

gation trusts that it will now be possible for this Assembly to set the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space once again on its assigned road, with a renewed determination to overcome all obstacles in the way of its contribution to the early achievement of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

As my colleagues here are aware, Resolution 1472 provided that the initial term of office of the 24 countries listed in the first operative paragraph would continue only to the end of 1961. Having in mind the great difficulty entailed in the selection of these countries in 1959 and recalling that one of the main criteria for their selection was the contribution which each could be expected to make, the Canadian delegation is strongly of the opinion that the membership of the Committee for the years 1962 and 1963 should again include these same 24 countries. At the same time it is desirable to take account of the increases in the membership of the United Nations since 1959. My delegation would, therefore, favour adding to the Committee two African countries chosen from among those admitted to the United Nations in recent years.

When matters of this kind were discussed at the Fourteenth Session, the Vice-Chairman of the Canadian delegation drew attention to the fact that informal exchanges among scientists constitutes the ideal in international co-operation. He observed that the success in any United Nations activity in this area should be measured partly against its usefulness in promoting further collaboration among scientists. He went on to say:

"It is clear that there are large areas of activity in space research that must ultimately become the responsibility of the United Nations, if only because activities in space are outside national boundaries, and therefore, raise legal and regulatory problems that can be settled amicably only in an international organization. It seems to my delegation that the unique contribution to be made by the United Nations lies in these areas.

"However, to suggest that there are certain regulatory functions which are appropriate to the United Nations, is not by any means to suggest that the United Nations itself should have the overriding responsibility. It is clear that some of the Specialized Agencies in their respective field have a role to play. In their relationship to one another in the outer space field, it is desirable to avoid the competition which has posed difficulties for the United Nations in other fields. There is the danger otherwise, that much useful energy may be expended to little profit and we consider that the right basis for co-ordination must be established at an early stage. This is one of the questions which should be looked into at an appropriate stage in the discussions of the new committee."

My delegation believes that the points then made by the Canadian representative are still valid today.