

1. The nature and sources of international law.
2. The applicability of existing ^{rules} principles of international law.
3. The principles to be applied in the absence of a governing rule of international law.
4. ^{the} Responsibility of the United States and the United Nations in the development of rules of international law.

1. The nature and sources of international law.

The rules of international law with respect to the conduct of nations at war can not be examined as if they were a ^{fully} ~~well~~-developed, integrated system of statutes and judicial decisions similar to those which form the legal system of our own nation. The fact is they are not well-developed, are not integrated and are very incomplete. Manifestly it is therefore necessary in interpreting and applying existing international law principles to novel situations to employ techniques which differ in many respects from those familiar in the interpretation and application of principles of statute or common law.

Thus in the field of international law there is not available a complete and integrated body of statute and case law to which ready reference may be made for the determination of legal problems. For the lack of ^{fully} such ~~complete~~ developed and comprehensive system of rules in the international field it is necessary to be extremely cautious in applying principles expressed in covenants and treaties to new situations. The body of rules which may be found in treaties and covenants are so limited in scope and

so restricted in application that their use in connection with new situations involves a danger that the purpose and intent of the rule when formulated will be distorted and perverted when applied to a situation for which it was neither intended nor suited.