

Secretary-General will be inviting member States to submit their views on this agenda item prior to December 15, 1979 so that they may be compiled and circulated to all member States no later than February 15, 1980. This will provide a head start to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, which will be meeting for four weeks in Geneva, starting March 10, 1980.

Another development at the 22nd Session of the Outer Space Committee was agreement on a draft moon treaty. Its most significant article provides for an equitable sharing by all parties to the treaty in benefits derived from the resources of the moon and other celestial bodies in the solar system, other than earth. An international regime is to be established to govern exploitation of the resources as such exploitation is about to become feasible. It is expected that the regime established will be similar to that which is being developed at the Law of the Sea Conference to govern deep seabed mining beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. The treaty, which is being considered by the General Assembly at its 1979 session, will mean in effect that resources of celestial bodies will not be exploited according to the rule of "first come first served".

Two issues on which progress was not achieved, either at the Legal Sub-Committee or at the parent Outer Space Committee, were remote sensing and direct broadcast by satellites. The first has been stymied on the issue of dissemination of data. The Soviet Union, Eastern European countries and some developing States prefer a certain degree of control over the release of data obtained by remote sensing satellites. Western States generally support completely free dissemination of data since restrictions on its dissemination would mean only those space powers having the facilities to carry out remote sensing will have access to the entire store of data obtained by their remote sensing activities. With respect to direct broadcast by satellite, progress was prevented by American insistence, supported by some Western European States, that a broadcasting State should not be required to have the consent of a receiving State prior to establishing an international direct broadcast satellite service. Canada and Sweden, in spite of their energetic efforts to find middle ground, were not able to overcome the deadlock.