

Pursuant to this resolution, the Outer Space Committee is expected to make a beginning on its important task not later than March 31, 1962. The encouraging agreement and the widespread interest revealed at the sixteenth session gave rise to the strong hope that a fruitful period of international collaboration in the peaceful uses of outer space had at last been inaugurated.

Admission of New Members

The United Nations counted 99 members when the sixteenth session of the General Assembly opened in New York on September 19, 1961.

On September 22 the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council, adopted a resolution admitting Sierra Leone as the 100th member of the Organization. Canada, along with the other members of the Commonwealth, co-sponsored this resolution.

The membership of the United Nations was increased to 101 on October 13 when Syria resumed the seat which it had occupied as an original member of the Organization prior to the creation of the United Arab Republic in 1958.

Two more members were added to the United Nations on October 27 with the admission of the Mongolian People's Republic and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. When their applications were considered in the Security Council on October 25 the Soviet Union announced that it would make the admission of Mauritania dependent on that of Mongolia. China made it clear that it considered Mongolia, "totally unqualified" for membership in the United Nations, having come "increasingly under Soviet domination" and shown itself "a willing tool of armed aggression against neighbouring regions". Because, however, it did not want its opposition to Mongolia's admission to be used as "a pretext, however meagre and unjustified" for delaying the admission of Mauritania, which it heartily supported, China did not participate in the vote. The application of Mongolia was accordingly approved for recommendation to the General Assembly by 9 votes in favour, with 1 abstention, that of the United States. The Security Council then considered the application of Mauritania which was approved over the objections of the United Arab Republic by 9 votes, with the Soviet Union abstaining. In plenary the admission of Mongolia was approved without vote while that of Mauritania was approved by a vote of 68 in favour (including Canada) 13 opposed, with 20 abstentions and 1 member absent.

The Assembly unanimously approved, on December 14, the admission of Tanganyika as the 104th member of the United Nations. A former trust territory under the United Kingdom administration, Tanganyika attained independence on December 9. Canada joined with 29 other delegations in co-sponsoring the resolution calling for the admission of its sister state from the Commonwealth into the Organization.