

On May 6, the community of nations took another step forward into the space age. On that date there was convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This Committee, of which Canada has been appointed a member, was established by the United Nations as the means for planning international co-operation in research in the space sciences and the exploration of space.

Manifestly the rewards of genuine international co-operation will be great. It is no less clear that the penalties of international rivalry will be grave.

In the absence of the Soviet Union from the United Nations conference table, I express also the Government's profound hope that the Soviet Union will at a later date enter into discussions on this matter within the United Nations. Apart perhaps from disarmament, there is no field in which universal co-operation of the major industrial nations is so important.

Canada, as a member of the United Nations Committee, will put forth every endeavour to ensure that a suitable basis for future international co-operation is developed.

Canada's Contribution

Because of Canada's geographical relationship to the magnetic pole, there are conditions of special interest in the upper atmosphere over this country which have been the subject of active research for many years. Canada can make a significant contribution. For the past 12 years there has been a major Canadian programme investigating the ionosphere, the aurora, meteors, cosmic and solar radiations and the geomagnetic fields.

Since the development of high altitude rockets and artificial earth satellites, the governmental scientific agencies have initiated an expanded programme of instrumentation and research. Canadian scientists have assisted in tracking satellites and have supplied information on their trajectories to the Soviet Union, as well as to the United States. A group of chemists at McGill University have co-operated with United States' scientists in sending chemical materials up in rockets to investigate the composition of the upper atmosphere. To facilitate the tracking of high altitude vehicles at extreme ranges, a very powerful radar is being installed in Saskatchewan.

During the International Geophysical Year, which ran from mid-1957 to the end of 1958, Canada was host to the United States IGY rocket programme at Fort Churchill. Various Canadian agencies assisted the United States rocket team. As part of