

11- International Law of Friendly Relations

Canada was one of the 31 members of the U.N. Committee on the International Law Principles of Friendly Relations which from 1964 to 1970 completed the drafting of a Declaration elaborating the following seven principles of international law:

- (1) States shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State (non-use of force);
- (2) States shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means (peaceful settlement of disputes);
- (3) States shall not interfere in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any other State (non-intervention);
- (4) States shall respect the sovereign equality of other States;
- (5) States shall co-operate with one another in accordance with the Charter;
- (6) States shall accord, and all peoples shall have, equal rights and the right of self-determination;
- (7) States shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the Charter.

On October 24, 1970 the Declaration was adopted by acclamation by the U.N. General Assembly as one of the documents of the Commemorative Session on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the United Nations.

The item originated at the 1961 session of the United Nations General Assembly as a result of a Communist initiative supported also by a number of non-aligned states to codify the "principles of peaceful co-existence". At the 1962 session the West resisted this Communist initiative and, led by Canada, called instead for an elaboration of seven fundamental U.N. Charter principles with a view to strengthening the rule of law.