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Session of the International Law Commission

(Note by the Secretary-General)

The following is the text of a letter from the Chairman of the International Law Commission to the Director of the Codification Division:

[Original: French]

18 October 1957

Dear Dr. Liang,

I attach special importance to the duration of the tenth session of the [International Law] Commission being maintained at ten weeks, as proposed by the Commission. In fixing a duration of ten weeks, the Commission has taken account of the specific tasks which it will have to conclude at its tenth session.

In the first place the International Law Commission must complete the revision of its draft rules on arbitral procedure at its next session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 989 (X) of 14 December 1955. The Commission then plans to work out a final draft text of articles on diplomatic intercourse and immunities in the light of the comments received from Governments. Finally, it will have to complete the latter draft by drawing up rules to define the juridical status of ad hoc diplomatic missions. A session of ten weeks represents an indispensable minimum for the above tasks.

I should like to point out once again that many delegations expressed the desire both at the eleventh and the current sessions of the Sixth Committee that the work of the International Law Commission should be expedited as rapidly as possible. In particular they have emphasized the advantage of undertaking the study of consular intercourse and immunities immediately after the examination of diplomatic intercourse and immunities. Furthermore, the agenda of the Commission includes two subjects of the highest importance: the law of treaties and State responsibility.

The International Law Commission will make every effort to organize its work so as to yield the most effective results. Nevertheless, the nature of its tasks makes it necessary in every case to devote considerable time to the subjects under study, if concrete results are to be achieved.

I hope therefore that when the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly decides on the duration of the next session of the International Law Commission it will take the factors that I have mentioned into account, and by maintaining the session at ten weeks, as proposed, enable the Commission to complete the work scheduled for its next session.

I should be most grateful if you would kindly inform me by telegram of the decision taken on this subject.

Yours, etc.

Dr. JAROSLAV ZOUREK

Chairman of the  
International Law Commission

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