s Committee. It is no secret that many Member States have
n concerned about the varying role of law and legal method
hin the United Nations system. Apart altogether from the
atively infrequent use of the International Court of Justice by
Member States, and the difficulties arising out of various
ms of reservations in submission to the Court under Article
of the Statute of the Court, there is the further fact that the
nda of this Committee, but for certain striking exceptions,
s a relatively modest place assigned to law and to legal
nda in the work of the Assembly. I have the highest regard for
-work of this Committee over the past years but I would be less
n frank if I did not indicate my concern for the modesty of its
nda in many of those years and for the fact that a number of oth
mittees of the Assembly are undertaking questions that would see
be related directly to the jurisdiction of this Committee.

I have examined the agendas of this Committee for the past
sessions and find that the number of items on them has been
linting steadily during that time, or at least has remained on a
d of plateau of development. At the very same time, at each of
se sessions of the Assembly, there were matters assigned to othe
mittees that clearly contained a juridical element of some con-
erable importance and where the Sixth Committee could be said to
e had a legitimate concurrent, if not exclusive, interest. Let
ustrate. In 1950 at the fifth session there were ten items on
agenda, of which the most important, apart from the report of t
ernational Law Commission, were such matters as reservations to
ltilateral conventions, reparations for injuries incurred in the
vice of the UN and the Secretary-General's report on the
istration and publication of Treaties. But the following items
e assigned to other committees: the definition of refugees and
teless persons; criteria for the admission of new members; legal
ms of the Palestine refugees; the Draft Covenant on Human Rights
interpretation of peace treaties with Hungary, Bulgaria and
nania; the Draft Convention on the Freedom of Information; the
f regulations dealing with the rights of Secretariat personnel;
certain Southwest African questions arising out of the Mandato
gations of South Africa. At the Sixth Session in 1951 there we
e items on the agenda of the Sixth Committee, some of them quite
portant, such as the Secretary-General's report on the Draft
laration on Rights and Duties of States; Reservations to Multi-
eral Conventions; the question of defining aggression. At the
e time other committees were dealing with the problem of impleme
the International Court's opinion with respect to Southwest
ica; the interpretation of the Libya-Egypt frontier arrangement;
legal status and definition of refugees and stateless persons;
Draft Covenant on Human Rights.

At the seventh session the number of items on the Sixth
mittee's agenda again was nine which, apart from the report of
ILC, contained such questions as the report on international
minal jurisdiction; the report of the Secretary-General on the
ation of defining aggression; the status of claims for injuries
urred in the service of the UN. Yet elsewhere in the Assembly
er committees were dealing with criteria for the admission of re
bers under the Charter; the Draft Protocol on Stateless Persons;
legal status and definition of refugees and stateless persons;
Draft Covenant on Human Rights; the Draft Convention on the
itical Rights of Women; the advisory opinion of the International
t on Southwest Africa. At the eighth session only two items
ear on the Committee's agenda. Yet, at the same time, other
mittees were considering the question of admission of states to
Statute of the Court where such states were not members of the
ed Nations; Korean prisoners-of-war problems; factors to determ
ibility of states for self-government; and staff regulations