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Agenda items 51 and 52

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING
THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT
TELEVISION BROADCASTING

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Abduldayem M. MUBAREZ (Yemen)

1. The items entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" and "Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" were included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/196 A of 20 December 1977.
2. At its 4th and 5th plenary meetings, on 22 September 1978, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the two items in its agenda and to allocate them to the Special Political Committee.
3. At its 6th meeting, on 16 October, the Special Political Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on items 51 and 52. The general debate on these items took place at the 6th to 12th meetings, held between 16 and 20 October.
4. In connexion with items 51 and 52, the Committee had before it the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. ^{1/} At the 6th meeting, Mr. Moreira Garcia (Brazil), Rapporteur of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, introduced the report. The Committee also had before it a report of the Secretary-General on item 51 (A/33/212 and Add.1).

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/33/20).

5. At the 10th meeting, on 19 October, the representative of Austria introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/33/L.3*), which was sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, France, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. Subsequently, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burundi, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Ivory Coast, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Pakistan, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, and Zaire joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. A statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/SPC/33/L.4) was submitted by the Secretary-General.

7. At its 12th meeting, on 20 October, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/SPC/33/L.3*), without a vote (see para. 8 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

8. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/196 A of 20 December 1977,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its twenty-first session, 2/

Reaffirming the common interest of mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, as well as the importance of international co-operation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Welcoming the successful completion of the three recent international outer space missions with participation for the first time in the peaceful exploration of outer space by the cosmonauts from Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/33/20).

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Republic and Poland together with the cosmonauts from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics within the INTERCOSMOS programme of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space,

Reaffirming the importance of international co-operation in developing the rule of law in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

Recalling its resolution 32/195 of 20 December 1977 concerning the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 3/

1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

2. Invites States which have not yet become parties to international treaties regulating the peaceful uses of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those international agreements;

3. Notes with satisfaction that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its seventeenth session continued:

(a) Its efforts to elaborate draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting;

(b) Its efforts to formulate draft principles relating to the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space;

(c) Its efforts to complete the draft treaty relating to the moon;

(d) Its discussion of matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit;

4. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Legal Sub-Committee at its eighteenth session should:

(a) Continue, as matters of priority:

(i) Its efforts to complete the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting;

(ii) Its detailed consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles;

(iii) Its efforts to complete the draft treaty relating to the moon;

3/ General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

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(b) Continue to discuss matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit;

(c) Include in its agenda an item entitled "Other matters";

5. Notes with satisfaction that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifteenth session:

(a) Continued to consider in detail both the current pre-operational/experimental phase and a possible future global/international operational phase of remote sensing of the earth from space;

(b) Continued to consider the implementation of the United Nations programme on space application;

(c) Achieved significant progress in its detailed consideration of questions relating to the convening of a United Nations conference on outer space matters;

(d) Examined the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit;

6. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its sixteenth session should continue its work on the matters before it, giving priority to the following four items:

(a) Questions relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellites;

(b) Consideration of the United Nations programme on space applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system;

(c) Question of convening a United Nations conference on outer space;

(d) Questions relating to space transportation systems;

7. Approves the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the co-ordination of activities between the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee in the area of remote sensing and on the need to continue such co-ordination at their future sessions;

8. Approves the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to request the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to include in its agenda consideration of technical aspects and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space for which purpose the Committee recommended that the Sub-Committee should, unless it decides otherwise, create a working group of experts open to all its members to meet during its session in accordance with paragraph 76 of the report of the Committee;

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9. Requests launching States to inform States concerned in the event that a space object with nuclear power sources on board is malfunctioning with a risk of re-entry of radio-active materials to the earth;

10. Adopts the recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space relating to the convening of a second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as well as to the arrangements for its preparation, contained in paragraph 75 of the Committee's report;

11. Endorses the proposed United Nations programme on space applications for 1979, as proposed to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee by the Expert on Space Applications; 4/

12. Approves a continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India and the CELPA Mar del Plata Station in Argentina;

13. Requests the specialized agencies to continue to provide the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

14. Welcomes the report presented by the World Meteorological Organization on its tropical cyclone project, 5/ in response to General Assembly resolution 32/196 A, and requests the World Meteorological Organization to continue submitting annual status reports on the project;

15. Expresses its appreciation to all Governments which acted as hosts to, offered fellowships for, or otherwise assisted in the holding of, international training seminars and workshops on space applications, particularly for the benefit of developing countries;

16. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work, in accordance with the present and previous resolutions of the General Assembly, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

4/ A/AC.105/211.

5/ A/AC.105/225.