

So far as the Communist states are concerned, none of the Communist states has accepted, nor have they given any indication that they will accept, compulsory jurisdiction. It is of interest too, that the new states that are arising and coming into existence in Asia and Africa are following the same course. I believe that if we were able, among the nations of the world, with the will to achieve peace, to make stronger and more effective the International Court of Justice, giving it a compulsory jurisdiction and the right of compulsory decision, many of the problems we face today would be dissolved. There are difficulties in the way.

I think there are 16 members, and naturally nations are not given to trusting the courts that are set up. None the less, if we in Canada, the United Kingdom, which has taken a very pronounced step forward in this regard, and the United States, which through the President has indicated that some additional powers should be given to the Court, would lead in this direction, I believe that ultimately, the judgments of that Court would commend themselves to the wisdom of mankind and we might well make a forward step toward the achievement of peace.

As a further step, I think that international action needs to be taken in respect of outer space. I mentioned that a moment ago. The principle is still in effect that each nation owns all the air above it. This principle was first declared in 1914 and re-declared in 1919. The principle has no efficacy today in this age, when even at the present moment several of these interstellar rockets are in circuit around the world. The existent principles of space law are out of date by reason of the scientific breakthroughs. We have gone a very considerable way in Canada in our willingness to bring about the attainment of an agreement on jurisprudence in outer space. The U.S.S.R. and other Communist states refused to participate in the earlier committee. They are participating in the present one. I believe that if we could bring out international jurisdiction over space we would have gone a long way toward the preservation of mankind, not only in this generation but in the future. As a matter of priority we should have a declaration that would seem to be in keeping with reason, a declaration that no part of outer space or any celestial body may be appropriated by or may be subject to the jurisdiction of any particular nation