

Initially, the work programme of the Committee included Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges, Immunity of States in respect of Commercial Transactions, Extradition of Fugitive Offenders, Status and Treatment of Aliens, Legality of Nuclear Tests, Rights of Refugees etc. Gradually emphasis was placed on rendering assistance to member governments to prepare themselves on important major international questions before the U.N. and especially those that became the subject matter of plenipotentiary conferences, e.g. Vienna Conference on Law of Treaties, Conference on the Law of the Sea spread over a period of eleven years, and more recently the Committee involved itself in the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993 and its follow-up and the follow-up work related to UNCED held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. The AALCC's work field also includes international economic relations and trade law. The current work programme incorporates: Decade of International Law, International Rivers, Law of the Sea, International Law Commission, Mutual Cooperation on Judicial Assistance, Environment, Deportation of Palestinians as a violation of International Law, particularly the 1949 Geneva Convention, Responsibility and Accountability of former Colonial powers, Debt Burden of developing countries and International Trade Law including World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Criminal Court.

Publications

The Committee brings out on regular basis a publication 'Quarterly Bulletin' containing information on the preceding quarter about its activities, activities of the UN, regional and international organizations and multilateral and bilateral agreements and conventions. The Annual Report of the AALCC is also regularly published highlighting some select research studies prepared during the year.

The AALCC would complete forty years in the service of its Member States in November 1996. From a small membership of seven States in the beginning, the Committee emerged as an outcome of the historic Bandung Conference. The Committee during the last forty years of its existence has achieved a great deal of institutional and functional progress, thereby establishing itself as a major forum for international legal cooperation. Oriented to meet the needs of an enlarged membership which at present includes forty-four States of the two continents of Asia and Africa, its work programme has been suitably designed from time to time. Consistent with the global impact of its activities on major issues of international concerns, the Committee's sessions are regularly attended even by non-member and observer delegations from all parts of the world.

As envisaged in its statutes the Committee's activities primarily were directed towards progressive development of international law, consideration of legal problems referred to it by its Member States and the follow-up of the work of the United Nations. The main objective behind creating this forum was to bring closer cooperation amongst its Member Nations, with an extended work programme including topics such as, Human Rights, Debt Burden, Environment etc.

Following the past practice of bringing out commemorative publication entitled "Essays on International Law" on the occasions of the Twenty-fifth and the Thirtieth Anniversaries, the Committee once again wishes to bring out another such volume in commemoration of its fortieth anniversary. Articles have been invited from eminent scholars, international lawyers, officials of the United Nations and the Member States and would be published in this Volume.

(ii) Co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee

The General Assembly, at its thirty-fifth session, accorded permanent observer status to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee and invited the Committee to participate in its sessions and work in the capacity of an observer. In February 1981, AALCC established a permanent observer mission to the United Nations. On the occasion of the Commemoration of the Committee's twenty-fifth anniversary, the Assembly, at its thirty-sixth session, requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to carry out consultations with the Secretary-General of AALCC to further strengthen and widen the scope of the co-operation between the two organisations. A co-operative framework was subsequently established and was noted with deep satisfaction by the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session. At its thirty-eighth session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to take steps to strengthen the co-operation between the United Nations and AALCC in the field of progressive development and codification of international law and other areas of common interest.

Cooperative framework

Pursuant to the cooperative framework agreed upon by the two organizations, consultations have routinely been conducted on matters of common interest, in particular, regarding representation at meetings and sessions, exchange of documentation and information and the identification of areas where the supportive role of AALCC might be most productive. During the forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions of the General Assembly, meetings

were held between the Legal Counsel of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of AALCC.

AALCC has oriented its work programmes so as to accord priority to matters that are of interest to the United Nations and to initiate actions with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations. The work programme of AALCC has assumed a role supportive of the work of the United Nations. The areas of cooperation, apart from the field of international law, now cover matters in the economic, environmental and humanitarian fields and promoting wider use of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and measures for the promotion of ratification and implementation of the United Nations Conventions. On the occasion of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, AALCC contributed a publication entitled "AALCC's Cooperation with the United Nations", which set out information about the activities of AALCC supportive of the United Nations functions relating to the progressive development of international law and its codification.

The AALCC organized in 1996 a seminar to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the International Court of Justice and to promote awareness of the work of the Court.

During the period under review the secretariat of AALCC organized, in March 1996, a special meeting on the establishment of an international criminal court, which furnished a forum for an informal exchange of views on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. The proceedings of the special meeting were transmitted to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court in March 1996. The AALCC was represented at the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee and the AALCC secretariat will report thereon at the thirty-sixth session of the AALCC to be held at Tehran, Iran in 1997.

The AALCC has been actively engaged in the study of refugee law and refugee problems and has, for that purpose, been working in close cooperation with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). At its Manila session in March 1996, AALCC decided to organize in 1996, with the financial and technical assistance of UNHCR, a seminar to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the principles concerning treatment of refugees adopted by AALCC at Bangkok.

At its thirty-fifth session, the AALCC considered a brief of documents on the Legal Protection of Migrant Workers and urged its Member States to transmit their views to the AALCC secretariat as to how legal protection of emigrant workers could be effectively implemented.

Collaboration also continued between AALCC and the United Nations

Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The AALCC was represented at the twenty-eight session of UNCITRAL and has prepared notes and comments on the work of the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions of UNCITRAL.

At its thirty-fourth session, AALCC urged its Member States to consider the UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement of Goods, Construction and Services as they reform or enact their legislation on procurement. The recommendation came in the wake of an International Seminar on Globalization and Harmonization of Commercial and Arbitration Laws organized by AALCC in collaboration with the UNCITRAL, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Bank, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT). AALCC has also urged its Member States to consider adopting, ratifying or acceding to other similar proposals prepared by UNCITRAL.

Under an AALCC scheme for settlement of disputes in economic and commercial transactions, regional arbitration centres established at Cairo, Kuala Lumpur and Lagos assist in the promotion and implementation of UNCITRAL arbitration rules. Steps are being taken to establish and make operational a similar centre at Nairobi to serve the countries in eastern and southern Africa. The AALCC recently sponsored in conjunction with the World Bank an International Conference on the Settlement of Energy, Petroleum and Gas Disputes which was organized by the AALCC Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration at Cairo in November 1995.

AALCC and the United Nations Decade of International Law

At the 34th Session of the AALCC held in Doha (1995) the Secretary-General observed that the General Assembly Resolution 48/30 had invited all States and international organizations to provide, update or supplement information on the activities that they had undertaken in the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, and that the AALCC Secretariat had accordingly furnished to the Office of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations some notes and comments in that regard.

The AALCC reaffirmed the importance of strict adherence to the principles of international law as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and requested the Member States to continue to give serious attention to the observance and implementation of the Decade. The AALCC was directed to continue its efforts towards the realization of the objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law and decided *inter alia* that the item be given serious attention and that it be discussed at the

meeting of the Legal Advisers of Member States of the AALCC to be convened at the United Nations Office in New York during the 50th Session of the General Assembly.

The AALCC at its 34th Session reiterated that many of the political, economic and social problems which riddle the Member States of the international society can be resolved on the basis of the rule of law and requested the Secretary-General to consider, in consultation with the Liaison Officers, the relevant means for ratifying or acceding to the relevant multilateral Conventions.

The AALCC at its 34th Session also noted with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General in collaboration with the International Court of Justice towards organizing a Seminar on the role and work of the International Court of Justice and strongly recommended that all Member States participate in the proposed Seminar. It also requested the Secretary-General of the AALCC to apprise the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the initiatives taken by the AALCC in that regard.

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 49/30 entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law", and the mandate of the 34th Session held in Doha the Secretariat of the AALCC forwarded to the Office of the United Nations Legal Counsel a report on the activities of the Committee since its Tokyo Session.

50th Anniversary of the United Nations

The Note of the Secretary-General submitted to the 29th session of the AALCC held in Beijing in 1990 had *inter alia* observed that "it is indeed appropriate that the Decade which shall witness, *inter alia*, the golden jubilee of the Charter of the United Nations and the Statute of the International Court of Justice should have been declared the Decade of International Law. The years ahead hold an array of impressive number of landmarks in the history of progressive development and codification of international law in all its aspects and dimensions". The 50th Anniversary of the United Nations was commemorated in the latter half of October 1995. The Secretary-General of the AALCC was one of the 19 representatives of International Organizations invited to address the Special Meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations.

Pursuant to a decision of the 34th Session, the Secretariat of the AALCC organized in collaboration with the International Court of Justice a Seminar on 'the Work and Role of the International Court of Justice'. The two-day Seminar convened in New Delhi during the latter half of January 1996 was organized in collaboration with the Indian Society of International Law and the International Jurists Organization, Asia with the twin objective of

promoting the aims and objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law and to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the sitting of the International Court of Justice.

40th Anniversary of the Asian-African Conference, Bandung

It may be recalled that the Note of the Secretary-General on the UN Decade of International Law submitted to the 29th session held in Beijing in 1990 had *inter alia* pointed out that "the Fortieth Anniversary of the AALCC is among the many historic events in the history of contemporary international law which this decade would witness. Consideration, therefore, should be given to planning other activities to mark and celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of the Bandung Conference as well as that of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee in due course".

The Fortieth Anniversary of the Asian-African Conference was commemorated in Bandung, Indonesia on April 24, 1995. At a meeting inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia and Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, Ministers of more than a 150 States reiterated their deep conviction in the validity of the objectives enunciated in the Final Communique of the 1955 conference. They stressed the significance and enduring relevance of the Ten Principles embodied in the Declaration on the Promotion of World Peace and Cooperation. The commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Bandung Conference, *inter alia*, furnished an opportunity to strengthen the Non-Aligned Movement, to further enhance its role and to reinforce unity and solidarity among its Members.

The Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries emphasized *inter alia* that for any system of international relations to continue to be viable to achieve universal acceptance must be firmly rooted in the principles and purposes of the Charter and respect for the decisions of the United Nations and organized on the precepts of sovereign equality, common interests and benefits equally shared properly and joint commitment to global cooperation based on true partnership.

It may be stated that the Secretary-General of the AALCC was specially invited by the Foreign Minister of Indonesia to participate in the ceremony commemorating the Fortieth Anniversary of the Bandung Conference. He was also invited to attend the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries.

Third International Peace Conference

It may be recalled that paragraph 3 of General Assembly Resolution 44/23 adopted on 17 November 1989 had requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and appropriate international bodies,

as well as non-governmental organizations working in the field, on the programme for the Decade and an appropriate action to be taken during the Decade, including the possibility of holding a third international peace conference or other suitable international conference at the end of the Decade, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its 45th session.

In his report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had, *inter alia*, observed that while "there was support for the proposal to convene a third international peace conference, or other suitable international conference at the end of the Decade to reaffirm the primacy of international law in the maintenance of peace and security and the importance of the peaceful settlement of disputes in international relations" it had been emphasized that such a conference would require careful planning and preparation so as to make it truly useful and important and to draw the widest participation.

On the other hand, the view had been expressed that the decision on the convening of such a conference depended on the agreement of States and that it was premature at that stage to take a decision on whether or not such a conference would be the best way to mark the end of the Decade. It was then suggested that a mid-term review (1995) of the programme would be appropriate to permit the assessment of the progress made during the Decade.

Congress on Public International Law

The proposal to convene a Congress on Public International Law advanced by the Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the debate on the item "UN Decade of International Law" in the Sixth Committee at the 47th session had received wide support. Thereafter a United Nations Congress on Public International Law was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 13 to 17, 1995. Some 650 participants from 140 countries from all regions of the world representing a wide range of professional specializations including practising lawyers, corporate counsels, ministry officials, parliamentarians, judges, arbitrators, diplomats and academicians attended the Congress. The theme of the Congress "Towards the Twenty-First Century: International Law as a language for International relations in the Twenty-First Century" afforded the participants an opportunity to exchange views on the codification, progressive development and implementation of public international law.

Among the topics considered were: the promotion and implementation of the principles of international law; means of peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice; new developments and priorities relative to codification

and progressive development of international law; approaches to research, education and training in international law; and new challenges and expectations towards the twenty-first century.

The United Nations Congress on Public International Law has played a pivotal role in promoting the objectives of the Decade of International Law, particularly in strengthening the rule of law among the nations. The Congress was, in effect, an effort to introduce, consider and evaluate innovative ways and means for the global promotion and implementation of the objectives of the decade, i.e. international law as a language for international relations in the twenty-first century.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali had in his address at the Congress on Public International Law observed *inter alia* that legal discourse as a means of communication between States is a factor in the growing institutionalization of international society; and that relations between States need to have forums where organized discourse can flow freely.

The General Assembly at its 50th Session noted with satisfaction that the Congress emphasized the importance of all aspects of international law and focussed on the four main purposes of the Decade as well as on new challenges and expectations for the twenty-first century. The General Assembly has also invited all States and International Organizations to provide; update or supplement information on activities they have undertaken in implementation of the programme for the third term (1995-96) to the Secretary-General as well as to submit their views on possible activities for the next term of the Decade.

(iii) AALCC Legal Advisers' Meeting: Held at New York, October 1995

A meeting of the Legal Advisers of Member States of the AALCC was convened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on the 19th October 1995. It was chaired by Dr. Najeeb Al-Nauimi, Minister of Justice, Government of the State of Qatar and the then President of the AALCC. Representatives of 26 Member States¹ and 13 observer delegations² participated in the meeting. The President of the ICJ, Mr Mohammed

1. Arab Republic of Egypt, Bangladesh, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ghana, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates and Tanzania.
2. Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lesotho, Romania, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uruguay.

Bedjaoui, the Chairman of the Sixth-(Legal) Committee, Mr. Tyge Lehmann, the Chairman of the ILC, Dr P.S. Rao, and the Under Secretary-General and Legal Counsel of the United Nations, Mr Hans Corell, also addressed the meeting.

The theme for discussion at the meeting was "The Role and Contribution of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee towards the Progressive Development and Codification of International Law."

Dr Najeib Al-Nauimi in his opening statement observed that the Legal Advisers meeting provided a good opportunity to discuss some of the issues of importance to the AALCC Member States. He said that the contributions by the United Nations, its organs and agencies to the progressive development and codification of International Law governing various facets of human life were outstanding. The AALCC since its very inception had oriented its activities in such a way that it could supplement and support the work of the United Nations in this field.

He drew attention to the problems the AALCC was facing. He observed that the AALCC was a unique international organization which functioned on a modest annual budget of less than half a million US dollars. However, the mounting arrears of contributions posed serious financial constraints and had affected the effective implementation of its work programme. Nevertheless, the topics of utmost importance to the Member States apart from ILC matters and such others as trade and economic relations, environment and development needed to be tackled for the benefit of Members States.

The *Secretary-General* of the AALCC introduced the two documents prepared by the Secretariat for consideration of Member Governments participating at the 50th session of the General Assembly. The first document No. AALCC/UNGA/L/95/1 contained Notes and Comments on six items which were included in the agenda of the 50th session of the General Assembly. The first three items namely, the Report of the ILC on the work of its 47th session, the Report on the work of the UNCITRAL at its 28th session, and the United Nations Decade of International Law, were to be considered by the Sixth Committee. The remaining three items, namely matters related to land-mines, Protection of the Global Climate and the Law of the Sea, were to be taken up in other main committees. The second document prepared by the AALCC Secretariat on the occasion of the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary was a monograph entitled "AALCC's Co-operation with the United Nations". This had been prepared with a view to give basic information about the AALCC's activities supportive of the United Nations law-making functions. The two documents provided the background for the Legal Advisers meeting.

The *Legal Counsel of the United Nations*, Mr Hans Corell recalled his past association with the AALCC and welcomed the opportunity to address the AALCC's Legal Advisors Meeting in New York. He offered UN Secretariat's full assistance to the AALCC to hold its meeting at the UN Headquarters. While commending the role of the AALCC, he observed that the regional organizations could share some of the tasks that had been entrusted to the United Nations, particularly in the areas concerning building up of the legal systems at national levels. In that context, the AALCC could assist the UN in identifying legal experts who could be engaged for a specific mission. He stressed the importance of promoting co-operation and greater understanding among Legal Advisers from different regions. Such co-operation could be in the form of exchange of views both formal and informal on key legal issues.

Judge Mohammed Bedjaoui, *President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)* commended the achievements of the AALCC in promoting the primacy of law and justice. He observed that the ICJ would be celebrating 50 years of existence in April 1996. The event was of great importance, as no other international court had ever reached such a great age. That anniversary had already provided an opportunity for stocktaking. He said that the environment in which the Court has had to operate as principal judicial organ of the United Nations since 1946, had undergone some very profound transformations. He wished to focus his comments on the part taken by the States from the continents of Africa and Asia in the activity of the Court since it was set up in 1946.

He observed that the Court was a "World Court" in several respects—in particular because it was potentially open to all the States of the world without exception, and on a completely equal footing. He recalled that when the United Nations was set up, it was composed of 50 Member States. Fifty States had, then, an automatic right of access to the Court, and among them there were eight States belonging exclusively to the Asian continent, and just four States from the African continent. The total number of Member States of the United Nations had now increased to 185, of which almost half belonged to the continents of Africa and Asia. Thus, the two continents together covered almost half of the Court's potential "clientele" and carry an unprecedented weight in terms of the Court's jurisdiction *ratione personae*, and have fairly considerable influence upon its jurisprudence and the development of international law.

He said that currently the Court included on its bench three African and the three Asian judges, which meant that the two continents together accounted for over 40 per cent of the total number of Members of the

Court. The African judges, like their Asian colleagues, have come from geographical and cultural areas that sufficiently varied to ensure that there was as equitable as possible a representation of the diversities characterizing each continent.

He pointed out that with respect to the extent of the Court's jurisdiction *ratione materiae* that, out of the 25 declarations of acceptance of the Court's jurisdiction that were in force in 1947, only five emanated from African or Asian States. Today, there were 22 such declarations (including 17 made by African States) out of a total number of 59 or, in other words, the ratio had increased from 20 per cent to somewhat over 35 per cent of all the declarations made.

Further, of the 74 contentious cases referred to it since 1947, 26 have involved States belonging to the continents of Africa or Asia. The ratio of these cases to the total number of contentious cases submitted to the Court was almost 50 per cent, if one sets aside those which were almost immediately struck off the list as the Court manifestly lacked jurisdiction to deal with them. He added that, if one considered only the cases dealt with by the Court over the past 15 years, the ratio of those in which an African or Asian State had been a party was almost 60 per cent. It was moreover interesting to note that, of the 26 cases referred to, almost half had been between States belonging to the same continent and that some two-thirds of them had been brought by unilateral application. He also stressed that, of the 23 requests for advisory opinions submitted to the Court since 1947, eight had been concerned with situations which had developed in Africa or in Asia.

With regard to Court's advisory function he mentioned the significant contribution that the Court had made to the law of decolonization—and in particular, to the determination of the imperatives of the principle of self-determination.

Lastly, he stressed that, while the African and Asian States have given valuable support to the Court's activities by participating in cases both numerous and substantial, their contribution to its work to promote justice and peace had been further enhanced by the often exemplary welcome given to the Court's decision and its implementation.

The Chairman of the International Law Commission, Dr P.S. Rao gave an account of the work of the ILC at its 47th Session. Five substantial topics were on the agenda, i.e. (1) Draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind; (2) State Responsibility; (3) International Liability for Injurious Consequences Arising Out of the Acts not Prohibited by

International Law; (4) Law and Practice relating to Reservation to Treaties; and (5) State Succession and its Impact on the Nationality of Natural and Legal Persons. The item Law and Practice Relating to Reservation to Treaties was a technical and yet important subject of interest to the legal advisers and to the legal community. He recalled that the topic had been considered at length during the 50's and late 60's under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. It had come up for reconsideration in light of the several new developments which had taken place, particularly in the areas where soft law and hard law were working together hand in hand. It was to be seen to what extent reservations can or cannot be considered as appropriate to ensure a more universal development of law. He said that the AALCC had made very useful contribution at the time of the Vienna Convention and hoped that it would take similar interest on this topic.

The topic "State Succession and its Impact on the Nationality of Natural and Legal Persons" would also be of interest to the Asian-African community particularly following the decolonization. In the wake of the birth of several new nations, several countries had gone through a process of decolonization and have resumed effecting nationality and hence have a rich practice. This practice would be properly brought before the Commission so that when it takes up formulation of suitable principles by way of guidelines, the practice of Asian-African community should not only be properly reflected but would provide a basis for the Commission to project more universally acceptable principles.

The ILC had gone through the final reading on the topic 'Draft Code of Crimes Against the Peace and Security of Mankind. Some areas which needed due consideration included: what kind of crimes can the code be composed of? What was the status of crimes not included in the code? How were the crimes to be defined, which have been retained by the Commission in the code? What was the role of the courts or national institutions or individual Governments in appealing to the court as opposed to the relevant roles of international organisations and particularly the Security Council in determining or dealing with the crime of aggression for example, Should the code be left essentially as a guide for States to use for the development of a national court? Or should it be used by the ICC whenever, wherever, it was established in whatever capacity to seek guidance from it as a substantive body of law. All these questions would come up before the Commission. Matters of this nature while being of fundamental importance to the Asian-African countries, few took the time to present their views with the same continuity and specificity that would provide certain impact on the international-level as was the case with jurists and States from other regions. This point was brought out by the Special

Rapporteur on the subject. In his view, this was an area where the AALCC should be actively involved. It was important that the Asian and African States should speak effectively and if possible with unity on issues such as the Draft Code.

He recalled that the question of State crimes had engaged the ILC during its 47th session in a thorough and fundamental way. The Commission during its first reading had accepted the concept of state crimes and indicated three of four examples as possibly constituting state crimes i.e. colonialism, apartheid, environmental crimes and aggression. The assumption of state crimes had changed over the years and many legal issues have come up for consideration. This topic would need further consideration.

The *President Dr Najeeb* stated that the statement of the ILC Chairman had already opened the debate on the AALCC's role in the progressive development of international law. While the States of the Asian and African continents did not get an opportunity in the beginning of the century to put their hearts and minds in the progressive development of international law, at the present moment all efforts should be made to contribute towards this field. In his view the protection of the UN peace-keeping personnel was one area which could be seriously studied by the AALCC. The AALCC could also play an active role as it did during the early 60's and 70's while studying the topics such as the Law of the Sea, Human Rights and Environment.

The *Chairman of the Sixth Committee* suggested that a regular dialogue between the European Legal Committee, the AALCC, and at some later stage the Latin American countries would be more constructive if it was held at an informal level. Such a dialogue would produce better global results in the Sixth Committee.

The *Representative of China* was of the view that the meeting of the Legal Advisers was very important as it discussed matters of common concern and interest. Moreover, such a meeting would undoubtedly improve the understanding among the Member States, facilitate review of the work which the AALCC had done and contribute to its future work as a result of frank exchange of views. The item under consideration "AALCC's role and contribution towards progressive development of International Law" was of great significance as it provided an opportunity to have a careful review of AALCC's role over the 40 years of its existence. The AALCC had no doubt played an active role and had made positive contributions to the progressive development and codification and international law and had become a regional international organization with significant influence on the international arena. This was because its Member Governments were

developing countries in Asia and Africa which accounted for a major portion in the international community and had contributed new ideas, doctrines and theories which reflected the trend in the development of history. In this regard the AALCC could help countries in Asia and Africa to take an active part in the progressive development of international law and give importance to the initiatives and creativity of those countries.

The *Representative of Bangladesh* was of the view that the publications of the AALCC had materially contributed to the formulations of positions and policy. He felt that it would be desirable that the Legal Adviser's meeting should be institutionalized on an annual basis and the rules of procedure more relaxed so that participants could speak in their personal capacity. This would be useful for countries with limited resources and limited access to the great storehouse of international literature and scholarly research. Further, there should be greater interaction between the AALCC research staff, the President and the Secretary General of AALCC with the technical personnel in member countries as well as with the specialized agencies of the UN.

The *Representative of Japan* noted that the AALCC played an active role during the Law of the Sea negotiations. However, in recent years it was not actively participating and contributing to its fullest extent mainly because of the financial constraints being faced by it. He mentioned that the present arrears were about US \$ 800,000. The member Governments should seriously think of ways and means by which the arrears could be reduced. The other aspect, which he stressed was the items under consideration by the AALCC. In his view, the focus should be on selected items. He felt that greater attention should be focussed on the establishment of the International Criminal Court as well as on the topic, the Draft Code of Crimes Against the Peace and Security of Mankind, and if possible, to hold a seminar on that topic. This would provide an opportunity to co-ordinate the views of AALCC Member States on these issues. He suggested that the documents prepared by the AALCC should reach the member Governments in time so that they could be utilized fully.

The *President, Dr Najeeb* observed that financial constraints were being faced by most of the organizations including the United Nations. However, efforts should be made to convene more seminars. He said that reminders were sent to those Member Governments which were in arrears to clear their arrears. Some had responded positively.

The *Secretary-General* explained about the delay in sending the AALCC documents and assured that in future the documents will be dispatched