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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE

Text of Statement to be delivered in the First
Committee by the Canadian Representative, Mr.
Hugh Faulkner, M.P., on International Co-operation
in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Oct. 19, 1967.

It is traditional in the discussion of this item (No. 32) to begin by paying tribute to the latest successful endeavours in outer space exploration and research. Both the USA and the USSR in the past year have achieved spectacular results. For example, only this week a USSR capsule reached Venus and transmitted valuable data back to earth about atmospheric conditions on Venus. This very afternoon the American Venus probe, Mariner 5, is scheduled to pass Venus, and it is to be hoped that the results obtained will compliment the information gathered by the Venus 4 capsule. Remarkable steps have also been taken by France and Italy in the past year, while a large number of other countries, including Canada have continued their already active space programmes, benefitting increasingly from international co-operation.

We have before us the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its own work and on that of its subordinate bodies. In the meetings of this Committee held from September 13-15, some delegations, including the Canadian delegation, had an opportunity to express their views on the Committee's activities over the past year. It is therefore, not our intention to enter into great detail here, but rather to limit our remarks to some general observations.

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We believe that the "Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies," which was opened for signature on 27 January 1967, is an excellent starting point for our observations. It is gratifying to see that more than eighty states have already signed this treaty and we strongly urge all states which have not done so yet to accede to it in the near future. As my distinguished colleagues undoubtedly recall, it is only a very short time ago that the ceremonies took place which marked the official coming into effect of the treaty, and we should hope that this solemn affirmation of important principles relating to international co-operation in outer space will give renewed impetus to our efforts to develop practical legal arrangements in respect of such questions as assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles, and liability for damage. We must take hope from the points on which agreement has been reached and work to expand these points into a comprehensive set of rules, so that the principles embodied in the treaty may attain their full potential for the orderly and lawful exploration and use of outer space.

In particular the humanitarian aspects of the treaty engage our attention. The tragic deaths of American and Russian astronauts in the past year have underlined again that man's efforts to explore outer space cannot be carried out without risk. We know that everything is done within the power of human ingenuity and foresight to prevent accidents but we have to be prepared for the possibility that, in spite of all precautions, they will occur. It would be unforgivable if, in the case of accident or emergency, legal or political considerations would prevent the swiftest and most effective possible help within our technological capabilities from being extended to any astronauts or to their vehicles. The treaty describes astronauts as "envoys of mankind" and all mankind has therefore a clear obligation to make every effort to ensure adequate protection for them.

Some delegations may express their disappointment that greater progress has not been made in the legal sub-committee on an agreement regarding assistance to and return of astronauts in distress. We, of course, would also have liked to have seen more substantial agreement in this area, but we do not feel that we should yield to pessimism. If the spirit of co-operation, so evident thus far, continues to prevail we hope that our continued efforts will lead to the solutions we all seek. We realize that the issues are complex and we should not be discouraged by the slow pace of our work. This should not be taken to mean, however, that we are complacent about our accomplishments in this area or satisfied at our rate of progress. Indeed the

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speed at which space exploration develops should imbue us with a very real sense of urgency lest our efforts be overtaken by events. We hope, therefore, that in the coming year the legal sub-committee will be able to proceed more quickly and we are encouraged in our hopes by the statement in the Outer Space Committee of Ambassador Morozov on September 13 of this year that the USSR is willing "to examine, within the framework of the treaty, not only questions of rescue of astronauts but also the return of astronauts and space vehicles in cases of accident or emergency landing." The Canadian delegation, for its part, will do everything in its power to bring us closer to this goal.

The other difficult issue facing the Legal Sub-Committee concerns liability for damages caused by the launching of objects into outer space. Here again, progress is slow, but some areas of agreement have been staked out, in particular on the definition of damage, in which the Canadian delegation has played an active part. The importance of obtaining agreement on liability becomes immediately apparent when we realize how many objects are launched into outer space every year. Launchings of artificial satellites and inter-planetary probes have become so common-place that they do not create headlines anymore, and it is a tribute to the scientific genius of the space-powers and to their careful preparations that no major accidents have occurred yet. But again it would be unrealistic to expect that accidents can forever be prevented. The number of launchings is bound to increase as ever more states, either unilaterally or through international co-operation, join in the exploration and use of outer space, and sooner or later we must be prepared to deal with the consequences of an accident. Our work must be done thoroughly, but that does not imply that it must also be done slowly. Careful consideration must be given to all aspects of the problem and at the same time the need for international agreements becomes ever more pressing. An early convening next year of the Legal Sub-committee would be desirable to deal with outstanding issues, so that when the Twenty-third Session of the General Assembly considers the work of the Legal Sub-committee some significant progress will have been made.

Little need be said here about the still elusive definition and utilization of outer space. It is by no means easy to define outer space in a form which can be both legally and technically acceptable to all. Perhaps the matter could be reviewed regularly so that when additional data increase the possibility of reaching such a definition, this question could be taken up again.

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In all the remarks we have made thus far there is implicit the conviction that space research and exploration should be for the benefit of all nations. Clearly the USA and the USSR are pre-eminent and will continue to be pre-eminent in matters of space research and exploration, but that does not mean that other nations cannot, or should not, directly or indirectly, seek to make valuable contributions. Several other nations, including Canada, have their own space programmes showing that good results can be obtained with limited resources. In particular the successful Canadian satellite programme for ionospheric research, begun five years ago and still fully active has led to the Alouette/ISIS programme in which Canada and the USA co-operate very actively with agencies in Great Britain, France, Australia, Norway, Japan and India. The Thumba project in India has shown what can be accomplished by international co-operation and a number of experts will be going to Argentina soon to determine the eligibility for UN co-sponsorship of a sounding rocket launching facility at Mar del Plata.

Apart from the contribution these and all other space projects obviously make to our understanding of the universe, they also have, and may increasingly have, a profound effect upon the daily lives of all of us. For that reason, the forthcoming conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which is to take place in Vienna from August 14 to 27, 1968, is of the greatest significance. It should give substance to the feeling that there are many practical benefits to be derived from space research and exploration and that by using proper methods these benefits could be widely disseminated. Sometimes it is very difficult to see the connection between sending a man to the moon and hunger, illiteracy and poverty on earth, and yet the scientific research required to do the former can produce side benefits which could be relevant to the latter problems. The importance, for instance, of improved weather forecasting by means of special weather satellites need hardly be stressed. In many areas of the world, crop failure means starvation for millions of people and often deals a crippling blow to the economy of a developing country. Better methods of weather forecasting can improve the efficiency of agriculture, which is one of the most pressing problems that faces the world today. Communications satellites will also no doubt increasingly be able to play a key role in the promotion of universal education.

There is clearly much to be done in the field of education and training in the peaceful uses of outer space and we would like to suggest that the forthcoming conference should provide a unique opportunity for developing countries

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to determine what possible benefits exist for them and how their needs can best be met. The conference, therefore, should place a heavy emphasis on the practical aspects of space research and exploration, particularly in a way that can be helpful to developing nations. We should like to stress that the conference can only have real meaning and fulfil its primary purpose if there is effective participation by developing countries. It is important for member states to note, when considering the question of participation in the conference, that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space recommended that the Conference papers should be meaningful to both scientists and non-scientists concerned with the welfare of their peoples in many fields.

To ensure that all technical papers delivered at the conference receive the expert attention they deserve, the Canadian delegation considers it desirable that the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space be convened during or immediately after the conference, so that these papers can be discussed in this forum of experts as well, before the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reports to the Twenty-third Session of the General Assembly.

The preparations for the conference cannot be successful unless delegations are adequately prepared as well. I should like to conclude by urging all member states, and in particular the developing countries to prepare now to attend the Vienna Conference on Outer Space in August of 1968.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. This is essential for ensuring the integrity of the financial statements and for providing a clear audit trail. The records should be kept up-to-date and should be easily accessible to all relevant parties.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze data. These methods include direct observation, interviews, and the use of specialized software. Each method has its own strengths and weaknesses, and it is important to choose the most appropriate one for the specific situation.

3. The third part of the document describes the process of data analysis. This involves identifying patterns, trends, and anomalies in the data. It is important to use statistical techniques to ensure that the results are reliable and valid.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the importance of communication in the research process. Researchers must be able to clearly and concisely communicate their findings to a wide range of stakeholders. This includes writing reports, giving presentations, and participating in discussions.

5. The fifth part of the document outlines the various ethical considerations that must be taken into account when conducting research. These include issues of confidentiality, informed consent, and the potential for harm to participants. It is essential to follow established ethical guidelines to ensure the integrity of the research.

6. The sixth part of the document describes the various methods used to disseminate research findings. This includes publishing in journals, presenting at conferences, and using social media. It is important to choose the most appropriate method for the specific audience and to ensure that the findings are presented in an accessible and understandable way.