

believed the moon's resources should be treated as the "common heritage of mankind" and those that did not wish to place undue international legal restriction on research and unforeseen prospects for exploitation of the moon's resources.

Considerable progress was made, however, in the elaboration of principles to govern the use of satellites for direct television broadcasting. At its last session, the legal subcommittee was able to produce nine draft principles. Canada played a major role with Sweden in the development of these principles. Both countries believed that a concerted effort should thenceforth be made to complete a full set of draft principles, including principles to regulate consent and participation. On this latter point, the two countries believe that the most effective way to ensure an orderly development of this technology, and to avoid its abuse, is through international co-operation, complemented by principles requiring the consent of receiving states to the establishment of direct television-broadcasting systems intended to broadcast specifically to those states, and enabling such states to participate in activities related to the setting-up of such systems. Canada was pleased to note growing support for this approach at the last session of the legal subcommittee.

Considerable progress was also made during the past year on the question of the legal implications of remote-sensing of the earth from space. At the fifteenth session of the legal subcommittee, five common elements identified at the previous session were converted into draft principles and three further common elements were identified. In spite of this relative success, there are still basic differences between states that will require resolution before any set of principles can be drafted. Substantial disagreement exists on whether and how "sensed" states could protect themselves from acquisition and release of information acquired by the "sensing" states that might be detrimental to the interests of the "sensed". Following a thorough and careful review of Canada's national experience and of the international legal implications of remote-sensing,

the Canadian delegation, at the last session of the legal subcommittee, advanced propositions designed to reflect a recognition of the need to safeguard national interests without creating obstacles to the maximum co-operative utilization of this promising technology. The underlying purpose would be to develop an international legal regime for remote-sensing that would be cautionary without being unduly inhibitory. Canada believes these propositions will help to provide a basis for further progress at the next session of the subcommittee.

### **Legal measures against terrorism**

International terrorism was originally inscribed on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 by the Secretary-General, following the tragic events at the Munich Olympics. The Assembly adopted a resolution that created a Committee on International Terrorism — which met only once, however, in 1973, its work being hindered from the outset by highly-ambiguous terms of reference. In the face of strong resistance by certain African and Arab delegations to the introduction of international measures against terrorist acts, the agenda item was tacitly permitted to remain inactive through the 1973, 1974 and 1975 General Assembly sessions.

In 1976, at the thirty-first session of the Assembly, this issue was revived by a number of Third World countries, which introduced a resolution calling for the reactivation of the Committee on Terrorism. Canada, though a member of the committee, voted against this resolution in the belief that it could be used to provide justification for certain acts of terrorism. Secondly, the terms of reference of the reactivated committee were as ambiguous and unsatisfactory as those contained in the earlier resolution. Canada was doubtful that the Committee on Terrorism, which was to meet in New York in March 1977, would be able to achieve agreement on effective measures against international terrorism; nevertheless, Canada would seek to ensure that developments in this body would be consistent with existing international law on the subject, in-