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(Mr. Nott, Australia)

observe that obligation with the utmost seriousness. We were encouraged in this regard by the comment of the representative of the United States on 5 November, that there was reason to expect that parties would comply with awards because they would recognize that it was in their self-interest to do so.

Against the background of the foregoing comments my delegation welcomes the negotiation of the draft liability convention and hopes that the General Assembly will commend it to Governments for signature. I should perhaps add that the Australian Government's attitude towards the question of signature of the convention will be for consideration in the future.

The priority accorded the draft liability convention has given the agendas for the annual sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee a certain predictability -- some might say inevitability -- for some years now. Adoption of the draft convention in the Assembly, however, would open the way for more detailed consideration of other items of business in the Sub-Committee. It would create a novel, and I may say welcome, situation for the Sub-Committee to be able to give more time to other matters.

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(Mr. Nott, Australia)

The outer space Committee, at its annual session last September, considered the question of the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee, and recommended that priorities be given to matters relating to the registration of objects launched into space for the exploration or use of outer space and to questions relating to the moon. It will now be appropriate for the Sub-Committee to devote itself more fully to these questions, and, as time and opportunity permit, to the other subjects set forth in the Committee's report.

My delegation does not want to comment substantively at this stage on the subject of the preparation of a treaty concerning the moon. We would recall, however, that the Australian representative to the meeting of the outer space Committee last September felt that it would be appropriate for the Legal Sub-Committee to give some priority to this matter at its next session. He believes that the correct course of action now would be for the Assembly to re-examine the draft treaty submitted by the Soviet Union under this item to the Legal Sub-Committee for study, along with other proposals put forward on the same subject.

Perhaps the most important result of the 1971 session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee was that body's positive response to the General Assembly's request, in resolution 2773 C (1970), that it determine whether, at what time, and in what specific forms of reference to convene a working group on earth-surveying. The Sub-Committee decided unanimously to establish a working group, to be named the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites. An organizational meeting of the Working Group at which Mr. Franco Florio of Italy was elected Chairman of the Group, was held in conjunction with the annual session of the outer space Committee. We look forward to the initiation of substantive activity by the Working Group, under Mr. Florio's leadership, in 1972.

As a result of action during the session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee last July, the outer space Committee agreed to request the allocation to the budget of the Outer Space Affairs Division of an additional sum, not exceeding \$70,000, for the programme of promotion of the applications of space technology set forth in the Sub-Committee's report. This programme, which in fact is a continuation of activity that is already in progress, comprises the dispatch of survey missions to explore the potential of space applications and the holding of panel meetings on subjects that are of practical interest to