

violence as a means of solving conflicts and political disputes. For even more compelling reasons, my government cannot under any circumstances accept that the taking of hostages, an act universally condemned, be considered as a means of achieving any objective, no matter what the justification may be.

Another matter raised by certain delegations during the Committee session involves the possibility of including in the convention a provision regarding states terrorism. As the acts of states are governed by a number of existing international instruments, Canada believes that consideration of this issue by the Hostage-Taking Committee would duplicate work already being carried out in the United Nations and elsewhere. It also feels that study of this question would cause insurmountable difficulties for the Committee and would divert it from the main purpose of the proposed convention, which is to prevent acts of hostage-taking and punish the guilty individuals. This approach to the problem is in accordance with the legal framework established by the 1970 Hague, 1971 Montreal and 1973 New York Conventions, and in our opinion it is indispensable to the success of the Committee's work as defined in Resolution 31/103.

My delegation shares the strong concern of the international community regarding the frequency of acts of hostage-taking and the necessity to devise effective international measures against it. For these reasons, Canada is pleased to co-sponsor Resolution L.10 inviting the Committee to continue its work for another year. The Committee undertook its task of drafting an international convention against the taking of hostages on a sound basis and made some progress during its first session. We hope it will be able to complete its work during the 1978 session and submit a draft convention to the Thirty-fourth General Assembly. We would also urge states to adopt this resolution unanimously as a manifestation of international will to take practical measures against the taking of hostages.