

improving the structure and enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization. We have noted that the Special Committee was able to complete, at its last session, its first reading of the study. It is now in a position to begin a new phase of its work. In the Canadian view, it is essential that the Committee begin to identify those proposals which can command broad support among member states and upon which a consensus can be built.

We believe that among the important areas which the Committee could usefully consider are the subsidiary rules that have developed around the principles of the Charter on fact finding and on the peaceful settlement of international disputes. These could be further articulated and elaborated.

Of course, it will be important that the Committee avoid rigid and extreme positions that ignore fundamental interests of some members. We must not undermine the Organization in the very process of trying to strengthen it. In this connection, Canada regrets that it was not possible to complete the work of this year's session of the Special Committee by consensus. The task which has been entrusted to the Committee is sensitive and complex; it required a gradual and deliberate approach coupled with a spirit of goodwill and compromise.

## 2. Re-examination of the Process for Drawing Up Multilateral Treaties

Following a request by Australia, the General Assembly this year included on its agenda a new item calling for a thorough study of the methods of drawing up multilateral treaties. On the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, it adopted by consensus a resolution asking the Secretary-General to draw up a report on the question, and the governments and the International Law Commission to give their comments. The question was included on the agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

On November 17, 1977, Mr. Erik Wang, Director of the Legal Operations Division of the Department of External Affairs, made the following statement on this question.

\* \* \* \*

Canada welcomed the initiative of Australia and other co-sponsors that has resulted in the inscription of this item on "Review of the Multilateral Treaty-making Process". We support the view that it is timely for the United Nations to examine the process by which the international community makes multilateral treaties and we have been pleased to add the name of Canada to the list of co-sponsors of the draft resolution before us. We hope that member states participating in the work of this Committee will recognize the concerns that face all governments which are actively involved in the range of complex issues under consideration for purposes of treaty-making, and will agree on the merits of the proposal.