

The prevalent spirit of negotiation and co-operation was reflected again in action taken on a number of legal issues. Of these, the most attention was attracted by the Assembly resolution to convene an international conference at Vienna in 1961 to prepare a convention on diplomatic relations and immunities—the first of its kind since the Congress of Vienna in 1815.

A similar desire for more effective international co-operation greatly facilitated the work of the Specialized Agencies. They continued to provide valuable assistance to less developed areas as well as useful occasions for experts from many lands to come together to deal with current problems in the social, economic, educational, scientific and cultural fields.

The activities of the United Nations during 1959 show clearly what can be accomplished when nations, very naturally preoccupied with furthering their own interests, are prepared to adopt a spirit of realism and conciliation. Successful negotiations can be carried out only on the basis of mutual confidence, and the general improvement in international relations during the year gave rise to hope that the log-jam of East-West rivalries and disagreements might eventually be broken. At the year's end there was, on the other hand, still cause for concern over a number of political issues: relations between Communist China and India; Arab-Israeli tensions; rivalries and revolutions in Latin America; some consequences of national stirrings in Africa; and the racial problems of South Africa. Nevertheless, in contrast to so many previous years in which the United Nations seemed to register accomplishments only in the practical work of the Economic and Social Council and of the related Specialized Agencies, while political questions remained deadlocked, 1959 offered some reason to hope that the desire for international co-operation might broaden and deepen.