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## STATEMENT ON OUTER SPACE

In the debate on outer space which took place recently in the thirteenth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, Mr. C.S.A. Ritchie, the Canadian Permanent Representative at the United Nations, said that in the jurisdiction of space, the fundamental problem was one of resources. If the proposed international regime for outer space were to have practical validity, he said, it is essential that space exploration should not become the province of a few major powers alone. Mr. Ritchie called for an examination of the international means which might be devised to enable other nations to participate and co-operate in this field of technical endeavour.

He continued:

"This might be done by entrusting all space exploration activities to an appropriate United Nations body. On the other hand, it might be more practical to continue national programmes, preferably without secrecy and under the co-ordination of such a United Nations body, thus allowing an international programme to be developed with the assistance of the material resources and technical information of the major powers. In any case, the possibility should be examined of extensive international collaboration in space exploration, and not merely the co-ordination of national projects and the exchange of information.

"The draft resolution before us which Canada has joined in sponsoring (Document

A/CI/L.220 of November 13) provides for the establishment of an *ad hoc* committee to examine these matters and to report to the next session of the General Assembly. This, we think, is a practical approach. This afternoon the Soviet Representative introduced a new proposal which seems at first sight to represent a welcome move in this direction. We shall all wish to study this text closely, of course, before expressing any final opinion upon it. We hope that a unanimous approach to this problem may be at hand. In any case, we trust that the terms of reference of whatever preparatory body is set up will not be regarded as restrictive or all-inclusive. Any aspect of the peaceful uses of outer space which might appropriately be of concern to the United Nations should be the legitimate business of the proposed *ad hoc* committee. For example, the committee might usefully receive, exchange or collate information on outer space contributed by member governments. It might also examine means of pursuing the outer space research started under the International Geophysical Year.

"Canada will have a contribution to make in this regard. The Canadian programme for the International Geophysical Year has included work in all the related disciplines. Although Canada has launched no satellite, Canadian scientists have assisted in tracking satellites and have supplied information on trajectories.

"As a consequence of its latitude, the

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