

which such Specialized Agencies as UNESCO, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Health Organization and the International Meteorological Organization will have a considerable contribution to make.

Transcending these questions, however, is the fundamental problem of resources. If the international regime we wish to establish for outer space is to have practical validity, it is essential that space exploration should not become the province of a few major powers alone. States that do not dispose of resources sufficient to take an early lead in projecting vehicles into outer space should not be denied the fruits of such research and exploitation.

We must, therefore, examine the international means which might be devised to enable other nations to participate and co-operate in this field of technical endeavour. This might be done by entrusting all space exploration activities to an appropriate United Nations body. On the other hand, it might be more practical to continue national programmes, preferably without secrecy and under the co-ordination of such a United Nations body, thus allowing an international programme to be developed with the assistance of the material resources and technical information of the major powers. In any case, the possibility should be examined of extensive international collaboration in space exploration, and not merely the co-ordination of national projects and the exchange of information.

The draft resolution before us which Canada has joined in sponsoring (Document A/C1/L.220 of November 13) provides for the establishment of an ad hoc committee to examine these matters and to report to the next session of the General Assembly. This, we think, is a practical approach. This afternoon the Soviet Representative introduced a new proposal which seems at first sight to represent a welcome move in this direction. We shall all wish to study this text closely, of course, before expressing any final opinion upon it. We hope that a unanimous approach to this problem may be at hand. In any case, we trust that the terms of reference of whatever preparatory body is set up will not be regarded as restrictive or all-inclusive. Any aspect of the peaceful uses of outer space which might appropriately be of concern to the United Nations should be the legitimate business of the proposed ad hoc committee. For example, the committee might usefully receive, exchange or collate information on outer space contributed by member governments. It might also examine means of pursuing the outer space research started under the International Geophysical Year.