

Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The Legal Sub-Committee of the General Assembly Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its seventh session from June 4 to 28 in Geneva. Despite considerable effort, the Sub-Committee was unable to fulfill its mandate to complete the drafting of a Convention on Liability for Damage Caused by Objects Launched into Outer Space for tabling at the twenty-third General Assembly. Agreement was however reached on the formulation of several important principles. The Sub-Committee adopted two resolutions: one recommending to the parent Outer Space Committee that it request the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to consider the question of direct broadcasting satellites with a view to preparing a study of the technical problems involved; the second recommending that the definition of outer space be retained on the Legal Sub-Committee agenda and that United Nations Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency be asked to examine and report on particular problems that have arisen from the use of outer space in their areas of interest, which they consider should be brought to the attention of the Outer Space Committee.

The report issued by the Legal Sub-Committee at the conclusion of the Geneva meeting included a recommendation that the Outer Space Committee give consideration to convening the Sub-Committee as soon as it considers that substantial progress can be made on the Liability Convention. It is expected that the Sub-Committee will meet again this summer with the aim of reaching agreement so that a complete draft convention on liability can be presented to the twenty-fourth General Assembly in September 1969.

Claims

In 1964, it was considered that the time was ripe to make renewed efforts to arrive at lump-sum settlements of the outstanding claims of Canadian citizens against a number of countries. The claims in question arose for the most part from the nationalization of property in Eastern Europe following the Second World War.

The first result of these renewed efforts was the agreement in June 1964 whereby the Hungarian Government undertook to begin claims negotiations with Canada. Since January 1966 there have been four rounds of negotiations; the last took place in Budapest in November and December 1967. Although some progress was made, many points of difference still remain to be resolved. During 1968, contacts with Budapest were renewed to explore every possible avenue in the search for a satisfactory settlement of the claims.

In September, distribution was completed to successful claimants of moneys received under the Canadian-Bulgarian Claims Settlement signed in June 1966. The distribution was effected according to the recommendations of Chief Justice Thane A. Campbell, Adviser on Claims under the Foreign Claims (Bulgaria) Settlement. This settlement totalled \$40,000 against which 28 claims were submitted. The Adviser ruled that eight claims be admitted and 20 rejected.

Early in 1965, an understanding was reached with the Polish Government whereby the latter agreed to enter into negotiations with Canada