

During negotiations in the Legal Sub-Committee, Canada has taken the position that the legal framework which is established to govern the activities of states engaged in remote sensing of the earth from space should facilitate the maximum cooperative utilization of remote sensing technology consonant with the need to safeguard legitimate national interests.

With respect to the latter consideration, the complexity of the issues involved in a legal analysis of remote sensing, together with rapidly advancing technology, make it difficult to foresee the precise manner in which states could, in the future, be adversely affected by remote sensing activities. For this reason, Canada, at the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee, introduced an informal working paper containing a draft text of a possible review clause for inclusion in the draft principles. Canada suggested that such a clause might constitute a useful safeguard in the draft principles whereby the Outer Space Committee or the General Assembly would periodically, or on demand of a specified number of member states, review the adequacy of the guiding principles on remote sensing. Such a clause would introduce an element of flexibility to the draft principles and would also provide a form of protection against possible problems or unforeseen detrimental effects of remote sensing activities. This question will be considered further at future sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee.

Although the 16th Session of the Legal Sub-Committee was to accord high priority to completing the draft moon treaty, very little progress was made at the session with respect to the major outstanding issues. These are:

- 1) the scope of the treaty, i.e. whether the draft treaty should relate only to the moon or should include reference to other celestial bodies;
- 2) the legal status of the natural resources of the moon, and of other celestial bodies, including the question of the possible future establishment of an international régime to govern exploitation of those resources when this becomes feasible; and
- 3) information to be furnished on missions to the moon.