

STATEMENT BY MR. N. N. GENSER, Q. C.
CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

"CONSIDERATION OF PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL
LAW CONCERNING FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND
CO-OPERATION AMONG STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chairman,

On the opening day of our debate in this committee I made clear the importance which my Government attaches to this item, entitled "Consideration of Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations." It is not for this reason only however, that I have asked to be inscribed as first speaker on this question, since I am well aware that many other delegations share my views as to its importance, as is witnessed for instance by the fact that two resolutions have been filed prior even to the opening of the debate - surely an almost unique experience in the history of this committee. My purpose in speaking early in the debate is rather to make clear at the outset the views of my delegation and of the co-sponsors of Resolution L-507 of October 31, 1962 that quite apart from the intrinsic importance of this topic, in that it presents the Sixth Committee with an opportunity to make a real contribution to legal thought and to the progressive development of International Law, it also presents us with the clear choice of attempting to discuss the question as lawyers seeking workable solutions to problems, or of following a less constructive approach. I would not, of course, suggest that this committee is precluded from discussing political issues, but rather that we see little merit in a highly political discussion for its own sake in this committee, which is after all the legal committee of the United Nations. With this in mind the co-sponsors of Draft Resolution No. L-507 have taken