

## Scientific-Legal Liaison Committee of the International Academy of Astronautics and the International Institute of Space Law

### 14th Scientific-Legal Roundtable: Exploration and Uses of the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

#### Introductory Note\*

The Scientific-Legal Liaison Committee, a joint body of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), organizes during the IAF Congresses roundtables on selected topics that are of common concern of experts in space sciences, space technology, and space law.

At its meeting held in Dresden in October 1990, the Committee chose the above-mentioned topic for the 14th Roundtable to be convened as part of the World Space Congress in Washington, DC, USA, 18 August-5 September 1992. The purpose of this session would be to discuss scientific, technological, and legal aspects of the given subject in the light of new prospects for manned exploration of the solar system.

The 14th Roundtable convened on Thursday, 3 September 1992, at 2:00 PM in Ramada Renaissance Hotel-Techworld Auditorium, Washington, DC. The session was coordinated by Dr. Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic) and chaired by F. X. Kane, Co-chairman of the Committee (USA). Dr. M. Orrico Alarcon (Mexico) served as the session rapporteur.

Following a brief introduction by the chairman, Dr. Carl B. Pilcher (USA) presented a paper entitled "Space Exploration: Scientific and Technological Aspects" and Dr. Marcello Coradini (ESA) a paper entitled "Exploration and Uses of Celestial Bodies of the Solar System". These scientific/technological papers were followed by three contributions on legal aspects of the topic, namely by "Legal Implications of the Exploration and Uses of the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies" presented by Professor Nicholas M. Matte (Canada), "Some Legal Aspects of the Return to the Moon and Expected Flights to Other Celestial Bodies" by Dr. Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic), and "Utilization of Extraterrestrial Resources: Law, Science, and Policy" by Patricia M. Sterns and Leslie I. Tennen (USA). The texts of these papers are included herein. After the presentation of the papers, many questions were raised from the audience and answered by the speakers, and in a discussion some of the issues were further clarified.

The IAA/IISL Scientific-Legal Liaison Committee also held its regular meeting during the Washington Congress on 30 August 1992. A report summarizing the replies to a questionnaire on Issues Concerning Space Debris was presented by Dr. V. Kopal at this meeting. After a discussion which was guided by the Committee Chairman, Judge Manfred Lachs (International Court of Justice, The Hague), the Committee decided to organize the next Scientific-Legal Roundtable on the topic "Scientific and Legal Aspects of Space Debris". This session would strive to derive conclusions from the up-to-date deliberations on space debris to which the IAA/IISL Scientific-Legal Liaison Committee has been contributing for several years.

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\*This introductory note was prepared by Dr. Vladimír Kopal, Co-chairman of the IAA/IISL Scientific-Legal Liaison Committee.