

SPACE LAW

After eight years of discussion on the use of nuclear power sources (NPS) in outer space, a stalemate was resolved and two of the five draft principles proposed by Canada were adopted in 1986. Canada wasted no time in carrying out consultations and submitting a revised working paper on NPS to the 1987 session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). Although it has not been possible to conclude a formal agreement this year, extensive discussion did take place, after which Canada submitted a second revision of its draft principles in order to lay the groundwork for a 1988 agreement.

In another area, after drafting principles on remote sensing in 1986, this year the Legal Subcommittee considered the matter of whether a new point should be added to its agenda. Canada, France and Sweden proposed improvements to the procedure for registering space objects, by means of a list of supplementary information added, on a voluntary basis, to the information already required by the Convention on Registration. Since there has been no agreement in the Legal Subcommittee or in the COPUOS, the question of adding a new subject will be debated in a special policy commission during the current session of the General Assembly.