

sovereignty over natural resources implies or includes sovereignty over information pertaining to those natural resources, and that unfettered sensing of their national territory or dissemination of data concerning that territory without their consent, would be an infringement of their sovereignty.

The United States on the other hand, insisting that activities in Outer Space are beyond the purview of national sovereignty and are governed by the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, continues to stress the belief that a policy of free and open dissemination of data is the only policy which would take into account the technical possibilities and realities of remote sensing, and which at the same time, by making data freely available to everyone (including all sensed states) removes any fear of discrimination or unfair exploitation by means of remote sensing.

Clearly these areas of disagreement are fundamental. Nonetheless, despite the basic nature of the disagreement among members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, it is clear that with the tabling of draft "guidelines" by the United States, the Legal Subcommittee has embarked on the drafting of a legal or quasi-legal instrument to govern remote sensing.

Canada is currently re-examining its policy on remote sensing in light of 1) technical realities and possibilities, 2) Canadian interests as a resource-rich nation, at the same time able to benefit greatly from remote sensing, 3) Canadian perceptions of a viable international regime - be it organizational, legal, or a combination of the two - which would serve and protect international and national interests, particularly those interests of resource-rich developing countries and regions. Canada will continue to seek realistic principles which will be based on a thorough understanding of technological realities, and which will appropriately complement legal guidelines with regional and international cooperation to maximize the benefits of remote sensing, while allaying the fears of unfair exploitation or infringement of the sovereignty of sensed states.