

to assure that outer space would be used exclusively for peaceful and scientific purposes. A clause in similar terms was included in General Assembly resolution 1148 (XII) adopted on November 14, 1957.

The Prime Minister of Canada, in a speech on February 8, 1958, urged that an international space agency be set up to ensure that jurisdiction in the matter would be vested in the United Nations. The agency would have inspection and control powers to police all operations in outer space and would ensure its use for scientific and peaceful purposes only. The Prime Minister also proposed that a declaration be made that all nations should have equal rights in outer space.

On March 15, 1958, the Soviet Union requested the inscription on the agenda of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly of the item "The banning of the use of cosmic space for military purposes, the elimination of foreign bases on the territories of other countries and international co-operation in the study of cosmic space". The communication making the request included proposals for (a) a ban on the use of space for military purposes and pledges to launch rockets into space under an agreed international programme; (b) the elimination of foreign military bases; (c) the establishment of international control over the two above measures; and (d) the establishment of a United Nations agency for international co-operation in the study of cosmic space which could: (i) work out and supervise an international programme for launching rockets to study space; (ii) continue permanently the space research begun under the International Geophysical Year; (iii) provide a centre for the exchange of information; and (iv) co-ordinate and assist national programmes.

On September 2 the United States requested the inclusion in the agenda of the item "Programmes for international co-operation in the field of outer space". In an explanatory memorandum the United States took the position that peaceful use of outer space should be dealt with separately from its disarmament aspects and that a committee should be established to study specific steps which the General Assembly might take to promote international co-operation.

The First Committee devoted fifteen meetings between November 11 and 24 to the concurrent consideration of the United States and Soviet items (agenda item 60). Initially the Soviet Union submitted a draft resolution which in effect reproduced its proposals of March 15. With nineteen other delegations,¹ including the United States, Canada co-sponsored a draft resolution providing for the establishment of an *ad hoc* committee which would report to the fourteenth session on: (a) the activities and resources of the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies and other international bodies relating to the peaceful uses of outer space; (b) the area of international co-operation and programmes in the peaceful uses of outer space which could appropriately be undertaken under United Nations auspices; (c) the future United Nations organizational arrangements to facilitate international co-operation in this field; and (d) the nature of legal problems which may arise in the carrying out of programmes to explore outer space. In the course of the debate the Soviet Union revised its proposals to omit the clauses relating to disarmament and to provide that a preparatory group should draft a programme and rules for an international committee with functions similar to points (ii), (iii) and (iv) above in its proposal for an agency.

¹ Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Denmark, France, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.