Progress is also being made on the technical and scientific level as increasingly sophisticated radars are developed and remotely-sensed data are found to have more and more applications. Where sufficient progress is not being made is on the organizational and political level. A number of delegations at the last meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space expressed concern over the lack of co-ordination of the increasingly-disparate remote-sensing efforts of a growing number of countries. As a result, the Canadian delegation proposed, and the Committee agreed, that the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee give high priority to questions relating to the co-ordination on a global basis of remote-sensing activities. This was a positive step, but a step that will be meaningless unless we are able to define more precisely what it is we want from remote-sensing and how we should organize ourselves to realize our objective. In this connection, it is noteworthy that the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee, in its report, encouraged those countries that were contemplating the establishment of pre-operational remote-sensing systems to consider their compatibility and complementarity with existing systems. Another idea that has been mooted in the past involves setting up a system or systems of internationally-owned satellites that would be co-ordinated by an international body, much like the World Weather Watch system of the World Meteorological Organization. This might be a good idea; it might be a bad one. What we are saying is that the present situation calls for more ideas, for imaginative and creative thinking, or the problems we face in this area will become intractable. It would not augur well for the efforts of this organization to break down the barriers that have separated nations for years if we are unable to avoid polarization in this new and developing field.

My delegation is pleased to note that some progress was also made during the last session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee in regard to the technical definition of terms connected with remote-sensing, including "data" and "information". Unfortunately, the Legal Sub-committee was unable to make use of them in its efforts to agree on a legal régime to govern remote-sensing. The Canadian delegation was thus gratified that the main committee, at its meeting in Vienna in June, took a decision on this matter that is reflected in Paragraph 39 of its report.

My delegation is also pleased at the movement that is being shown in considering the question of holding a second United Nations conference on outer space. In our view, this is a question that requires more careful study – study of the subjects such a conference would address, how it would be co-ordinated with other conferences, when it might most usefully be held, and such organizational aspects as its financing. The establishment of working party of the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee to examine these questions is an important step, and we look forward to playing a constructive role in that working party under the capable and experienced guidance of Professor Carver.

In this connection, I should like to recall that, in Paragraph 77 of the main committee's report, mention was made of the desirability of governments submitting to the Secretariat at an early date their ideas and recommendations concerning this proposed conference. If such submissions are received sufficiently in advance of the consecutive meetings in February 1978 of the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee and of this working party, the preparation of a comprehensive report, despite the inevitable pressures of time, may still prove possible.