

SPACE LAW

After eight years of discussion on the use of nuclear power sources (NPS) in outer spaces, the stalemate was resolved in 1986 and two of the five draft principles proposed by Canada were adopted. Canada has since carried out extensive consultations and submitted four revisions of its working paper on NPS to the 1987 and 1988 sessions of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). At the 1988 session, consensus was reached on the adoption of another draft principle. In 1989, Canada will again undertake extensive consultations to facilitate further progress on these principles when they are considered in the Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS.

In another area, after drafting principles on remote sensing in 1986, the Legal Subcommittee considered at its 1987 and 1988 sessions the matter of whether a new item should be added to its agenda. After much discussion, the Subcommittee agreed to consider the question of legal aspects related to the application of the principle of exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of all states, and in particular, the needs of developing countries. During the general exchange of views on this agenda item, delegations will be permitted to raise other legal aspects related to the development and exploration of space.