



Statement No. 40

October 12, 1967

TEXT OF STATEMENT BY CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE,
MR. ALLAN GOTLIEB, TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE,
AGENDA ITEM 85, OCTOBER 12, 1967

Mr. Chairman,

The Canadian Delegation would first of all like to record that its views are fully in accordance with Resolution A/C.6/L.617 Rev.2 and the Canadian Delegation will support it. My delegation, along with the Delegations of Argentina, Cameroon, Ecuador, Guatemala and Nigeria, is a co-sponsor of A/C.6/L.618. On behalf of my own delegation I would like to explain why we believe that this Resolution should receive the support of this Committee.

I should say at the outset that the Canadian Delegation and I am sure all the co-sponsors in no way wish to delay or slow down the final codification on the subject now before us. On the contrary we wish to proceed expeditiously and effectively with due regard to the different views held by the members on the best way to proceed to codify the law of special missions.

Two broad lines of thought revealed themselves in the debate in this Committee on the I.L.C.'s report on special missions.

First there were those who wished to see the General Assembly and this Committee draft an international convention based on the Commission's articles. Second, there were those who believed that it would be better for such a treaty to be drawn up at an international conference of plenipotentiaries.

The Canadian Delegation has no doubt that both approaches reflect sincerely held views about which method would be appropriate. The Canadian Delegation for its part sees merit in both approaches and is in no way opposed to the General Assembly undertaking this task. We have confidence in the possibility of using both methods constructively.

The Canadian Delegation believe that a decision on this point this year may be premature. The final I.L.C. articles were only received shortly prior to the convening of this assembly. The debate on them here reflects some difference of view on the scope and application. If governments had further time to study these articles they would be in a better position to judge what would be the procedure best suited to obtaining agreement on the substance.

The Canadian Delegation therefore sees the Resolution before us first as a way of avoiding a sort of confrontation or opposition now between members on the method of proceeding to adopt a convention and second as a way of allowing all members adequate time to consider what method would be most effective for achieving a broadly supported international convention.