

race. Here again, the success or failure of these deliberations does not reflect on the value of the UN in international society, for outcomes are ultimately dependent on the willingness and creativity of those who engage in these efforts. Nonetheless, the fact that the UN provides these forums for deliberation is valuable in itself, for in a society that is decentralized, the UN serves as an alternative vehicle through which potential conflict among states can be avoided by pursuing diplomacy rather than by resorting to violence.

In the fall of every year, the members of the UNGA vote on a wide range of ACD and international security resolutions. These resolutions are filtered through the UN's First Committee. The scholarly significance of these resolutions lies in what they reveal about the diverse views entertained internationally on the subjects of ACD and international security. Furthermore, how states vote on the various resolutions provides insights into how each country interprets the intent and meaning of each resolution, and what may be the fundamental principles that underpin each country's ACD policy. Thus, by reviewing the voting record, interested observers can appraise how various governments choose to act and express themselves in this area.

In the past two UN sessions, the First Committee deliberated on more than 80 international security and ACD-related resolutions. In 1987, at the 42nd session of the UNGA, 66 ACD resolutions were forwarded to the General Assembly for consideration, 3 less than in 1986. The First Committee had previously decided to decrease the number of resolutions that were forwarded to the UNGA annually. However, at the 43rd session of the UNGA in 1988, 72 ACD resolutions were voted on by the General Assembly -- the most the UNGA has considered over the past ten years. Previous to 1988, the high was 71, reached in 1985 at UNGA 40.

There has also been a conscious effort on the part of First Committee members to overcome the ideological differences which plagued the Committee's work during the first half of this decade. Statistics reveal the degree to which consensus was reached on resolutions. In 1987, 39.5 % of the 66 resolutions were adopted without a vote (AWV), as compared to 30.4 % in 1986. In 1988, consensus was reached on a total of 28 resolutions, representing 38.9 % of the 72 considered by the UNGA. While there was a decrease in the percentage of consensus achieved between 1987 and 1988, the difference, though small, is interesting from the perspective of what it may imply about the nature of