

sovereign rights of states to regulate their own communication systems. On the basis of the progress achieved in the Legal Subcommittee and the parent committee in 1977, Canada will press for the conclusion of a full draft set of principles at the next session of the subcommittee.

The Legal Subcommittee continued in 1977 its work on the legal implications of remote-sensing of the earth from space. During the session, six new draft principles were developed relating to the following subjects: the role of the United Nations, dissemination of information regarding impending natural disasters, the duty of avoiding detrimental use of remote-sensing data or information, dissemination of technical information to developing countries, state responsibility for activities in the field of remote-sensing, and the right of a "sensed" state to access to data pertaining to its territory. In addition, a controversial text of a "possible draft principle" was also formulated relating to state sovereignty over natural resources.

During negotiations in the Legal Subcommittee, Canada has taken the position that the legal framework established to govern the activities of states engaged in remote-sensing should facilitate the maximum co-operative use of remote-sensing technology consistent with the need to safeguard legitimate national interests.

Although the sixteenth session of the Legal Subcommittee was to give high priority to completing the draft moon treaty, very little progress was made during the session. On the one hand, a number of developing countries continued to insist on a direct reference to the moon and its natural resources, and other celestial bodies and their natural resources, as the common heritage of mankind. These countries were also committed to the establishment of an international legal regime to govern the exploitation of such resources when this should become feasible. On the other hand, certain states did not wish to place undue international legal restriction on research and unforeseen prospects for exploitation of the resources of the moon and other celestial bodies. Unless major changes were to take place before the next session of the subcommittee, the prospects for progress on the draft moon treaty did not appear promising.

International legal measures against terrorism

During the past year there was renewed effort in the United Nations to come to grips with the issue of international terrorism and, in particular, the taking of hostages.

International terrorism was originally inscribed on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 by the Secretary-General, following the tragic events at the Munich Olympics. That year, the Assembly adopted a resolution that created an *Ad Hoc* Committee on International Terrorism, which has met only twice, in 1973 and in 1977. In both instances, its work has been hindered by highly-ambiguous terms of reference. In 1977, as in 1973, many Third World delegations stressed the importance of studying the causes of international terrorism, which they generally attributed to policies followed by Israel and certain governments of southern Africa. Those delegations were also opposed to any proposals that might, in their view, affect the operation of national liberation movements. Canada and other Western delegations, on the other hand, stressed the need for the international community to develop specific and concrete measures against all acts of international terrorism, regardless of motive, such measures to be based on the principle of "prosecute or extradite" contained in the 1970 Hague and 1971 Montreal conventions on aerial hijacking and in the 1973 New York Convention on the Protection of Diplomats. As a result of such divergent points of view on the work of the committee, no substantive progress has been made, nor has agreement been reached on a program of work.

In 1976, at the thirty-first session of the UN General Assembly, the Federal Republic of Germany took an initiative on a related matter, concerning the drafting of a convention against the taking of hostages. The new committee, which was established to deal with this subject, met in New York in August 1977, but had only limited success. While its mandate provided a sharper focus than that of the Committee on International Terrorism, debate in the two bodies was strikingly similar. Most Arab delegations emphasized that the question of hostage-taking was an integral part