

OUTER SPACE LAW

During the past year, Canada continued to participate actively in the work of the United Nations' Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and, more particularly, in the work of its Legal Sub-Committee. Canada's involvement in this Sub-Committee is coordinated by the U.N. and Legal Planning Section of Legal Operations Division, Department of External Affairs.

In an attempt to keep pace with rapidly advancing technology, the Legal Sub-Committee, this past year, continued to consider the following subjects as matters of high priority: the draft treaty relating to the moon; the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting; and the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space.

With respect to the Draft Moon Treaty, there has been little progress. In the course of previous sessions of the Sub-Committee no agreement could be reached on questions concerning the scope of the treaty, information to be furnished on missions to the moon and the natural resources of the moon. At the Fifteenth Session of the Sub-Committee priority was again given to the question of the moon's resources since many delegations believed that a resolution of this problem would facilitate agreement on the remaining two issues. Basic differences remain, however, between those countries which believe the moon's resources should be treated as the "common heritage of mankind" and those who do not wish to place undue international legal restrictions on research and unforeseen future prospects for exploitation of the moon's resources.

Considerable progress has been made, however, in the elaboration of Principles to Govern the Use of Satellites for Direct Television Broadcasting. At its last session, the Legal Sub-Committee was able to draft nine principles relating to the following: purposes and objectives, applicability of international law, rights and benefits of states, international cooperation, state responsibility, duty and right to consult, peaceful settlement of disputes, copyright and neighbouring rights, and notification to the United Nations. Canada, jointly with Sweden, has played a major role in the development of these principles by initiating a series of proposals many of which are reflected in the principles noted above. Canada and Sweden believe that a concerted effort should now be made to complete a full set of