

of its development. Thus they will have to allocate considerable human and financial resources to the program. Such interdependency among several international partners in a project where the contribution of each differs in size and in kind is certainly not something that can be transposed easily into an agreement between the governments. The partners are attempting to determine the framework for cooperation by reconciling the requirements of a genuine association of sovereign countries in a bold, visionary project with a technical reality that cannot be avoided, namely the acknowledged American responsibility for the project as a whole. They are also endeavouring to sanction in the texts various aspects of human behaviour on the space station. From this viewpoint, the space station project is liable to contribute appreciably to the development of the rules of international law.

The Canadian negotiators were especially concerned with the legal questions dealt with in the negotiations, realizing that the intergovernmental agreement would lay the foundation for a true and distinct legal regime applicable to the space station, a regime that might inspire other space projects in the future. Thus the partners showed a spirit of innovation in the area of international responsibility, by explicitly agreeing not to bring a claim against another partner, or against an agency or person connected to the partner, in the event that damage should result from an activity conducted in the framework of the space station project. The partners will see that their co-contractors also renounce legal resource in matters of responsibility, either by contract or otherwise.

Realizing that the terms of the Convention on Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects of 1972 could be invoked by third states when damage was caused by all or part of the space station to that state or one of its nationals, the partners nonetheless agreed to consult in order to determine how they would share the compensation payment for damages arising from their several liability.

The project is based on a form of international cooperation in the framework of a permanent civilian settlement located in outer space, which is theoretically beyond all earthly jurisdiction. Thus the partners have written rules by which to sanction certain aspects of human behaviour on the space station, taking existing international law and the specific circumstances into