

- (1) the practice of the United Nations and of states in the application of the principles established in the Charter of the United Nations;
- (2) the comments of governments;
- (3) the views and suggestions advanced by the representatives of member states during the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions.

The Committee's task was facilitated by various research papers produced by the office of the United Nations Legal Counsel, including a selected background documentation (Document A/C.6/L.537/Rev.1) drawing on the wealth of writings devoted to these subjects in academic and legal circles over the last years. On the eve of its meeting, the Conference of the International Law Association in Tokyo set up a committee charged with pursuing a legal study of principles of international security and co-operation.\* In Canada, such principles had formed the theme of a First Conference on Law and World Affairs, organized by the University of Toronto at the beginning of 1964 and, earlier in the summer, of a symposium organized by the Department of External Affairs in co-operation with the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO for professors of international law from Canadian universities.

#### Work Plan for Special Committee

The Special Committee was able to organize its work in a businesslike fashion, devoting roughly one week to a review of each topic. It conceived as the *terminus a quo* of its work a process of legal analysis to determine the degree of consensus existing among member states as to the scope and contents of Charter principles and, as its *terminus ad quem*, a draft formulation on appropriate points of legal rules of international behaviour. It set about its task in full appreciation of the intrinsic difficulties of methodology that had beset previous studies by both the League of Nations and the United Nations in neighbouring fields. Indicative of these are the following questions, which were repeatedly evoked during the discussions:

- (1) To what extent can rules of international relations be spelt out, as implied in the broad terms of the Charter, without distorting these?
- (2) How detailed can a particular formulation become without infringing on other parts of the Charter, which is an organic whole?
- (3) Should concepts that, in the past, have resisted all efforts to reduce them to legal terms having the same meaning for everybody (such as the notion of "aggression") be rejected out-of-hand from any formulation?

As it felt its way among these difficulties, the Special Committee evolved a number of ground rules, which, if they meet later with the approval of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, might constitute important elements of a proper methodological framework. They were mentioned by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in his speech entitled "International Law in a Changing

\*See "External Affairs", October 1964, P. 495.