

Some speakers have expressed concern that the General Assembly may not enjoy full legal competence to assume the mandate unilaterally. My delegation tends to the view that in the light of the advice we have received in the past from the International Court, particularly as regards the international responsibility of South Africa, this Assembly has an adequate basis for the action proposed. We do recognize however that to take into account the doubts expressed by some speakers there might be an advantage in having this matter clarified if for no other reason than that any lasting formula for peaceful settlement of international disputes should be based on international law.

Other delegations have referred to the practical problems involved in asserting United Nations authority over South West Africa and in assisting the peoples of South West Africa to independence. These problems include what measures might be required in the face of continued intransigence by South Africa. With these observations in mind, my delegation subscribes fully to the healthy sense of reality which the distinguished Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs urged upon us. For instance, his suggestions concerning the necessity of sharing the economic burden on an equitable basis were particularly salutary.

In our view the suggestion which has been advanced that the resolution might provide for the establishment of a Committee to study these problems and make recommendations to the General Assembly within a reasonable time has much to