

UN Observer Report

Sixth Committee Work during the 51st Session of the General Assembly

The January-February issue of the Newsletter carried a report on the work of the Sixth Committee. This article continues to report on the major recommendations made by the Sixth Committee during the 51st Session of the General Assembly.

Elimination of International Terrorism. The General Assembly adopted the Sixth Committee's proposal to convene an ad hoc committee to elaborate an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings and, subsequently, an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. The ad hoc committee met from February 24 to March 7, 1997. The work of the ad hoc committees will continue from September 22 to October 3, 1997 in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee. Also approved is a "declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism." In the Declaration member States reaffirm that they should take appropriate measures before granting refugee status, to ensure that an asylum-seeker has not participated in terrorist acts.

UN Decade of International Law. The Sixth Committee heard reports of success of the Decade, attributable to the sensible organization of work, the efforts of the Secretariat, and cooperation by States and international organizations. The Decade was established to promote respect for international law. It seeks to encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification, as well as its teaching, dissemination and wider appreciation. As part of the work of the Decade, the General Assembly adopted a resolution urging the development of a comprehensive electronic treaties database by the Secretariat containing all depositary and registration information, and providing for on-line access over the Internet. In relation to the close of the Decade in 1999, the Sixth Committee took up a proposal by the Netherlands and the Russian Federation for action in that year to mark the centennial of the first International Peace Conference held in The Hague in 1899 at Russia's initiative. The Sixth Committee invited the Russian Federation and the Netherlands to arrange a preliminary discussion for the drafting of a program of action for 1999.

UNCITRAL. The Sixth Committee expressed its appreciation to UNCITRAL for its completion of work concerning arbitral proceedings and electronic com-

merce. This past summer the Commission adopted the "UNCITRAL Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings" and the seventeen-article "UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce." As approved by the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee urged the wide dissemination of both documents, and adoption of the Model Law by States when they enact or revise their laws. As an aid to adoption, UNCITRAL has prepared a "Guide to Enactment of the Model Law."

International Watercourses. With regard to the elaboration of a framework convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses, the General Assembly adopted the Sixth Committee's recommendation that a second session of the Sixth Committee's working group of the whole be held from March 24 to April 4, 1997. Upon completion of its mandate the working group will report directly to the General Assembly.

New International Economic Order. The Sixth Committee recommended that the General Assembly resume consideration of the legal aspects of international economic relations during its fifty-fifth session, to be held in the year 2000.

Richard Hartzman

ASIL Research Notes

Members of the working group who are developing a research agenda for the **Trilateral Project** met during the ASIL Annual Meeting. Members representing each of the sponsoring organizations -- the Society, the Canadian Council on International Law and the Japan Association of International Law, agreed to work within their respective organizations to develop specific research projects in the areas of trade, transnational litigation, the use of force, law of the sea, and the domestic implementation of interna-

tional obligations. Jonathan Charney, Vanderbilt University, serves as the ASIL coordinator.

On May 6, 1997, the **ASIL Panel on State Responsibility** met at Tillar House to review the latest International Law Commission Draft Articles on State Responsibility. David Bederman, Emory University, is serving as Panel Rapporteur.

On May 17, 1997, principal contributors to the ASIL Ford Foundation-supported project on **Compliance with Non-Binding Legal Accords** will meet to

review a preliminary work outline and schedule. The project is expected to conclude its study late this year. Dinah Shelton, Notre Dame University, is the Project Director.

Volume III of **International Maritime Boundaries** is expected to be available before the end of the year. Covering 34 new boundaries, this volume will update the earlier Volumes I and II published in 1993. Jonathan Charney, Vanderbilt University, serves as General Editor.