

I must reiterate our view that a liability convention, to be fully effective, must be victim-oriented and based on the principle of restoration to the condition equivalent to that which existed before the damage occurred. In giving effect to these concepts, account must be taken of the law of the place where the damage occurred, as well as of international law. Furthermore, the convention should provide for compulsory arbitration and binding awards as part of the machinery to settle disputes. Only in this way can states have full confidence that they, and their citizens, will, in fact, be compensated.

We would hope that these two essential provisions will not pose insuperable difficulties to the Committee. Subject to a satisfactory resolution of these matters, acceptance of the preamble and thirteen articles already generally agreed to, should lead to early approval of the Convention. Of course, other issues such as international organizations and limit of liability may also remain to be resolved definitely, but we would expect that such problems will be overcome fairly easily.

The recent meeting of the Legal Sub-Committee did not, regretfully, have time to consider the matter of the registration of space objects launched into outer space. A registration treaty should, in our view, have particular priority. My Delegation has supported certain of the principles underlying the draft treaty submitted by the Delegation of France. In April 1970, we submitted a paper to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on a proposed system of registration. The Sub-Committee's report, while leaving the substantive recommendations