

for consideration by member states in advance of and also during the proposed conference. I might add, in this respect, that the Canadian Government itself may well be submitting further comments on the draft articles.

Nevertheless, there are certain more general matters of a broad nature arising from the draft articles on which I would like to comment at this time. In particular there is one important question of principle on which my Delegation wishes to make some observations.

It seems very clear to us that if the proposed Vienna Conference is to produce broad international agreement on the rules of law and the procedures which are in future to govern treaty relationships the conference must succeed in producing a Convention which will make a positive contribution to the orderly conduct by states of their treaty relationships and to the observance by them of their treaty obligations. This is not going to be an easy task, for the Special Rapporteur has already pointed out to us, in his statement on October 9, that divergent views exist even on the most basic questions. I think this fact may also be seen both from the debate in this Committee and from comments of governments. As the Canadian Representative on this Committee, speaking on this subject last year on October 6, 1966, and as other representatives both then and this year have also emphasized, the consequences of a failure - of an unsuccessful outcome - of the forthcoming plenipotentiary Conference on the Law of Treaties would be extremely serious. However, the fact that governments are prepared to join together in a conference for the purpose of drawing up an effective treaty is itself encouraging,