

(Mr. St. Pierre, Canada)

Working Group. So we look forward to an early start in the substantive activities of that Working Group. My delegation wishes to commend the United States for undertaking, at its own expense, the EMB and Skylab experiments. We think this is a praiseworthy example of international scientific co-operation; it should foster even wider and more truly international co-operation in remote sensing.

We are in the first stage of what promises to be an international programme with obvious advantages for all countries, particularly for the developing countries. Our first task must be to catalogue our scientific and technological resources, establish the priority of our work and decide on the most effective forms of co-operation. Later, as the representative from Brazil pointed out a few moments ago, we shall have to address ourselves to developing a legal framework for earth resources sensing activities and for co-operative programmes so that national and international aspects are balanced positively and responsibly.

Canada is studying with interest the provisions of the draft international treaty concerning the Moon, which was submitted by the Soviet delegation.

The comments made Friday by the Soviet representative were helpful in explaining the objectives and some of the main features of the draft treaty.

We find the Soviet draft repeats many provisions of the outer space Treaty, but in several articles, such as those dealing with ownership, resources and pollution, there appears to be an elaboration of the comparable article of the outer space Treaty. We think these articles will require careful consideration and we look forward to further discussion of these aspects of the draft treaty. There are also some apparent omissions in comparison with the outer space Treaty in that the Soviet draft does not explicitly permit scientific research also, the Soviet draft contains liability provisions which we think are just as vague as those which are found in the outer space Treaty. We would be interested in learning whether the Soviet delegation would interpret the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, when it comes into force, as applicable to activities on the Moon. The Soviet draft also refers to the possible consultations in articles III and V, paragraph 3, but without establishing procedures for such consultations.

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My delegation believes that the General Assembly will be adopting the most appropriate procedure by requesting the Legal Sub-Committee to consider questions relating to the Moon. This is the recommendation contained in paragraph 38 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Thus the Legal Sub-Committee would be able to consider not only the Soviet draft treaty but also the ideas of other countries including a draft agreement submitted by Argentina to the Legal Sub-Committee at its ninth session.

This summarizes the Canadian position at this stage of our proceedings.