

Mr. Chairman, in stressing in Working Paper A/C.6/L.531 that coexistence is not the subject before this Committee, this Delegation, for its part, has wanted to restate its conviction that friendly relations among States is a much broader theme. One must be extremely careful to avoid distorting the language of the Charter where it refers to friendly relations among nations. The Charter is based on the fundamental principle of the sovereign equality of all its members and seeks to harmonize difference while accepting the diversity and complexity of relations between States, whether neighbouring or far apart. This approach is clearly incompatible with a unilaterally held concept of a world divided into two rival socio-economic systems. Such a view cannot be superimposed upon the Charter without doing violence to its fundamental principles. Indeed, the promotion of any special viewpoint not generally held by member states is by definition inappropriate as a target for International Cooperation Year.

In this connection, we noted the frank statement made in the General Assembly recently by His Excellency the President of Yugoslavia who viewed the codification of the principles of co-existence as an essentially political rather than a legal exercise.

The debate thus far has indicated that many shades of opinion exist on both substance and procedure. It rests with this Committee to reconcile these conflicting views and to bridge these differences. A good start in this direction was made two years ago when agreement was reached on the general theme to be studied i.e. friendly relations and cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter. A further important step was taken last year when agreement was reached on the general procedure to be followed i.e. to begin studying the four principles of non-use of force, peaceful settlement of disputes, sovereign equality of States, and non-intervention.

Within this framework, this Delegation feels that it may advance or support, at this or another session, without, it hopes, being branded as obstructionist, such proposals as were outlined e.g. by the Delegation