

Certainly this long overdue affirmation is one which none of us can in conscience oppose. Rather, it should merit our full support, since it could conceivably represent the beginning of a new approach to international affairs. It is, I would suggest, our duty as lawyers to attempt to provide the initial impetus for such a development. If I may advert to the statement of the distinguished representative of Turkey, law was not given its proper pre-eminent place in the thinking behind the Charter of the United Nations, and it is incumbent upon the Legal Committee of the United Nations to attempt to rectify this situation. As one distinguished representative said, "Power without law is madness". Many delegations including those of Austria, Algeria, Chile, Great Britain, Greece, Iran, Ireland, Mali, Sweden and the United States have spoken in support of the concept of the rule of law amongst nations. Let us emphasize this concept in any resolution which we pass.

Turning to the second operative paragraph of Resolution L.507, this paragraph makes a clear-cut affirmation that, "The Charter is the fundamental statement of principles of international law governing friendly relations and co-operation among states, notably the obligation to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of states and of the obligation to settle disputes by peaceful means". Can this affirmation be described as narrow? This is not a minor point to be made en passant, or found buried in preambles which may or may not be consistent with such a concept. Not one delegation has disagreed with the premise that the Charter is the fundamental statement of principles of international law governing friendly relations and co-operation among states. On the contrary, nearly every delegation has stressed this point in their statements on this item,