

My Delegation is also pleased with the progress which is being made in considering the question of holding a second United Nations Conference on outer space. In our view this is a question which requires more careful study - study of the subjects such a conference would address, how it would be co-ordinated with other conferences, when it might most usefully be held and such organizational aspects as its financing. The establishment of a working party of the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee to examine these questions as an important step, and we look forward to playing a constructive role in that working party under the capable and experienced guidance of Professor Carver.

In this connection, I should like to recall that, in paragraph 77 of the main Committee's report, mention was made of the desirability of governments submitting to the Secretariat at an early date their ideas and recommendations concerning this proposed Conference. If such submissions are received sufficiently in advance of the consecutive meetings in February, 1978, of the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee and of this working party, the preparation of a comprehensive report, despite the inevitable pressures of time, may still prove possible.

Before concluding, I should like to make a brief allusion to one passage in the speech given on November 21 by the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Ambassador Jankowitsch, in opening our debate. He referred at that time to the fact that the Outer Space Committee was not an "exclusive club" composed of Member States from the developed world. I should like to reiterate his sentiments and call for ever-increasing involvement in the work of the Committee by other Member States, particularly those from the developing world. Indeed, a number of countries have already availed themselves of opportunities to participate in the work of the main Committee and its two sub-committees in an observer capacity. We would, therefore, wish to support the resolution introduced by the Austrian Delegation calling for a study by the Outer Space Committee itself of the means by which wider participation in its work might be facilitated, whether through an expansion of its membership or through other methods. That having been said, it should perhaps be noted that one reason why the endeavours of the Committee to date have been accomplished in an efficacious manner is just because its membership, while fully consonant with the principle of equitable geographical distribution, has been kept to a manageable size.

Finally I would like to state that my Delegation is pleased to co-sponsor the omnibus resolution on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which has just been introduced this afternoon by the Austrian Delegation. The resolution makes very well the two points which have been the main theme of the Canadian Delegation's intervention, namely, that we note with considerable satisfaction the work which has been done but do so conscious of the work which yet remains unfinished. It is my Delegation's conviction that progress can be made during this next year, and in this collective effort I pledge Canada's full support and cooperation.