



November 17, 1965

Text of Statement made in the 6th Committee Debate on Agenda Item 90, the Consideration of principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, by the Canadian Delegate, Mr. Max Wershof, Q.C., on Wednesday, Nov. 17.

Mr. Chairman:

This Committee has for the past three years been working at a very important task, that of considering the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among states in accordance with the principles and purposes of that remarkable document, the Charter of the United Nations. Remarkable because of its resilience and flexibility of concept in our rapidly-changing era. Remarkable also for its strength and basic foundation in international law. And remarkable too for its performance. In spite of all the stresses and strains that the last 20 years have placed upon the Charter, it still survives as the most effective means whereby states may conduct and exercise the important business of exchanging ideas and airing differences.

2. . . . It is no accident, Mr. Chairman, that the principles before this Committee, and given by this Committee to the Special Committee, are also found in the Charter, either expressly or by direct implication. Nor is it any accident that these Charter principles of international law are the only ones within the 6th Committee's terms of reference as defined in General Assembly Resolution 1815 (XVII). For, like the Charter, they are intended to embody generally-accepted rules of conduct between states in both international law and common decency. It is our task to elaborate them in more precise language as they have been interpreted and applied in practice by members of the United Nations. Their objective analysis will not necessarily ensure their complete and whole-hearted acceptance