

Despite agreement at the 14th Session on the composition of an Outer Space Committee, the vital tasks assigned to it remain unattained. The reason for this is that the two powers whose achievements in outer space have uniquely fitted them for leadership in this field, have failed to reach agreement on procedural arrangements. As a result, the Committee has not met. Moreover, to this dispute there has more recently been added a further complication arising out of Soviet insistence that decisions must be taken unanimously.

The Canadian Delegation believes that no effort should be spared to have the Outer Space Committee begin its studies without further delay.

Unless there is some body of law, outer space could be exploited for aggressive purposes with greatly increased danger for all nations on this earth. Priority should be given to specific studies to determine in particular:

- the limits of outer space;
- the rules prohibiting military uses and the appropriation of outer space bodies;
- means for registering and identifying space launchings;
- the allocation of radio frequencies for space research;
- methods for terminating radio transmission from outworn space vehicles;
- rules governing the re-entry into the atmosphere and recovery of space vehicles; and
- principles of legal liability for the damage arising out of national activity in outer space.

These and other important questions are clearly within the terms of reference of the Outer Space Committee, which was specifically asked to make preparations for an international scientific conference. In the proper spirit of international scientific collaboration, much benefit would result from such a conference. However, we would not wish preparations for a conference to delay early consideration