

Outer Space Law

The Canadian Government has been an active participant over the past fifteen years in the development of outer space law, a branch of law which is becoming increasingly significant as more states become involved in activities in outer space.

This legal work has been done primarily under the aegis of the now thirty-seven member United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space^{1/} and its Legal Sub-Committee. That Sub-Committee usually meets for about one month each year, either in New York or Geneva, and has proven to be an exceptionally productive contributor to the international legislative process. The Bureau of Legal Affairs of the Department of External Affairs coordinates Canada's **participation** in the work of the Sub-Committee.

At its thirteenth session, held in Geneva last May, the Legal Sub-Committee dealt, inter alia, with the following subjects:

- (a) Draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space

The Legal Sub-Committee succeeded in putting the finishing touches to the text of a draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, which when adopted by the General Assembly will be the fourth international legal instrument elaborated by the Sub-Committee^{2/}.

This draft Convention is the result of a joint proposal made in 1972 by Canada and France. The drafting of the text was almost completed at the 1973 Session of the Sub-Committee, but despite agreement on most of the text, the Sub-Committee was unable last year to reach consensus on a review clause and on a provision on "marking".