

As a minimum, the surprise element might be avoided by requiring that no vote should be taken on any matter of substance less than two days after an official, properly publicized, announcement of such a vote.

Doubts have also been expressed about the actual amount of support a particular resolution has obtained. The numerical majority of states does not automatically represent the views of the real majority of the world's power, however calculated. Without introducing any system of weighted voting, the United Nations computer which tabulates the votes might be programmed to include data relating to each state's population and gross national product. The General Assembly could then authorize the Secretary-General to announce, when so requested by at least ten states, not only the number of states which voted for or against a resolution but also the percentages of the world population and world gross product which are represented by the states voting for or against the resolution. In this manner the claims of alleged nonrepresentativeness of the majority behind a particular resolution could be easily resolved.

The suggestions made here are merely illustrative. The details could easily be changed without impairing their intrinsic merit, and one can imagine many other ways in which UN procedures could be made more satisfactory. If these or similar improvements could be made in the decisionmaking process, the decisions adopted thereby would clearly have a more persuasive force than the decisions adopted by doubtful procedures and under the shadow of unconstitutionality. The likelihood of their acceptance and implementation would be thus greatly enhanced. This would make the whole process more meaningful and would remove some frustrations of the third world countries about the fact that frequently the decisions taken have no effect whatever. There is an important link between due process and the effectiveness of decisions. If one can be improved, the other is likely to follow.

The major powers want to see the decisions made in a responsible way. The third world nations want to see the decisions executed. The obvious answer seems to be: if the decisions are made in a responsible way, reconciling the main points of view, then the major powers will help to execute them effectively and in good faith. If the due process of law is observed in the adoption of decisions, they will more easily be accepted as binding.

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### THE FRANCIS DEÁK PRIZE

Each year, the Board of Editors of the *American Journal of International Law* awards a prize in memory of the late Francis Deák for an especially meritorious article appearing in the *Journal*. The Prize for 1975 has been conferred on Messrs, Allan E. Gotlieb, Charles Dalfen, and Kenneth Katz

for their article "The Transborder Transfer of Information by Communications and Computer Systems: Issues and Approaches to Guiding Principles," appearing in the April 1974 issue at page 227.

The Board of Editors extends its congratulations to the recipients of the Prize and expresses its appreciation to Mr. Philip Cohen, the President of Oceana Publications, Inc., through whose generosity an award is made to the recipients of the Prize.

R.R.B.