

The implication seems to be that it is essentially a procedural resolution, proposing only two items for study, and that something more should be expected of the Sixth Committee on this item. It is the view of the co-sponsors of Draft Resolution L.507, however, that it is much more than a procedural resolution, and I should like, if I may, to explain why.

Many delegations have spoken with approval of the preambular paragraphs of the resolution, and I do not consider it necessary to recapitulate the thinking behind the principles and purposes embodied in the preamble. I should, however, like to draw particular attention to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution. This paragraph makes a clear affirmation that "The rule of law is essential for the achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, particularly the development of friendly relations and co-operation among states based on respect for the principles set forth in the Charter of Equal Rights and of the sovereign equality of all member states". Such an affirmation as the first and most important operative paragraph in the resolution can hardly be termed "too narrow". It is, I would suggest, of itself of sufficient importance almost to justify the passage of the resolution. Such an affirmation by the General Assembly is not merely timely and appropriate, it is, in the view of the co-sponsors, of paramount importance. Drawing attention, as it does, to the need for the nations of the world to turn to the rule of law as the path of peace, it represents something which we, as lawyers representing our respective governments in this legal committee, might well take home with some pride.