

procedures being established as an integral part of long-term plans for improvement of the environment. Programmes of action for planners and managers should be based on the latest scientific information.

6. Promoting International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Satellite Systems

In recognition of rapid developments in outer space technology, the UN General Assembly established in 1957 the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, of which Canada is a member. The Committee provides a specialized forum for the consideration of political, legal, social, technical and other issues connected with international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. In 1967 the Treaty of Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space came into force, and in 1968 the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space came into force. The Committee is now concerned with the preparation of a draft agreement on Liability for Damage Caused by the Launching of Objects into Outer Space.

In 1967 the General Assembly requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space "to study the technical feasibility of communications by direct broadcast from satellites and the current and foreseeable developments in this field, as well as the implications of such developments". In response to this resolution, Canada and Sweden proposed that a working group be established to study direct broadcasting from satellites, and they have submitted several joint papers for study by the working group. These papers will offer observations on the technical, political, legal, social, cultural and economic implications of direct broadcasting from satellites.

The need for Canada to establish a domestic satellite communications system was analysed in the Government White Paper of March 28, 1968. A lower-cost telecommunications and television service, available to any point in Canada, particularly the North, should have a profound effect on the development of the country. This system should be in operation early in the 1970s.

The international aspects of these considerations led Canada to become in 1964 one of the founding members of the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium (INTELSAT), now comprising some 75 states intent on the creation and operation of a world-wide commercial