

space law. This achievement brought to a successful conclusion two years of vigorous discussion in the Outer Space Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee. In the course of this discussion agreement was first reached on the need for drafting a set of principles and subsequently a consensus emerged as to the principles which were ripe for immediate inclusion in a draft declaration. The Canadian Delegation considers it most fitting that the Outer Space Committee should have met on November 22 to complete this important work.

Reference has been made in the statement of the Representative of the U.A.R. on December 2 to "reservations" of the Canadian Delegation expressed in the Outer Space Committee on November 22. I should prefer to describe the comments made by the Canadian Representative as the expression of a "viewpoint" - to adopt the alternative formula used in the Committee's report. The Canadian Delegation regards the draft declaration of principles, as is noted in the Additional Report of the Outer Space Committee (A/5541 Add. 1), as "the maximum area of agreement possible at this time". What the Canadian Delegation wished to do in expressing its point of view on the draft declaration was to suggest how the existing principles might be elaborated when the time comes for doing so. That statement is on record, attached to the Report, and there is no need for me to recapitulate it.

Mr. Chairman, the draft declaration which is before this Committee for its approval is, as the distinguished Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, Professor Lachs of Poland, has described it, the first chapter in the book of space law. What the Committee has done has been to approve a number of general legal principles. These legal principles