

the domain of the Sixth Committee.

It is equally clear, however, that certain areas of international law are, as stated in this Resolution, in need of clarification and progressive development if law is to make a fuller contribution to social progress, better standards of life and friendly relations and cooperation among states. This increasingly compelling need is closely related to the emergence of many new states who are in a position, as stated in the Resolution, to make substantial contributions to the progressive development and codification of international law. New nations emerge into an already existing social, political and economic order based on many well-settled rules and principles of conduct between nations in these several spheres. It is not enough however, to say to such nations that these rules and principles which, until now, you have had little opportunity to help formulate, are, because they are well-founded, nevertheless settled for all time. To repudiate all the past, however, would be to bring about utter chaos.

If then, the rule of law is based upon, and productive of, stability, it is not and cannot ever be merely an affirmation of the status quo. Those nations familiar with the common law process need not be reminded that its best characteristic is its flexibility and its adaptability to changing conditions. If international law is also seen in this light, it is readily apparent that the rule of law cannot be an affirmation of the status quo but is rather the antithesis of it. The rule of law represents, therefore, at once a dilemma and a paradox since, while it must be flexible, it can only be effective if it is productive of an orderly regulation of conduct amongst nations; hence the intimate relationship between the rule of law amongst nations and the progressive development of international law.

With these general considerations in mind, the draft resolution begins, in its first operative paragraph, by making a clear affirmation that the rule of law is essential for the