a large part of which, perhaps the most important part, deals with questions of the highest legal significance to Member States. While it may be premature to discuss any questions of jurisdiction in space in this Committee, until more work is done on them, surely it would be equally premature to have them discussed very largely on a political plane, in the First Committee, as apparently may be the case at the present session. Similarly, over the past many years the various problems of human rights in the Third Commmittee have involved legal matters requiring a high degree of sophistication in understanding and elucidation. None of these questions has been put to the Sixth Committee, where surely there was a contribution to be made by us both as a technical and as a general matter. Moreover, there is already a sound tradition for references by other committees to the Sixth Committee, and there is even a precedent for a joint session between two committees, a procedure adopted in 1951 when the Second and Third Committees united to discuss relations with the World Meteorological Organization.

I should like to think that the more mature becomes the United Nations as an organization, the greater will be its resort to the legal procedures, a sign in some respects of an advancing body Politic. I should like to think also that before that distant day arrives, we might employ the method of joint committee studies wherever the subject matter before other committees involves also a legal element of importance. I believe that the success of the Sixth Committee in dealing with Law of the Sea questions indicates that it was capable of effective action and that there need be no fear of undue delay because of the refinements of legal debate.

Addressing myself to lawyers, I need hardly insist that there is much to be said for viewing the law as a pacifying instrument, as a means of lessening the tensions to which too sharp political discussion over contentious matters may often lead. I would suggest that Member States try wherever possible to encourage the conversion of political issues into juridical ones for the dampening effect such a transformation may have on the dispute and, too, for the clarification such a focus often may have on the problem inself. It is almost twenty-five years since Judge Lauterpacht — or Professor Lauterpacht as he then was — wrote his now classical statement about The Function of Law in the International Community. We would do well to re-examine his thesis and to apply to many of the situations before us the idea that the juridical approach and mood is often a happier method of atmosphere than an openly political posture for the settlement of many international problems.

matters. I should like to conclude upon a note of cautious optimism that, while the day may yet be far when the rule of law automatically governs the behaviour of states in all matters of high policy, we are likely to move more rapidly toward that ideal if Member States now are willing to risk more law in their affairs, rather than less.

