

Outer Space

Another aspect of disarmament which should prove susceptible to early negotiation is disarmament in relation to outer space. Two years ago, my Prime Minister urged that the passage of time should not be allowed to bring to the problem of outer space the complications which failure to reach agreement on nuclear weapons has brought to that problem.

Today the pace of scientific and technological progress is staggering to the imagination. An event took place a few days ago which lends further urgency to the need for international consideration of the many problems which may arise as man continues his penetration of outer space. I refer to the tremendous feat of the U.S.S.R. in hurling a dead weight of considerable magnitude from the earth to the moon. This was a magnificent achievement which is deserving of the greatest praise.

It does, however, emphasize the urgent necessity of having the international community establish adequate regulation where none exists. In particular, early consideration must be given to establishing rules determining the limits of national sovereignty in space.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was set up at the last session, has made a useful start in considering the scientific, technical and legal aspects of co-operation within the United Nations. Canada served on that Committee and provided the chairman for the Scientific and Technical Committee whose work forms the basis for a large part of the report we shall be considering. Our great regret is that one of the two nations which has the greatest accomplishments in space technology did not participate in the preparation of this initial report. I do not think that report contains anything to which the U.S.S.R. should take exception.

We trust that further arrangements to pursue these matters will have the co-operation of the Soviets. Their continued non-participation cannot fail to limit the value of any proposals that may be considered. Canada will of course continue to co-operate to the fullest extent in any international consideration of these problems, whether this be at the inter-governmental level as in the United Nations or in the highly important area of international co-operation among scientists.

Radiation

I should like now to touch upon another question of vital importance - the hazards resulting from the addition of man-made radiation to that which already occurs in nature. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, in its report this year to the General Assembly, has outlined what appears to my Delegation to be an admirable and useful programme for the next few years.