

conducted and a third year of operation is now being planned. Another main area of activity has been remote sensing of the earth's resources. The Landsat program has been of great value to Canada and to many countries of the world. We have recently concluded an agreement with the United States on cooperative experiments to be carried out in Canada using the Proof-of-Concept Radar Satellite, SEASAT. The satellite receiving station at Shoe Cove, Newfoundland, has been modified to acquire sensor data over the northwest Atlantic and eastern Canada.

On the international level, Canada is actively involved in expanding cooperation in the peaceful use and application of satellites. We are seeking to upgrade and augment our status vis-à-vis the European Space Agency; we are discussing means of international cooperation in search and rescue; we are participating in projects of international development assistance. It is our firm belief that the further development of space technology will best be achieved through international cooperation.

I would like now to refer to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which is before this Committee. From our point of view, the 21st session of the Committee was most productive. As members are aware, Canada raised the question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space in the United Nations at the February meeting of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which took place shortly after the nuclear-powered satellite COSMOS 954 fell on Canadian territory, scattering debris, some of which was radioactive, over a wide area of the Canadian north. Our purpose in raising the issue at that time, and later in the Legal Sub-Committee, was to draw attention to the international implications of the incident as a matter of concern to all countries, and to propose measures for the development of an international regime of safety standards to govern the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. To this end, we have made a number of proposals.

We are pleased to note that many of these proposals gained widespread support in the Outer Space Committee and that at its 21st session Committee members agreed to establish a working group of experts under the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to consider "technical aspects and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space". In view of the consensus obtained in the Outer Space Committee, we hope that this body will approve this decision so that the Working Group of Experts could meet next February, during the 16th session of the S&T Sub-Committee. The report of the Outer Space Committee also contains a request that launching states notify states concerned in the event that a space object with nuclear power sources on board is malfunctioning with a risk of re-entry. We consider that these consensus recommendations of the Outer Space Committee represent a recognition by the UN of an important international issue and that they provide for a program of constructive action which will benefit all countries. We strongly support these recommendations and hope that all member states will join in this cooperative effort to minimize the risk of harm to mankind and the environment from the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

There is one area in particular, where we regret the lack of progress that has been made. This concerns the stalemate which has developed on the issue of direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS). For a number of