

accelerated so should our efforts, lest in a very real sense they be overtaken by events. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, this growing sense of urgency was clearly stated in operative paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 2260 of the present session. May I recall that Canada welcomed and supported this resolution and said that for its part it would do everything in its power to assist the Legal Sub-Committee to attain these stated goals.

Mr. Chairman, it is for these reasons that my delegation is particularly pleased with the draft agreement now before us. We fully recognize that it is by no means a perfect agreement, but it is a practical one and it is well founded upon a broad measure of compromise which has enabled all who wished, to see at least some of their ideas incorporated in it. Canada, together with Australia and in some instances the United States and the Soviet Union, has had the honour to put forward a number of proposals over the years and more recently at the Legal Sub-Committee meeting in Geneva this year. We are indeed gratified to see that so much of what we proposed is contained in this consensus draft.

As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to make detailed comments on the draft itself, but I would, however, like to state that my delegation is grateful to note the following:

1. that the preamble expresses the wish to promote international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space;
2. that there are provisions in Articles 1 and 3 for a public announcement or notification to be made and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to be informed, of the accidental landing of a spacecraft and its personnel, particularly where the identity of the launching authority can not be readily determined;
3. that Article 2, with special reference to the third sentence and the interpretive statement repeated today by the distinguished representative of the United States, clearly establishes a satisfactory balance between the rights and obligations of the launching authority and the contracting party, who is also the territorial state, so that there is no impingement on national territorial sovereignty;
4. that Article 4 establishes an unconditional obligation to return the personnel of a spacecraft to the representatives of the launching authority, safely and promptly;
5. that the duty of states finding space objects is to notify the launching authority, but to only take such steps in recovering the object as they find practicable and with the assistance of the launching authority, if so requested, particularly where the object is of a hazardous