

of this Organization which may in future years help strengthen the possibilities of peaceful settlement and peaceful change. We have in mind, for example, the repertoire of practice of the United Nations organs and the report of the Secretary-General on methods of fact-finding submitted to the Special Committee on Friendly Relations last year. We have in mind also any additional material which the Secretariat may be asked to produce on fact-finding as a result of consideration of that subject in the Sixth Committee. We believe indeed that fact-finding is an essential part of peaceful settlement and that the Secretary-General, who has been in a unique position to understand the various ways, often informal and ad hoc, in which international disputes have been dealt with in recent years, can be particularly useful to the proposed Committee in this regard.

I should also like to draw attention to references in operative paragraph 3 to the experience of the specialized agencies of the United Nations and of regional organizations in this field. Regional mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes may well be one of the most encouraging avenues we can explore. It is not to be forgotten that Article 33 of the Charter specifically enjoins Member States to seek a solution of their disputes "first of all" by various means, including "resort to regional agencies or arrangements", and that sometimes in our anxiety to bring disputes before the United Nations we may overlook this wise provision of the Charter. In saying this, of course, I am speaking only of priorities. Naturally the United Nations can not be indifferent to disputes between Member States, whether or not they are taken in hand by resort to machinery outside the United Nations framework.

Canada is also particularly conscious of the relationship between the peaceful settlement of disputes and peacekeeping operations. I would recall in this regard, Mr. Chairman, the words of the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada to the General Assembly on September 24 last: "The time has come to ensure that peacekeeping is intimately linked with peaceful settlement. The former, essential as it is, should not be permitted to obscure or divert the purposes of the latter The parties to a dispute should not expect to enjoy the benefits of United Nations intervention without accepting responsibility to settle their differences and thus facilitate the earliest possible termination of peacekeeping measures."

It might accordingly be useful for the proposed Committee to pay special attention to the relationship between the settlement of disputes in the immediate sense of successful avoidance by the United Nations of armed conflict and war, and settlement of disputes in the deeper and longer-term sense, as a part of the process of peaceful evolution and change in the world. It is certainly true that the interdiction of force and the avoidance of international conflict are factors which, in present international order, require States to adjust their disputes peacefully. But if they fail to find genuinely acceptable solutions, disputes tend to smoulder and then to threaten the status quo. What would therefore be desirable is to study how temporary and long-term solutions must be