



STATEMENT NO. 50

October 12¹⁶, 1967

Provisional Summary Record of Statement made in the Sixth Committee by Mr. Alan Gotlieb on the Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its Nineteenth Session. (taken from U.N. document A/C.6/SR. 970, 16 October 1967)

Mr. GOTLIEB (Canada) said that his delegation's views were fully in accord with those reflected in draft resolution A/C.6/L.617/Rev.2, which Canada would support.

As for draft resolution A/C.6/L.618, he assured the members of the Committee that the sponsors in no way wished to delay the final codification of the law relating to special missions. Indeed, they wished the work to proceed expeditiously and effectively, having due regard to the different views held by delegations as to the procedure for such codification. There were two schools of thought about the procedure for the adoption of a convention. Canada saw merit in both of the courses suggested, and was by no means opposed to the notion that the General Assembly should undertake the task. However, his delegation felt that a decision on that point might be premature at the current session. The draft articles had only been received by Governments shortly before the opening of the session, and there were differences of opinion concerning their scope and application. If Governments were allowed further time to study the draft, they would be in a better position to determine the best procedure for obtaining agreement on the substance. His delegation therefore saw the draft resolution, first, as a means of avoiding a confrontation on the subject of procedure and, second, as a means of allowing all Member States time to consider the most effective method of achieving an international convention which would command wide support. Since it was unlikely that the negotiation of a convention could be completed before 1969 at the earliest, the resolution was not likely to occasion unnecessary delay. Moreover, if the Committee adopted the draft

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(Mr. Gotlieb, Canada)

resolution, there need be no further general debate on special missions at the twenty-third session. The General Assembly would simply have to decide whether to convene a conference or to assign the negotiations to the Sixth Committee or a sub-committee.

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