

of Draft Resolution A/C.1/L.320 emphasizes the importance of achieving "effective satellite communications". We wish to express the hope that, in the interests of economy and efficiency, it may prove possible to design and establish a single system of telecommunications through outer space. This need not mean that the system will be controlled by one country or use only satellites designed and made in one country. What is important is that the communications network should be based on one conception and on international cooperation directed towards a system having wide coverage and a flexible design.

The field of space communications, Mr. Chairman, is one in which the International Telecommunication Union will have an important function to perform especially in assigning frequencies to support this system and in other technical matters. The Outer Space Committee will wish to review developments from time to time as a reflection of our common interest in developing a satellite communications system.

Members of the Committee will be aware that there was less agreement in the Outer Space Committee on legal aspects of its work. Although there was some recognition that there was important work to be done in elaborating agreements to provide for the return of satellites and for ascribing liability for injury, loss or damage resulting from space vehicle accidents, there was no agreement on the instruments by which these obligations and responsibilities should be recorded. We consider that these are important and necessary areas for international agreement. To illustrate the type of problem, I might refer to Canada's own satellite "Alouette". As I mentioned earlier, this satellite was made in Canada but launched by an American rocket. Without wishing to suggest that there is any danger of accident, it is a fact that pieces