

Outer Space

There is another matter relating to negotiations and dealings with the U.S.S.R., and that has to do with outer space. The year 1958 was a most significant year in the exploration of outer space, in connection with the International Geophysical Year. I must pay tribute to the participation of Soviet scientists in the successes of that Year. That was not on the government level but was an association of scientists throughout the world. Just let us reflect for a moment. In the recent period, or in 1958 to centre on that year, there have been launched objects which have overcome, most astonishingly, gravitational forces; objects or vehicles which can circumnavigate the moon and which can circle the globe in a few minutes or so. And now a vehicle has been placed in orbit about the sun.

I must interpolate here that it is an awesome thought that vehicles can be launched and within a few moments go thousands of miles with an aim that is remarkably accurate. This in itself is a challenge to the statesmanship of the world. At the same time there is an equal challenge to statesmen throughout the world, and that is outer space. It seems presumptuous for us to be talking about outer space, but its use is coming within man's grasp. We should not translate to outer space the national rivalries to be found on this globe.

Last autumn the United Nations established a committee for the study of the control and use of outer space, and Canada was happy to be elected to that committee. The U.S.S.R. has refused to attend any meetings of that committee, of which it is also a member. They complain about the composition of the committee. They complain that they did not receive parity in the selection of the committee. That is most regrettable, and efforts are being made within the United Nations, under the umbrella of which this outer space committee has been established, to break this deadlock.

I have been talking about the European scene. I said in this House last August with some confidence that the tenseness of the Middle East situation had somewhat abated, and I stated that in that pause there was some ground for gratification. Since then from the Middle East the pendulum has swung to the Far East and now it has come back to Europe, which has been in a period of relative quiescence in recent years.

Austrian State Treaty

I have one item to report with respect to the European scene which will bring satisfaction. I announce that it is the intention of the Government to present a resolution to the House for approval, and I expect this resolution will be welcomed by all hon. members. The Government will request Parliament to adopt a resolution approving the accession of Canada to the Austrian State Treaty of 1955. This is the treaty which terminated a 10-year occupation of Austria, and it marked the re-emergence of Austria as a free and independent nation. The treaty was negotiated between Austria and the four occupying powers at that time, the United States, United Kingdom, France and the U.S.S.R. Under the treaty of 1955 provision was made for the accession of any country which had fought against Nazi Germany. Accession by Canada, I can