

meeting of the Outer Space Legal Sub-Committee principles to guide the exploration and use of outer space should be discussed. In this connection, we attach special importance to the statement of the United States representative during the meeting of the Outer Space Committee in September that the Legal Sub-Committee "could also appropriately consider the formulation of general principles".

If the Legal Sub-Committee failed to make the progress which had been hoped for in the drafting of the principles on the return and recovery of space vehicles and astronauts and on the responsibility of launching states, this was largely because some delegations to the Geneva meeting introduced proposals which clearly did not fall within the terms of reference of the Outer Space Committee. The proposals I have in mind were those involving military matters, questions which are most important but which belong in the context of disarmament negotiations in Geneva. An example of such an important problem concerning outer space which should be studied and resolved by the Disarmament Committee is the question of prohibiting the placing in space of weapons of mass destruction. Such a proposal was put forward by Canada in the Disarmament Conference in Geneva and my government expects it to be pursued at some stage in those negotiations. I refer to this to illustrate what my delegation firmly believes should be the approach to be followed if the Outer Space Committee is to be allowed to make progress in formulating legal rules and principles on questions concerning peaceful uses which clearly fall within its jurisdiction.

As early as 1957, the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Diefenbaker, spoke of the need for drafting law to govern the exploration and use of outer space. Although aware of the