

- (iv) In August, 1972 the USSR requested the inclusion on the agenda of the 1972 session of the General Assembly of the question of the elaboration of an international convention on the principles of the use of artificial satellites by States for direct television broadcasting. The USSR has tabled a draft convention on this subject.

#### Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellite

At its July, 1971 session the Outer Space Committee's Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, at the request of the General Assembly, established a Working Group on "Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellite with a mandate to review all factors relating to this new space application and to make recommendations on its optimum use in scanning resources and monitoring environmental conditions. At its preparatory session in May, 1972 the Working Group established a task force, consisting of experts from Canada, Sweden, France, India, the USA and USSR, to assist the U.N. Secretariat in preparing a background document which will summarize information available on remote sensing in the fields of: the state of the scientific and technical art; economic and social benefits; users' needs and priorities; legal implications; and organizational requirements. This background document will be considered at the Working Group's first substantive session which will be held in New York from January 29 to February 9, 1973.

At the September, 1972 session of the Outer Space Committee, the Canadian delegation congratulated the U.S.A. on the successful launching on July 23, 1972 of the ERTS-1 (Earth Resources Technology Satellite) experimental satellite and described how, under a bilateral agreement with the U.S.A., Canada has constructed and is operating facilities to read out and process the Canadian data that flows from the ERTS-1 satellite. The delegation stated that Canada views its bilateral arrangements with the U.S.A. as an important example in the evolution of international cooperation in remote sensing.

The delegation also welcomed the fact that, as agreed at its preparatory session last May, the Working Group will study the legal implications and organizational requirements of remote sensing. It then went on to say that:

"My delegation realizes that it will be necessary to await greater knowledge of the potential uses and the limitations of the technology before we are in a position to agree upon definitive international arrangements to maximize the benefits to all nations. Moreover, we do not underestimate the difficult questions involved in harmonizing the sovereign rights of states with the obvious advantages to be gained from an international approach. However, we expect that the Working Group will point the way to practical international arrangements which represent a responsible and realistic balance between national and international interests."