

considerable pains to try to place the resolution on a basis that might find broad acceptance in this committee. In so doing we have not, however, considered that our approach is the only one which can be followed on this topic. Our hope is indeed that the co-sponsors of resolutions embodying other approaches will be able to agree with us that ours is not antagonistic to theirs, nor theirs incompatible with ours. I can best explain how this can be so by outlining the basis of draft resolution L-507.

Purposes of Resolution

In developing this resolution the major consideration which the co-sponsors have had in mind is to provide a firm basis upon which the Sixth Committee could, in the course of its discussions on this item, achieve concrete and positive results. It will be recalled that there has for some time been a feeling amongst many delegations that the Sixth Committee has not been living up to its potential. It has been our view that what is required in order to cure this malaise is an initiative which would provide the Committee with a constructive role in the progressive development and codification of international law, while not over-lapping or interfering with the activities of the International Law Commission. (As we all know, that body has enough work on its agenda to keep itself busy for several years.)

We have given considerable thought and study to this question and have concluded that these purposes could best be fulfilled through a proposal based on essentially legal considerations and avoiding contentious political issues as much as possible, while not ignoring political realities.