. It was arranged that the signatures of the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom and France should follow, and then, in alphabetical order, the remaining nations, with the United States, as host country, signing last. As each delegation came forward to sign, its chairman made an official speech to commemorate his country's participation in the work of the Conference.

16. RATIFICATION OF THE CHARTER

Under Article 110, the Charter of the United Nations, together with the Statute of the International Court of Justice, was to come into force upon the deposit with the Government of the United States of ratifications by China, France, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, the United States, and by a majority of the other signatory States.

On October 24, 1945, the Charter came into force when the five permanent members of the Security Council and 24 other signatory States had deposited their ratifications with the Government of the United States. On that date the United States Secretary of State signed a Protocol of Deposit of Ratifications, which read as follows:

WHEREAS, paragraph 3 of Article 110 of the Charter of the United Nations, signed at San Francisco on June 26, 1945, provides as follows: