

9. Contributing to the Progressive Development and Codification of International Law

United Nations law-making activities are now very wide-ranging. They include, for example, the following fields: human rights; definition of aggression; seven basic "friendly relations" principles of the Charter; Outer Space Liability Convention; direct satellite broadcasting; the peaceful uses and reservation for mankind of seabed resources beyond national jurisdiction; private international trade law; special diplomatic missions; the relations between states and international organizations; state succession; and state responsibility. States of all political shadings are co-operating in developing and strengthening a UN-oriented legal basis of a world order. Canada is playing a vigorous and dynamic role in these activities, particularly on issues touching on Canada's national interests.

In the next decade, there will probably be bolder demands by developing countries for trade concessions and aid from developed countries as a legal right. The developing countries will also continue to press for the establishment of international machinery to foster trade and financial measures in order to accelerate economic development and raise living standards in the poorer parts of the world through the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, established in 1966, is endeavouring to promote the progressive harmonization of trade law with a view to reducing or removing the legal obstacles to the flow of international trade. Canada should continue to follow closely developments in these and other bodies within the UN system which are concerned with the elaboration of general rights and duties between developed and developing countries on trade and aid questions and should ensure that its legal position and trade and aid policies are closely co-ordinated.

Another major question in the future will be the impact on the development of international law within the UN should the People's Republic of China gain admission. The Communist Chinese would probably tend to identify with the non-aligned states, while at the same time postulating a Marxist-Leninist (Maoist) approach to the development of international law. Canada should, therefore, continue its current programme of serious scientific studies of the legal doctrines held by the People's Republic of China.

Another continuing trend may be the assertion of a legal doctrine which would preclude a state subject to infiltration by armed bands, sub-