

Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents, and in 1979 with the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages.

One related observation is warranted from an international jurist who has had occasion to be associated with the development of legal instruments concerning terrorism in general or with one or more of its aspects since the early '70s: Not only has the international community succeeded in developing a respectable number of legal instruments, but the atmosphere surrounding this work has considerably improved. The atmosphere was more relaxed in the ~~Committee~~ ^{relative to the work of} on International Terrorism at the conclusion of the Convention against the Taking of Hostages in 1979 than when the Committee began its work in 1972, and the atmosphere in 1987 was in turn considerably better than in 1979. The spirit of cooperation and conciliation shown by the authors of various suggestions to combat terrorism in recent months lends additional weight to this observation.

In our opinion, this rapprochement accounts in large measure for the General Assembly's adoption without a vote in 1985 of resolution 40/61, which for the first time in the history of international relations condemned as criminal every act, method and practice of terrorism, regardless of where they occurred and who the perpetrators were. In Canada's view, this instrument was a milestone. It was an unprecedented declaration of solidarity on the part of all the United Nations Member States, a manifestation of their common determination to firmly oppose this international crime, and certainly proof of a heightened awareness of its seriousness, since no State is really immune from it. In the discussion that is beginning today, it is essential to bear in mind the importance of this achievement and to hold fast to the unconditional condemnation already pronounced in the General Assembly against terrorism.

Returning to 1987, Mr. Fleischhauer drew our attention