

covering the rights and duties of personnel of the Secretariat. At the ninth session there were five items on our agenda, in this case four very important ones dealing with international criminal jurisdiction; aggression, the draft articles on the continental shelf and problems of fishery conservation and regulation. Other committees of the Assembly at that session, however, were dealing with such legal matters as awards of compensation by the Administrative Tribunal of the UN; personnel policy questions involving the rights and duties of staff members; the Draft Covenant on Human Rights; the Draft Convention on the Status of Women in Private Law.

At the tenth session we had four items; the report of the ILC; arbitral procedure; the UN tribunal in Libya; and the correction of votes in the Assembly and its committees. At the same time other committees of the Assembly were involved in human rights matters; a further advisory opinion of the Court on Southwest Africa; the problem of publication and registration of treaties; the Draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women; and the problem of considering a review of the United Nations Charter.

At the eleventh session, there were three items on the Sixth Committee's agenda, with two involving such important questions as the final report of the ILC on the regime of the high seas, territorial seas and related questions; the elimination or reduction of future statelessness. But again such matters as a Draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women and the Human Rights Covenants; the admissibility or hearing of petitions concerning Southwest Africa; and the registration and publication of treaties and International Agreement, all were being considered by other committees. At the twelfth session, only three items were to be found on our agenda: the report of the ILC; aggression; and a Draft Code of Offences Against the Peace and Security of Mankind. At the same time other committees were examining the Draft Covenants on Human Rights; the Draft Convention on Freedom of Information; the legal action necessary to fulfil the obligations to Southwest Africa; amendments to the Charter dealing with membership in the Security Council, the Court and Economic and Social Council; the staff regulations and appointments to the Administrative Tribunal. At the thirteenth session, there were four items on our agenda: arbitral procedure; the initiation of the study of the regime of historic bays and waters and the problem of convening a second UN conference on the Law of the Sea. But the Sixth Committee did not have anything to do with the Draft Covenants on Human Rights or the Draft Convention of the Freedom of Information or appointments to the United Nations Administrative Tribunal; the staff regulations, or the discussion about the creation and terms of reference of the ad hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Finally, at the present session we have five items on our agenda, admittedly some of them very important, but other committees of the Assembly will be dealing with such significant legal matters as outer-space jurisdictional questions; Human Rights; a Draft Convention on the Freedom of Information; legal action to fulfil obligations with respect to Southwest Africa; and a Draft Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

Now, of course, reviewing this record, it may be said that on a number of occasions some dramatically significant items have been assigned to the Sixth Committee, most conspicuously in the ninth, eleventh and thirteenth sessions, in the case of the problems of the Law of the Sea. Indeed, in retrospect, I am somewhat surprised that this question was not pre-empted or assigned to some other committee, since its equally important political aspects were raising very contentious problems for many Member States. At the present session of the Assembly we find on the agenda a report on outer space (A/4141),