

Before concluding, I would like to say a very few words to this distinguished audience about the skilled practitioners of the art of legal diplomacy. Many nations, including Canada, rely to a great extent on these experts to develop, promote and create a body of generally acceptable international law which is materially relevant to the modern age in which we live. This speaks much more eloquently than any individual foreign minister can, of the reliance and trust which is placed in them. I also believe that their continuing contact with important professional and academic institutions and associations, such as the ILA and CIIA, can help these legal experts to keep fully aware and take into account informed opinion on these detailed and complex subjects. This is another reason I am pleased to have had the opportunity of addressing you this evening -- to maintain and enhance this relationship between the foreign policy making branch of the government, which is directly concerned with international law, and the Canadian professional and academic community of which your Associations are a significant and influential part.