

far clearer idea of what sort of compromises were necessary between us and what were the best methods of achieving and recording a consensus. The Mexico meeting for all its apparent shortcomings still represents in the opinion of my Delegation a very worth-while experience upon which future efforts to fix these principles should be based. Initially, a good deal of the Special Committee's time and effort was spent on arriving at the most effective method of recording majority decisions. The method under which the Drafting Committee operated was thoroughly thrashed out at Mexico and formally accepted as part of the Special Committee's report. As such it deserves to be retained for use in the future if only to avoid having to go over the same procedural grounds once again.

5. Bearing this form of methodology in mind, one should look at the manner in which it worked well in dealing with that fundamental principle--both in customary international law and as codified in Article 2 of the Charter--the sovereign equality of states. A considerable degree of unanimity was found to exist on what constitutes the main legal and moral elements of this principle. Admittedly not all present at Mexico and certainly not all present here today are completely satisfied with the compromise solution contained in part I on page 163 of the English version of the Report before us, but most of those member states at Mexico and perhaps most of us present today are willing to accept it and to recognize it as probably the best compromise possible in the circumstances. As such it would seem to represent the first step towards an objective definition which would also be acceptable as being a consensus of the members of this Committee and later of the United Nations. For our part and in the spirit of necessary compromise, Canada accepts the Mexico formulation of this principle. After those members of this Committee--especially those not present at Mexico--have had an opportunity to discuss it, it is the suggestion of my Delegation that it be placed to one side to await the final approval, hopefully one year from now, of the 6th Committee in conjunction with a similar consensus on the remaining principles.

6. In descending order of the degree of consensus achieved, the next principle which came close to an agreed formulation was that on the threat or use of force, as defined in Article 2(4) of the Charter. To reach the relatively high state of agreement it did, absorbed considerable time and effort of the Special Committee, and it would be a great pity if, for the want of some small additional compromise, the whole principle had to once