

## *Legal Work of the UN General Assembly*

IN the past few years, the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the General Assembly has had an increasingly important role in United Nations matters. This reflects in part a growing general awareness of the need to develop and strengthen the principles of international law, and in part the normal process of referring to the Sixth Committee legal questions or legal aspects of other matters not wholly legal in nature. An example of the first factor is provided by the studies in which the Sixth Committee is engaged to codify and progressively develop seven important Charter principles of "friendly relations" (discussed below). An example of the second is the reference to the Sixth Committee of the question of defining aggression after it had previously been discussed in ordinary session of the General Assembly.

During the twenty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, six items were inscribed on the provisional agenda of the Sixth Committee and two more were added in the course of the session. The first six items were: the Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its nineteenth session (devoted mainly to the subject of "special missions"); the forthcoming Conference on the Law of Treaties; the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among states; fact-finding; a draft declaration on the right of asylum; and the United Nations programme of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. To these items were added the drafting of a definition of aggression and the question of diplomatic privileges and immunities.

### **Report of the International Law Commission**

General debate on the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its nineteenth session began September 26 with the presentation of the Commission's report by Sir Humphrey Waldock, its chairman. The major subject of importance discussed in the report was the series of draft articles on "special missions", on which the Commission has been working for six years, which the Commission has recommended as the basis of a draft convention on the subject. At the conclusion of general debate, a revised draft resolution (A/C. 6/C.617 Rev.2) on the general report of the International Law Commission was unanimously adopted. A separate draft resolution (A/C. 6/L.618), co-sponsored by Canada, invited member states to submit comments and observations on the final draft articles on special missions and decided to include the item "Special Missions" in the provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly. This draft resolution represented a compromise between two opposing views on how to deal further with the subject of special missions, some delegations having argued that a convention should