

Once the composition of a negotiating body has been decided, the Assembly should recommend that negotiations begin at the earliest possible date, on the basis of the principles agreed by the United States and the Soviet Union and on the basis of the plans which have been put forward by both sides. The negotiating body, with its broadened representation, should have a close and effective relationship with the United Nations, because general disarmament must eventually apply to all nations without exception. I think that it is important that the United Nations should be kept in the picture in the disarmament negotiations.

At the fifteenth session of the General Assembly, Canada, joined by eighteen other nations, sponsored a draft resolution intended to create such a relationship, as was recalled by the Foreign Minister of Chile in his statement on 28 September. The ideas then advanced may prove useful in facilitating a solution of the problem of general and complete disarmament. If we and our co-sponsors do bring forward a revised draft resolution at this session, I hope that it will receive the unanimous support of delegations here. The draft resolution which we presented last year did not get quite that support.

Outer Space

My second last subject is outer space. During the last year, both the Soviet Union and the United States have successfully launched men into outer space. Space travel and space exploration in manned vehicles may soon be commonplace -- delegates to the General Assembly two or three years from now may be coming in outer space vehicles. While these scientific achievements stir our imaginations we deplore the inability of the United Nations to make progress in regulating the use of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes. Despite agreement at the fourteenth session -- that is two years ago -- on the composition of an Outer Space Committee, the vital tasks assigned to it remain unattained. The reason for this is that the two Powers whose achievements in outer space have uniquely fitted them for leadership in this field have failed to reach agreement on procedural arrangements -- failed, I believe, to agree on who is to be Chairman, who is to be Rapporteur, and so on. As a result, the Committee has not met. Moreover, to this dispute there has more recently been added a further complication arising out of Soviet insistence that decisions must be taken unanimously.

The Canadian delegation believes that no effort should be spared to have the Outer Space Committee begin its studies without further delay. I read in The New York Times this morning a report from Washington: