

Canada, which is a member of the new committee, as it was of the old, will of course dedicate itself to the achievement of the objectives for which the committee is being created and will do its best, as it did in the ad hoc committee, to make a contribution consistent with the knowledge and resources available to us.

While establishment of a permanent committee on outer space is a welcome and important event, we should at the same time not lose sight of the questions of substance which it involves, such as those covered in the ad hoc committee's report, or of the terms of reference of the new body. The ultimate end in view must of course be to promote international co-operation in, and international regulation of, the peaceful uses of outer space.

In approaching the work of the new committee, we should bear in mind that in scientific activities the conception of international co-operation has come to cover a whole range of activities: the traditional informal exchanges between scientists of different nations; more formal exchanges arranged by non-governmental international scientific organizations; and arrangements through inter-governmental organizations such as the United Nations. My Delegation considers it desirable to emphasize that the great preponderance of international scientific co-operation takes place through the traditional informal exchanges of the scientists themselves and, with a few significant exceptions, the objective of inter-governmental scientific activities should be to facilitate and supplement such exchanges but not to displace them. In this way the proposed international scientific conference can and should play an important role in the exchange of experience in the peaceful uses of outer space.

It is, of course, true that space research raises special problems because of its significance for defence and because of its extension beyond national boundaries. However, even in this field it is, we think, true that the best form of international co-operation would be through informal exchanges of scientists. The greatest contribution that the UN could make to the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space would be to ensure that scientists throughout the world may pursue research in outer space with that freedom to exchange ideas and information that is traditional to scientists.

... In suggesting that informal exchanges among scientists constitute the ideal in international scientific co-operation, and that the success of any UN activity in this area should be measured partly against its usefulness in promoting fuller collaboration between scientists, I should not wish to imply that the United Nations has no more direct role to play. It is clear that there are large areas of activity in space research that must ultimately become