

Agreement was, however, obtained subsequently on the text of a review clause during the 1973 meeting of the parent Outer Space Committee, but no similar agreement proved possible on a satisfactory system for marking space objects. The proposed compulsory marking provision advocated originally by France and others was unacceptable to several states, including in particular the U.S.A., which regarded such a requirement to be technically unfeasible and of little practical value.

During the first few months of 1974, officials in the Bureau entered into bilateral discussions with interested states, including the U.S.A., which resulted in the elaboration of the compromise formula which eventually gained general acceptance. This formulation makes marking a voluntary act, but provides that whenever an object is marked either with an appropriate designator or its registration number this information **must** be conveyed to the Secretary-General for inclusion in a central Register along with the other information about the object, furnished in accordance with the Convention.

With these outstanding problems resolved, the draft Convention was submitted to the parent Outer Space Committee in July for approval and after deleting a preambular draft paragraph referring to the non-existent Moon Treaty, the Committee forwarded the draft to the General Assembly for adoption at its twenty-ninth regular session. The successful adoption of the Registration Convention by the United Nations will mark another significant step in the progressive and orderly development of international law relating to Man's activities in outer space and should usefully complement, through the better identification of space objects, the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (1972).