

near consensus text attained at Mexico City as offering the best chance of achieving a general agreement. Although this was not done, the report of the Drafting Committee does set out a very valuable outline of the points of agreement and disagreement from which with some additional concentrated effort, coupled with a willingness to compromise, it should be possible to formulate an acceptable text.

Mr. Chairman, concerning the principle of the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, the 1967 Drafting Committee reported that the areas of agreement were hardly sufficient to justify submitting them to the Special Committee. This is regretted as my delegation is certain that there is a considerable degree of agreement on this principle, particularly with regard to prohibiting the partial or total disruption of the territorial integrity of a State or country.

Another unfortunate result of the 1967 Special Committee meeting was the perpetuation of the stalemate on the principle of non-intervention in relation to General Assembly resolution 2131. The views of my delegation on this matter are well known to this Committee and require no restatement. We would hope that appeals to those who wish to place a very narrow interpretation on our mandate and to endorse this declaration without so much as a drafting change will cause them to reflect again upon the desirability of such a course. My delegation is in no doubt as to the wide area of agreement that already exists on this principle. It will be unfortunate, therefore, if we allow relatively secondary matters of expression and construction to continue to stand in the way of declaring the measure of this agreement.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a word about the future. The Canadian Delegation supports the United States proposal for reconstituting the Special Committee and instructing it to meet again, preferably late next year, to continue its work on a complete declaration of all seven principles and concentrating, if time is limited, on the principles of force, self-determination and non-intervention for which acceptable formulations have still to be found.

If, because of the heavy schedule of meetings for next year, this session will have to be for only three weeks or so, then my delegation considers that some informal and off-the-record preparatory work would be highly desirable. By that we mean that practical steps should be taken to hold consultative discussions, perhaps a week or so prior to the opening of the next session of the Special Committee. The various negotiating groups of the Drafting Committee and those representatives from other interested countries could review the work of the past on the principles to be considered by the Special Committee in their established order