

the seven basic principles of international law in the United Nations Charter, which are euphemistically called "friendly relations"; private international law relating to trade; the sending and receiving of ad hoc special diplomatic missions; and the relations between states and international organizations. As you can see, despite gloomy pronouncements that international law is dead, it is alive and kicking at the United Nations.

For the future, some of the most exciting prospects lie in the application of legal principles to the new frontiers of man's endeavours. It was not so many years ago that the discovery and study of Antarctica had turned the world's southernmost continent into a source of international friction and controversy, brought on by competing territorial claims. The Antarctica Treaty of 1959 converted this area into one of peaceful co-operation. Now we are concerned with the exploration and use of outer space; and tomorrow it will likely be the sea-bed and ocean-floor.

The orbiting of the first Soviet Sputnik in 1957 heralded the arrival of our space age. Drawing on the Antarctic experience, the General Assembly established a Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which created a Legal Sub-Committee, including Canada, to study "the nature of legal problems which may arise in the carrying out of programmes to explore outer space". Eventually, in 1962, sufficient agreement was achieved to make possible the unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of the "Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space". The General Assembly agreed also that the substance of the Declaration should form the basis of a treaty on outer space. Some states voluntarily declared that they would abide by the legal principles contained in the Declaration. As the United States Ambassador, Adlai Stevenson, said: "We believe these legal principles reflect international law as it is accepted by the members of the United Nations. The United States, for its part, intends to respect these principles." The Soviet representative, Mr. Fedorenko, replied that: "The Soviet Union, for its part, will also respect the principles." Thus, by unanimous declaration, the United Nations succeeded in making new international law. Canada played an active role in the embodiment of these declared principles into the Outer Space Treaty of 1967.

The Treaty confirms that the exploration and use of outer space shall be for the benefit of all countries, irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development. It proclaims the complete freedom of outer space and its use without discrimination of any kind. It affirms that outer space and celestial bodies, including the moon, are not subject to national appropriation and that they shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. It prohibits the stationing in space or on celestial bodies of nuclear weapons and other kinds of weapons of mass destruction. It also extends the provisions of international law to activities conducted in outer space and on celestial bodies. It is immensely encouraging that our fractious world community has found the wisdom to establish an orderly regime for an area which could well have become a major source of international discord.

The United Nations and its Outer Space Committee are continuing to elaborate the law of outer space. An agreement on the rescue of astronauts, the return of astronauts, and the return of objects launched into outer space came into force in December last year. It balances the interests of those