

large body of competent scientists and engineers. It also requires large uninhabited test ranges which must, nevertheless, be reasonably accessible. Only the United States and the USSR have so far been able to devote resources sufficient for a comprehensive national programme of space exploration.

There is a manifest need to promote an international regime for outer space, to establish the rule of law there while there is still time, and to maintain the freedom of space for peaceful activities.

In a speech in February this year, the Canadian Prime Minister emphasized that the establishment of rules and principles in conformity with justice could not be delayed. He urged that outer space should be regarded as beyond the control of any nation and should belong to the world as a whole, and that the jurisdiction of outer space should be vested in the United Nations. If this were done, he envisaged that an international space agency might be set up which would have inspection and control powers covering all operations of outer space, and which would ensure that outer space was used for scientific and peaceful uses only. He also envisaged the possibility of a declaration that every nation, however weak, should have the same territorial rights in space as the most powerful; and of an international convention designed to ensure that the launching of all space missiles would be subject to prior notification and full dissemination of the information obtained.

We should also take account of the Secretary-General's views as expressed in the introduction of his Annual Report on the work of the United Nations for 1957-58. There he pointed out that the beginning of space exploration created a new challenge to the development of international law. He expressed the hope that it would be possible to move ahead toward agreement on a basic rule that outer space, and the celestial bodies therein, would not be considered as capable of appropriation by any state, and an assertion of the overriding interest of the community of nations in the peaceful and beneficial use of outer space.

These may be regarded as long-term objectives. In the short term, the first requirement is clearly to define the limits of outer space and the nature of the manifold problems which human activities there will raise. The distinguished Representatives of Brazil, Italy, the Netherlands, Peru and Sweden, among others, have already indicated many of the problems of a juridical nature which will arise. In the eventual solution of these problems the International Law Commission may well have a useful part to play. There is also a wide variety of problems of a technical nature to