

STATEMENT BY MR. MARCEL CADIEUX

"I am naturally very glad to hear of my election as a member to the International Law Commission and my first wish is to express my gratitude to the governments which have submitted my candidature to the Commission. I also wish to thank all those who have taken an active interest in my candidature and who have given me so much support.

This election fills me with a keen sense of responsibility and anticipation towards the work to be done. I only hope that I may find it possible as a Canadian to add to the trend of high caliber work that has so far been established within the Commission.

There could scarcely have been a more crucial time to be called upon to make a specific contribution towards the development of international law. Never before has the future of humanity been so heavily dependent on the acceptance of the rule of law throughout the world. It is with a view to making this acceptance possible that the International Law Commission was conceived. The Commission has, since its creation in 1947, been primarily concerned with the codification and progressive development of international law. Practical results of this work can best be seen in the adoption of conventions such as those concerning the Law of the Sea and the Convention on Diplomatic Relations and Immunities which were drafted by the Commission and which formed the bases of major international conferences. In its work, the Commission differs from the International Court of Justice in that, unlike a court, it does not hand down judgments;