

lead the Sixth Committee to being at cross-purposes with the work of the International Law Commission; finally, with all due respect, others are perhaps false problems, which appear to stem from semantic distinctions.

...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 Co-operation 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 co-operation 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 of the Netherlands, toward a draft resolution, and by the Mexican and other Latin American delegations, toward draft conventions, with reference to the second sub-item of our agenda, the peaceful settlement of disputes.

...Let us hope that the Committee will see its way clear to proceeding immediately with the task before it, namely the detailed consideration of the sub-items, without taking up much more time on procedure. In formulating this wish, we cannot, of course, close our eyes to the intrinsic difficulties of procedure and treatment which are involved owing to the importance and high level of the subject matter.

The task of this Committee is difficult enough in cases where the Sixth Committee deals with draft instruments or recommendations carefully developed by the International Law Commission after much study and discussion and relating to specific and well-defined areas of the law. It becomes a much more difficult endeavour when the subject matter of the study consists in the very principles governing the fundamental rights and duties of states.

Fortunately, however, the task of the Committee is simplified by the existence of the Charter of the United Nations, itself the fundamental statement of principles of international law, providing both a guide and an anchor for the Committee's studies. For this reason, we think that this study can be beneficial in itself and might achieve some beneficial results.

While the Committee as a whole, as several delegations have already started doing, embarks upon the detailed consideration of the substance of each topic, a steering committee or an ad hoc group might, for the remainder of this session, help iron out procedural difficulties. Whatever other accessory