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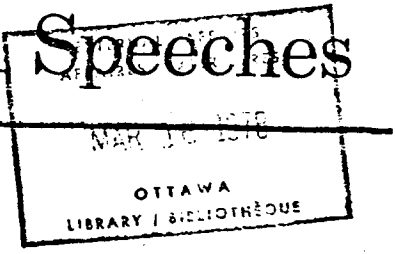
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Statements and Speeches

No. 77/22



PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Statement in the First Committee of the Thirty-Second Session of the United Nations General Assembly by Mr. William H. Barton, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, November 23, 1977.

It is a pleasure for me to take the floor once again in this Committee to place on record Canada's views on the two agenda items now before us, the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the formulation of a set of principles to govern direct television broadcasting by satellite. My delegation believes that these items are of particular importance and looks forward to our debate in the anticipation that progress will be made in our attempts to resolve the issues involved.

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This seems to be a year of anniversaries, and I think it would be appropriate, and perhaps also salutary, for us to note the accomplishments of recent years. It is 20 years since the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was founded, and 20 years since the first satellite was sent into orbit. Now man has walked on the moon and probes the secrets of the solar system and of other galaxies. Parallel with these remarkable scientific activities in outer space, much has been done on earth towards codifying international law in this domain. This is the tenth anniversary of the entering into force of the Outer Space Treaty, and three other important international legal instruments have also entered into force. Such achievements have demonstrated that the Committee is an effective instrument in resolving important issues of concern to member states; for this we can, I think, be justifiably proud.

The Canadian space program has matured in the past 20 years, and it too has seen its share of accomplishments. It was, in fact, 15 years ago, with the launch of *Alouette 1*, designed and built in Canada, that Canada became the third nation to place a satellite in orbit. Subsequent Canadian achievements in space-science research, telecommunications, remote-sensing and in other areas of space applications have been numerous and have been reported previously to this Committee. I need not repeat them now.

What I should like to repeat is Canada's continuing and increasing commitment to co-operate in the development of new technologies and new programs with other countries. Since last we reported to this Committee, for example, Canada has explored with the European Space Agency possibilities for increasing the degree of mutual co-operation. The Canada Centre for Remote-Sensing has signed agreements to exchange information and personnel and to pursue mutually-agreed programs with the European Space Agency and with the Centre nationale d'Etudes spatiales of France. Following talks at senior levels, links are being forged with the appropriate Japanese space authorities for the exchange of information and the identification of specific and practical areas for co-operation. Finally, co-operation with our principal