

field on which Canada will serve with some twenty-three other countries — that is, for the peaceful uses of outer space.

In 1958 there was a committee set up on outer space, composed of eighteen members, of which Canada was one. But Russia and other Communist nations refused to participate, because they said that the membership of the committee was not fair; and because they would not participate, several other nations on the committee, including the United Arab Republic and India, also refused to participate, so the committee was "stymied" from the start.

The situation has now been changed. The committee has been increased to twenty-four and it is hoped that now they will proceed. The set-up of the present committee is twelve from the Western countries, six from the Soviet Bloc, and six from the uncommitted nations.

It is encouraging that the contentious issue of membership was resolved in a way which makes it possible for the Soviet Union to participate in the challenging work of the committee.

As Mr. Nesbitt told the Assembly, it is our hope that one of the achievements of the new committee on the peaceful uses of outer space will be the formulation of a rule, and the finding of means to gain universal acceptance of that rule, that no part of space or any celestial body may be appropriated by or subjected to the jurisdiction of any state.

In other words, there is to be no national claim to outer space — we hope. It is expected that the first meeting of the new committee will open in New York on March 15.

In addition to making plans for the conduct of its future work in technical and legal fields, the committee will concern itself with arrangements for the holding of an international conference on the peaceful uses of outer space, possibly this year.

Mind you, in addition to peaceful uses of outer space, this outer space question also involves problems for the Disarmament Committee. And a lot of thought is being put on that subject in the Disarmament Committee.

I have some notes here on radiation, but I shall not take up the time of the Committee to go over them.

#### International Courts

I have a few brief comments on Canadian membership on the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Canada has decided to support actively the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and her Ambassador in The Hague will represent Canada on its Administrative Council.

Forty-four other countries are members of the Court, which was established in 1899 for the settlement of disputes between states.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration is in many respects a complement to the International Court of Justice, in that it provides an informal and more