

be vested in the United Nations to the end that outer space shall be used for scientific and peaceful operations only; and,

- (b) that an international convention should be established to assure that in the launching of any satellites or rockets and projectiles, previous notifications should be given, the information and observations secured being made mandatorily available to all nations.

The Paris Convention of 1914, as confirmed in 1944, whereby every state should have complete sovereignty over the air space above it, has been outgrown by the advances of science.

The time has come when a declaration should be made that every nation, however weak, should have the same territorial rights in space as the powerful.

Last autumn in the General Assembly there was general agreement on the need for an international group to make an initial examination of the scope of the problem, and on the terms of reference appropriate for such a group.

It was agreed that such a survey should include:

- (1) The existing international activities and resources;
- (2) The areas and programmes of international co-operation which could appropriately be undertaken under United Nations auspices;
- (3) The future organizational arrangements to facilitate international co-operation;
- (4) The nature of the legal problems which might arise in connection with the exploration of outer space.

Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

However, the composition of the group proved to be a source of controversy which could not be resolved. A group of twenty nations, including Canada, proposed the creation of an ad hoc committee on the peaceful uses of outer space, with its membership based on scientific competence, with due regard to geographical distribution.

The Soviet approach has been a political one and calls for equal representation of the Soviet bloc and the Western world, with the addition of certain "neutrals". The Assembly approved the composition of the group proposed by the West, which included the Soviet Union, Poland and Czechoslovakia, but these states refused to participate.

The ad hoc Committee was convened early in May with thirteen of the eighteen members in attendance (with India and the United Arab Republic not participating because of the absence of the Soviet bloc member). In July a report was produced