

this Committee. It is no secret that many Member States have been concerned about the varying role of law and legal method within the United Nations system. Apart altogether from the relatively infrequent use of the International Court of Justice by the Member States, and the difficulties arising out of various forms of reservations in submission to the Court under Article 36 of the Statute of the Court, there is the further fact that the agenda of this Committee, but for certain striking exceptions, shows a relatively modest place assigned to law and to legal methods in the work of the Assembly. I have the highest regard for the work of this Committee over the past years but I would be less than frank if I did not indicate my concern for the modesty of its agenda in many of those years and for the fact that a number of other committees of the Assembly are undertaking questions that would seem to be related directly to the jurisdiction of this Committee.

I have examined the agendas of this Committee for the past ten sessions and find that the number of items on them has been declining steadily during that time, or at least has remained on a kind of plateau of development. At the very same time, at each of these sessions of the Assembly, there were matters assigned to other committees that clearly contained a juridical element of some considerable importance and where the Sixth Committee could be said to have had a legitimate concurrent, if not exclusive, interest. Let me illustrate. In 1950 at the fifth session there were ten items on our agenda, of which the most important, apart from the report of the International Law Commission, were such matters as reservations to multilateral conventions, reparations for injuries incurred in the service of the UN and the Secretary-General's report on the Registration and Publication of Treaties. But the following items were assigned to other committees: the definition of refugees and stateless persons; criteria for the admission of new members; legal claims of the Palestine refugees; the Draft Covenant on Human Rights; the interpretation of peace treaties with Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania; the Draft Convention on the Freedom of Information; the staff regulations dealing with the rights of Secretariat personnel; and certain Southwest African questions arising out of the Mandatory obligations of South Africa. At the Sixth Session in 1951 there were nine items on the agenda of the Sixth Committee, some of them quite important, such as the Secretary-General's report on the Draft Declaration on Rights and Duties of States; Reservations to Multilateral Conventions; the question of defining aggression. At the same time other committees were dealing with the problem of implementing the International Court's opinion with respect to Southwest Africa; the interpretation of the Libya-Egypt frontier arrangements; the legal status and definition of refugees and stateless persons; the Draft Covenant on Human Rights.

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