

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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FRIENDLY RELATIONS

Text of statement made in the Sixth Committee Debate on Agenda Item 87, the Consideration of Principles of International Law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, by the Canadian Delegate, Mr. A.E. Gotlieb.

Mr. Chairman,

On several occasions, both in the Sixth Committee and in the Special Committee on Friendly Relations, Canada has stated the necessity of elaborating and strengthening the seven Charter principles of International Law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States so that international law itself may be further developed and made more effective. There is, therefore, no requirement for my delegation to repeat the importance we attach to this task. Contemporary international life demonstrates all too forcefully the value of elaborating anew those generally already accepted rules of the Charter by which interstate relations should, indeed must, be governed in the interest of peaceful and friendly relations between States.

The slow pace of progress so far is due to the practical problem of clarifying the complicated concepts underlying these principles in a manner generally acceptable to member States of the U.N. Most of these principles, particularly those which continue to elude satisfactory and complete definition, not only raise important doctrinal differences but go to the very heart of the problem of regulating relations between States in a peaceful and orderly manner. Not surprisingly they reflect also fundamental differences in national policies. Relating as they do to some of the most fundamental and vital aspects of international relations about which States are acutely sensitive, it is understandable, therefore, that the results of