

As soon as the Registration Convention has been adopted it is likely Canada will sign and ratify it together with the earlier agreements on astronauts and liability.

(b) Draft Moon Treaty

A draft Moon Treaty was originally submitted by the U.S.S.R. to the General Assembly in 1971, which then referred it to the Outer Space Committee for consideration by the Legal Sub-Committee. Since that time the Sub-Committee has been able to agree only on a Preamble and six non-controversial articles. There are a number of important areas of disagreement which remain outstanding, the most important of which concerns proprietary rights in the resources of the Moon (and of other celestial bodies).

At its 1974 session, the Legal Sub-Committee had before it the original draft text and numerous other working papers, including a revised draft of a complete Convention by Bulgaria.

That comparatively little progress was made in the drafting of this Treaty is attributable primarily to recognition by the Sub-Committee that continuing differences of principle on the proprietary issue were too substantial to be effectively resolved. As a result, the U.S.S.R. was prepared to defer consideration of the draft Treaty in the interests of facilitating progress on other items before the Sub-Committee which seem more susceptible to agreement.

The proprietary rights over resources issue is of particular interest because of the parallel problem currently being faced on the resources of the international areas of the seabed.

Article II of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty which contains the principle of non-appropriation of the Moon, is silent about the exploitation of the Moon's resources. At the 1972 meeting of the Legal Sub-Committee, the U.S.S.R. strongly opposed incorporation of the concept that "the natural resources of the Moon and other