

While Canada is on record as recognizing the desirability of elaborating legal principles for remote sensing, Canadian Delegations have not articulated a definitive position, choosing rather to stress the experimental and developmental nature of remote sensing technology and the need to ensure that any legal principles which may be elaborated do not seriously impede the development of the technology.

At this stage, the impetus toward international agreement seems to be in the area of the technical and organizational aspects of remote sensing activities. For instance, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee has recommended that the U.N. Secretariat undertake several studies on the organizational and financial requirements of establishing regional or international centres for education and training and data storage and dissemination, including the possibility of a future international space segment for global coverage.

It may be that such studies will have the effect of providing a focus for the legally-oriented questions, and in this context could conceivably clarify many of the legal issues currently the subject of sharply conflicting points of view. The interrelationship between the legal, technical and organizational aspects of the technology was recognized by the Outer Space Committee at its annual meeting in July which recommended that consideration by the Legal Sub-Committee of legal aspects of remote sensing should progress in parallel with future work on this subject undertaken by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.