



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

A statement by Mr. W.B. Nesbitt, Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, in the First Committee of the United Nations on Friday, December 11, 1959.

... To begin with, my Delegation would like to express its gratification at the patience and spirit of co-operation and good will among the powers concerned that have made agreement on this question possible and have produced the draft resolution now before us. It is a matter of particular satisfaction that this agreement provides for the creation of a United Nations committee in which the countries with the most to contribute in this field will be able to participate. It has from the beginning been the goal of the Canadian Delegation to see agreement reached on the composition of an outer-space body which would be broadly representative, both functionally and geographically, and in which the powers with the greatest experience and expertise in outer-space science and technology would co-operate.

We are convinced that every effort should be made to avoid, with respect to outer space, the difficulties which have arisen with respect to nuclear weapons through the failure to develop international agreements at an early enough stage. For the promotion of the overriding interest of the community of nations in maintaining the freedom of space for peaceful, scientific and beneficial purposes, for the promotion of international scientific co-operation in the exploitation for the benefit of mankind of the potentialities of outer space, for the establishment of the rule of law in outer space while there is still time, for the promotion of an international regime for outer space -- for all these purposes an indispensable first stage is the creation of a United Nations committee with a generally acceptable composition such as is proposed in the 12-power draft resolution.