

international law had been developed by any one nation or group of nations, and pointed out that such rules of international law as those embodied in the United Nations Charter "cannot be appropriated by any particular concept such as 'peaceful co-existence'; they belong to the international community as a whole; they have been developed over the centuries and they represent one of the few available instruments to avoid chaos and even ultimate calamity; to assert that among those rules there are 'old ones' which can in certain cases be repudiated unilaterally as opposed to new ones which have been especially formulated by certain states alone is at best to misrepresent the nature of international law and at worst to challenge its very existence".

The proposal calling for the substitution of the non-controversial topic in the place of that of "peaceful co-existence" was accepted unanimously by the Sixth Committee.

Special Missions

Diplomatic relations between States increasingly assume other forms than the normal contact through permanent diplomatic missions. These other forms might be categorized under the heading of "ad hoc diplomacy" or "special missions", covering itinerant envoys and special missions sent to States for limited purposes.

At its twelfth session held in 1960 the International Law Commission had prepared draft articles on special missions and had recommended that they should be submitted by the General Assembly to the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities which was to convene at Vienna at the beginning of 1961. The Commission had however emphasized that for want of time it had not been able to give the topic the thorough study it would normally have done.

At its fourth plenary meeting, on April 10, 1961, the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities held at Vienna unanimously adopted a resolution recommending to the General Assembly of the United Nations that it refer to the International Law Commission further study of the subject of special missions in the light of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations adopted at the Conference.

In accordance with that resolution, the General Assembly included the "Question of Special Missions" in the agenda of its sixteenth session and thereafter requested the International Law Commission, as soon as it considers it advisable, to study further the subject of special missions and to report thereon to the General Assembly.