

We are aware that there may be a desire on the part of some delegations that an attempt be made to enumerate general principles under the rubric of friendly relations. I do not propose to comment in detail on other resolutions embodying such an approach before their sponsors have had an opportunity to present them. I should say frankly, however, that it is our view that the more fruitful approach, in the light of the history of past attempts to produce general statements of principle governing relations between countries, would be for the Sixth Committee to commence upon an empirically-based study of specific areas of the law in need of development and codification. It is, of course, for this reason that we have embodied the latter approach in Draft Resolution No. L-507.

I might explain that in attempting to select areas of the law for study we have had in mind two main considerations: firstly, the fact that, over the last twelve years -- since the time, in other words, of the 1949 International Law Commission Draft Declaration on the Rights and Duties of States -- some fifty nations have attained membership in the United Nations, and that these nations are entitled to be heard on these questions. We have therefore attempted to select areas of particular interest to the newer nations.

Our second major consideration has, of course, been to select areas of the law which directly relate to the topic on the agenda.

With these considerations in mind we have concluded that the two fundamental principles underlying friendly relations and co-operation among states, - and the ones from which, in our view, all others flow - are the respect for the territorial integrity and political independence of states and the obligation to settle disputes by peaceful means. It is the view of the co-sponsors that while other