

machinery for enforcing international law such as already exists. It seems to me that the international community is still bound up with outdated concepts which impede the settlement of differences by peaceful means. The 1969 Law of Treaties Convention, to which Canada became a party last December, makes a substantial contribution to the uniformity and applicability of international rules relating to treaties. But we have not yet succeeded in developing a similar codification of a compulsory third party settlement of disputes procedure. While I honestly wish I could say to you that this objective will be realized soon, I am afraid that contemporary international relations do not bode particularly well with respect to banishing strife and conflict in favour of law and diplomacy. Yet, responsible persons in government, in international organizations, and in private professional and academic institutions and associations, must continue to press for an end to the use of force as a means of settling disputes. While the millennium is certainly not at hand, it can perhaps be brought a little less distant.

If progress is to be made, nations must give up narrow and anachronistic ideas of sovereignty. This raises a complex and emotionally-charged subject. I for one do not regard acceptance of limitations on sovereignty unthinkable. We have already accepted such limitations in the economic and communications fields, these should point the way to acceptance of limitations of sovereignty in the interests of peace and security. I hope that Canada will find a way to provide leadership toward such a worthwhile goal.

Mr. Chairman, in my view it would not be proper to discuss international law without mentioning the International Court of Justice. Canadian views on increasing the effectiveness of the World Court are well known. The Canadian Delegation at last year's United Nations General Assembly supported a resolution adopted on "Review of the role of the ICJ". By means of this resolution member states of the United Nations, and states parties to the Statute of the Court were invited to submit to the Secretary-General suggestions concerning the role of the Court, on the basis of a questionnaire to be prepared by the Secretariat. In light of these comments, and those which the ICJ itself may wish to put forward, the Secretary-General is to prepare a comprehensive report to be available for the 26th Session of the Assembly. The questionnaire has recently been received in Ottawa and we are at present engaged in formulating the Canadian views to be transmitted to United Nations Headquarters. This initiative, which, as the resolution states, "should seek to facilitate the greatest possible contribution by the Court to the advancement of the rule of law and the promotion of justice among nations" is most welcome. Canada has always supported and will continue to support all such efforts to assist the ICJ to continue to serve, with renewed effectiveness, as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.