



VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. JAROSZEK (Poland)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 31 AND 32 (concluded)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/31/20; A/C.1/31/3)

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 (A/31/20; A/C.1/31/3)

The CHAIRMAN: This afternoon the Committee will continue, and I hope conclude, its consideration of agenda items 31 and 32 relating to outer space. The first speaker is the representative of Romania, who wishes to introduce a draft amendment to the draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.1) introduced at this morning's meeting.

Mr. CEAUSU (Romania) (interpretation from French): The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in its annual report proposed that its next annual session should be held in New York from 13 to 24 June. As we know, after the Committee made that recommendation, the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea decided to hold its sixth session in New York in May, June and July next year. This new factor may create difficulties for the Secretariat with regard to conference services necessary to service the Outer Space Committee. At this morning's meeting, the Permanent Representative of Austria, Ambassador Jankowitsch, after introducing draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.1, extended an invitation on behalf of his Government to the Outer Space Committee to hold its next session in Vienna in 1977. Our understanding is that if this invitation is accepted the session will take place at the date recommended by the Committee, that is from 13 to 24 June 1977. In the light of all these circumstances, and after consultation with most of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.1, I have the honour of submitting on their behalf an addition to the draft resolution, the purpose of which is to accept the invitation of the Austrian Government that the Outer Space Committee should meet next year in Vienna. The text we propose would

(Mr. Ceausu, Romania)

add after present paragraph 13 of the operative part a new paragraph to read as follows:

(Spoke in English)

"Notes the invitation extended by the Government of Austria to hold the twentieth session of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in Vienna in 1977 and accepts that invitation with appreciation".

(continued in French)

I am convinced that Vienna will provide the best possible conditions of work and will prove a source of inspiration to the members of the Outer Space Committee in solving the problems on the agenda of the Committee.

Mr. LINDENBERG SETTE (Brazil): It is not often in this Assembly that the rules of procedure are broken for a pleasant and I think good purpose. I should like to offer my congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, and also to Mr. Boaten, Mr. da Costa Lobo and Mr. Shrestha on your unanimous election. I should like to affirm my delegation's complete support of Officers of the Committee and our desire to contribute to a successful conclusion to our work which, Mr. Chairman, under your leadership seems to us assured.

Once again, this Committee begins its task with the consideration of the items relating to the peaceful uses of outer space. What has now become a tradition is also an occasion, the opportunity to have the benefit of hearing an always clear and comprehensive review by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, of the Committee's work during the past year. Other delegations in the course of this general debate have elaborated on significant developments in space research and application occurring during the past year. The review of these achievements is not only a fine testimony to man's scientific ingenuity but also to the now-irreversible process of international co-operation in this field for the benefit of all mankind.

As we stated in this Committee last year the spirit of friendly co-operation that permeates most of these projects, and the ever-growing awareness felt by the international community of the benefits to be derived from space technology, proves how important it is to all of us to establish the rule of law and the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. This is a task which is incumbent upon the

(Mr. Lindenberg Sette, Brazil)

Committee on Outer Space and on this Assembly. During the present decade we have witnessed the birth 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, the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

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All these instruments were elaborated by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, always by consensus, and this fact in itself is a tribute to the vitality of this body of the United Nations and the seriousness which it brings to its work. It is equally indicative of the permanent challenge posed by the unrelenting tide of new developments in science and technology, which requires a parallel expansion in the rule of law. In this century no man can dispute the wise words of the renaissance humanists when they said that "science sans conscience n'est que ruine de l'art".

There is no room for doubt that a balance must be struck between, on the one hand, the freedom and encouragement to be granted to new technologies and, on the other, the discipline to be sought in new achievements in the legal sphere, so as to ensure that the benefits derived from scientific applications will be shared equitably by all humanity. A disorderly and self-centred evolution of a new technological order is not even, in the long run, to the interests of those who have the privilege of now being in the forefront of the technical arts. Historical experience has shown how futile it is to attempt to monopolize knowledge of a technical nature or to exercise power through a controlling knowledge without respect for the legitimate rights of others. For each technological choice and decision there is also a political choice and decision involving economic, social, strategic and legal implications, sometimes of such a magnitude as to require the most sober of evaluations in order to be certain that the legitimate rights and interests of all those concerned are preserved. It is therefore necessary for the international community to devise ex ante facto clear principles for the exercise by States of the use of certain scientific applications, and not to have to correct a posteriori the formidable difficulties brought about by their possible abuse. I would not have indulged in this digression if my delegation were not firmly convinced of its pertinence to the development of the peaceful uses of outer space as envisaged by this Organization.

Let me turn now to the assessment of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies. First, a glance at the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. As in the past, the main question it has dealt with is the remote sensing of the earth from space. The

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report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee retained the same methodology concerning this question as was adopted in last year's report. Just as before, its main achievement seems to have been a description of the state of international co-operation for space applications in the current pre-operational experimental phase, and a less than exhaustive inventory of considerations relating to alternatives for the possible future global international phase.

I shall not comment on the part of the report relating to the current pre-operational phase, since it is fairly explicit. May I just say, in relation to this section and to the one relating to the future operational phase, that my delegation completely endorses the opinion expressed by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to the effect that the assessments and descriptions therein contained should not be construed as prejudging the consideration at any time of the elaboration of any organizational and/or legal framework for satellite remote-sensing activities. I refer to paragraph 30 of the report of the main Committee.

As regards a future operational system, some considerations seem to be in order. First of all, it would seem to my delegation to be high time for the Sub-Committee to clarify the fundamental notion of regional, international and national co-operation. Paragraph 59 of the report of the Sub-Committee, referred to in paragraph 33 of the report of the main Committee, indicates a wide range of alternatives for international co-operation in the matter of remote sensing. A short list of definitions for what could mean inter alia a regional station is given. My delegation feels that those alternatives do not cover all the possible arrangements that can be established among States and that the Sub-Committee should envisage, before advocating one specific alternative, a clear definition of the criteria covering the scope and responsibilities of all possible systems. The word "regional" in our parlance gives rise to many different interpretations depending on its context. The scope and responsibilities of each particular regional system should, needless to say, be determined by those who belong to the region. In the absence of more precision, it would be difficult to ascertain even in theory which approach should prevail in relation to the future operational phase.

(Mr. Lindenberg Sette, Brazil)

We have also noted in this context paragraph 37 of the report of the Committee, which endorses the view that questions relating to the dissemination of data from remote-sensing satellites deserves the most careful attention because of their legal, organizational and technical implications, involving the access of States to data pertaining to their own territories as well as the availability of such data to other States. In relation to the possible co-ordinating role of the United Nations in the area of remote sensing, we firmly believe that the wisest course would be the full utilization by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies of their existing terms of reference, as recommended in paragraph 80 of the Committee's report.

Another aspect of the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is its annual consideration and review of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. My delegation wishes here to endorse whole-heartedly paragraph 45 of the Committee's report, which commends the Expert on Space Applications, expressing appreciation for the effective manner in which he has implemented his programme within the limited funds at his disposal. It may be pointed out, however, that appreciation alone will not resolve the problems he faces every year, and we are among those who express the view that the United Nations Space Applications Programme should be extended both in its content and in its scope and that it should receive greater financial support.

(Mr. Lindenberg Sette, Brazil)

My delegation also attributes great importance to the question of convening a United Nations conference on space matters. Having supported the notion of a conference subject to a clear definition of its objectives, my Government has already listed some of the aims it believes should be pursued by such a meeting. We hope that all Member States which have not yet replied to the questionnaire circulated by the Secretariat will do so in the near future so that we may proceed to a clearer definition of the objectives as well as the scope of this conference, the organizational arrangements needed to reach the objectives identified and the financial implications involved. On the other hand, we do not feel it is advisable to hold such a conference in the context of non-specific forum such as, for instance, ITU or the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology.

Nowhere is it more apparent than in the work of the Legal Sub-Committee that a serious effort is being made to try to apply the rule of law to the realm of the peaceful utilization of outer space. This subsidiary body of the Outer Space Committee has had before it for some years now three main issues which warrant a speedy solution in terms of the establishment of a legal framework if technique is not once more to pretend to rule human choice. It is possible to note this year that the Legal Sub-Committee has made considerable progress in the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to completing an international agreement or agreements. We have now nine formulations dealing with purposes and objectives, applicability of international law, rights and benefits, international co-operation, State responsibility, duty and right to consult, peaceful settlement of disputes, copyright and neighbouring rights, and notification to the United Nations.

The Legal Sub-Committee has now reached a stage at which the main, crucial points of this agreement have been clearly delineated: consent and participation, programme content and unlawful/inadmissible broadcasts. These in fact boil down to just one: that is to say, the question of the consent by a receiving State to transmissions originating in another State. Positions on this question are so far clearly divided between two extremes: on the one hand, the total freedom for broadcast is defended, while, on the other, a formal approval for the transmission and content of each programme by the receiving State is expected. Between those

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two extremes, it should be possible to devise a legal framework which, while guaranteeing the legitimate interests and sovereign rights of receiving States, would encourage the development of this important space application.

The deliberations of the Legal Sub-Committee on remote sensing have achieved a certain amount of progress, with the formulation of five draft principles based on the identification of common elements among the views held by delegations. Three new common elements were also delineated. There is now, indeed, reason to hope that it will finally be possible to embark upon the concrete path of defining areas of agreement for the future establishment of a legal framework for this space application as happened in the case of direct broadcasting satellites. I would not like to restate here the well-known interest that my Government has in speedy negotiations to that end, for our concern is more than well known. We have now reached the irreversible pragmatic stage of drafting, and the interests of all parties should be subjected to close scrutiny. My delegation has always stressed the importance of the use of remote sensing in relation to the full exercise of the sovereignty of sensed States over their natural resources. Great care should be taken, therefore, to avoid the adoption of formulations which could imply a restriction of this inalienable right or impair projects or programmes for the economic development of States. This applies, in particular, to draft principle 4 elaborated by Working Group III of the Legal Sub-Committee.

Let me conclude my remarks on the work of the Legal Sub-Committee with a reference to the question of the draft treaty relating to the moon. Of all the priority items examined in this subsidiary body of the Outer Space Committee, this is the one in which the least progress was made. Four main areas of disagreement still remain: the scope of the treaty -- i.e., should it address itself to other celestial bodies or not -- information on missions to the moon, the natural resources of the moon and the concept of the moon as a common heritage of mankind. In this context, the question of the natural resources of the moon was given priority, and serious efforts were made to reach a compromise solution. These efforts failed, due to the fact that certain delegations appeared unable to give reasonable minimum concessions on the matter. The position of principle held by my delegation and other developing countries regarding this issue is well known and

(Mr. Lindenberg Sette, Brazil)

requires no elaboration. It is summarized in a working paper presented in Working Group I of the Legal Sub-Committee by the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Romania, Sierra Leone, and Venezuela.

Mr. Chairman, this brief summary of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies has been offered with my delegation's support to the common endeavour we began in 1963. The history of this particular body of the United Nations is an example of how international co-operation can work if incentives exist and the right perspectives are adopted, rising above unavoidable political differences by means of concerted dialogue, a process which, I must say, has always been endorsed by my delegation.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Brazil for his kind words addressed to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. KALOSHIN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): Comrade Chairman, the congratulations from our delegation to you and to the other officers of the Committee will be expressed later at a higher level. But I am sure that these congratulations will reflect the pleasure and delight which I experience in connexion with your election to the important post of Chairman of the First Committee -- you, the representative of the Polish People's Republic, with which the Byelorussian SSR has a common frontier, which is a frontier of brotherhood and friendship between the Soviet and Polish peoples.

(Mr. Kaloshin, Byelorussian SSR)

A characteristic feature of the present stage in the study and use of outer space for peaceful purposes is the fact that along with ever newer achievements in the conquest of space and an expansion of the sphere of the application of these achievements for earthly needs, every year sees an increase and an intensification of international co-operation in this field -- co-operation which is embracing an ever wider circle of countries, including countries which are not space Powers. And this is quite understandable. The nature of space activity makes imperative as broad and comprehensive a combination as possible of efforts on the part of different States.

The expansion of international co-operation in the field of the use of outer space is one of the favourable results of the process of positive changes in the international field -- the process of détente. In its turn the development and the expansion of co-operation among States in the study and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, on the basis of strict observance of the sovereign rights of all States, is making an important contribution to the cause of peace and social progress of the peoples of the world and the achievement of détente, its strengthening and its intensification.

An important task in the development and intensification of international co-operation in the study and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in the prevention of its use for purposes incompatible with the interests of the whole of mankind and the interests of international peace and security, is to prevent that space should become the arena or source of the use of force or the threat of the use of force in any shape or form. Of considerable significance in this context are the agreements prepared within the framework of the United Nations which are already in existence relating to space, primarily the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. The strengthening of the régime created by this Treaty in space will be served by the conclusion of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations. The draft treaty, which has been submitted for the consideration of this session of the General Assembly of the United Nations by the Soviet Union, provides inter alia that States shall refrain from the use of armed force by means of any form of weapon, including nuclear or other forms of weapon of mass destruction, and also to refrain from threatening the use of such force in the various environments, including outer space.

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This year has been marked by further successes in the study and use of outer space. In accordance with the fundamental guidelines approved at the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to govern the development of the national economy of the USSR for the next five years, the Soviet Union is undertaking a broad programme of further space research which provides not only for the study of the universe but also for further use of space and the achievements of space science and technology in order to perform many economic tasks.

In July-August of this year the Soviet astronauts Boris Volynov and Vitarly Zholokov carried out a 48-day flight on board the manned scientific station Salyut 5, in the course of which they obtained a vast amount of valuable scientific information. A great deal of attention in the course of this flight was devoted to study the surface of the earth in the interest of various projects of science and of national economy. In August the return apparatus of the automated station Luna 24 brought back to earth samples of lunar soil obtained at a depth of about 2 metres through drilling into the lunar surface. The taking of these samples of lunar soil as a result of the flight of Luna 24 and the previous flights in the same series and their successful return to earth demonstrate the tremendous opportunities for effective study of and research on the moon that exist with the help of automated apparatus.

This year we have seen the successful continuation of the development of co-operation among socialist countries in the field of study and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. A striking example of this is the flight of the manned space craft Soyuz 22 with a crew consisting of the astronauts Valeri Bykovsky and Vladimir Aksenov, carried out under the programme of co-operation among socialist countries. In the course of this flight the crew photographed selected parts of the land surface of the territory of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic. As has already been pointed out here in this Committee, these photographs were made in six spectrum ranges by means of apparatus designed by specialists from the German Democratic Republic and the USSR and produced at the Carl Zeiss Jena plant in the German Democratic Republic.

Specialists of the socialist countries combining their efforts within the framework of the Intercosmos programme have made very important contributions to

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space research. Of great significance in the further expansion and intensification of this research is the Agreement on Co-operation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes signed in Moscow on 13 July 1976 by nine socialist countries -- the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Republic of Cuba, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the USSR and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. This Agreement states that "the Contracting Parties shall promote in every way the further development of co-operation by interested organizations of their countries in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes". The Agreement lays down the guidelines and forms for such co-operation.

One of the concrete examples of the further expansion of co-operation among socialist States in the field of space research in accordance with the Agreement I have mentioned is the agreement reached in the course of consultations held in Moscow last month, on the initiative of the Soviet Union, that citizens of all socialist countries participating in the Intercosmos programme will take part in flights on board Soviet space craft and stations along with Soviet astronauts from 1978 to 1983. The Agreement also lays down the time-table for the beginning of their training courses in the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre.

In implementing its national programme of space research and also participating in the joint space programme of the socialist States known as Intercosmos, the Soviet Union is attaching great significance to the practical benefits and to the contribution of space experiments for the solution of earth problems. In an interview given before the launching of the Soviet space craft Soyuz 23, the space engineer Colonel Valery Rozhdestvensky said, among other things, that every ruble spent on space research to date has been returned to the national budget in one form or another, but with its worth increased tenfold. With regard to the practical benefits of space research in the future, he pointed out that the expenditures on carrying out these programmes would be recouped hundreds of times over.

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The study of the planets of the solar system occupies an important place in space research and the expansion of man's knowledge of its secrets. In this area, too, there have been successes. In October last year, the landing apparatus of the Soviet automated interplanetary stations Venus 9 and Venus 10 for the first time in history of space exploration brought back to earth images of the surface of the planet, and the stations themselves became its first artificial satellites. Information transmitted by this apparatus to earth considerably expanded our scientific knowledge of Venus.

Without any doubt the significance of space research and practical application of it for the needs of mankind will grow every year. In a report to the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee, said that space was one of the most important global problems today, and one which in the future would come to exert increasing influence on the life of every people in the whole system of international relations.

We have followed attentively the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space over the last year and we are pleased to note that the Legal Sub-Committee was able to formulate nine principles for the guidance of States in their direct television broadcasting by means of artificial earth satellites. And thus a great stride forward has been taken. Of course, agreement has not yet been reached on certain questions connected with direct television broadcasting. The most important among them in our view is the principle of prior consent of States for direct television broadcasting into their territory by means of artificial earth satellites. In the course of the discussions here in the First Committee, and also in the Space Committee, many delegations particularly stressed the great significance of this principle for the creation and normal functioning of the whole future system of direct television broadcasting from space in the interests of all States and in the interests of bringing ever closer together the peoples of the earth and the strengthening of international peace. The Byelorussian SSR whole-heartedly shares this view.

The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR expresses the hope that all efforts will be made to bring about a universally acceptable solution of all unresolved

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issues so that we can conclude the preparation of the full text of principles governing direct television broadcasting in 1977 as a task of high priority.

A positive element in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is the fact that it has successfully begun work in the Legal Sub-Committee on draft principles governing the activities of States in the use and study of natural resources of the earth by means of space technology, and in the course of first reading, a number of important principles have already been agreed upon. This work should be continued in the Legal Sub-Committee as a matter of high priority next year. Of considerable assistance in this is the preparation by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of conclusions with regard to the criteria for defining categories of data yielded by remote sensing the dissemination of which should be internationally regulated and, in particular, with regard to the applicability for these purposes of a restriction in respect of authorization of the site.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should continue to deal with other questions too, as referred to them by the General Assembly, including work on the treaty on the moon. In the view of the delegation of the Byelorussian SSR, the practice now adopted of independent work on the part of the Legal and Scientific and Technical Sub-Committees is entirely justified and should be continued in future.

In conclusion, I should like to express the support of the delegation of the Byelorussian SSR for the draft resolution in document A/C.1/31/L.1 submitted to the First Committee this morning.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the Byelorussian SSR and I would assure him that I entirely endorse his views about the brotherhood and friendship between our two countries.

Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish):
Mr. Chairman, it is a great pleasure for me to say at the outset that I most warmly welcome you here and congratulate you on your unanimous election to the important office of Chairman of the First Committee. My pleasure is double because your election is a just acknowledgement of your outstanding qualities as a diplomat

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

and your deep understanding of the topics discussed in the United Nations, particularly those referring to disarmament, which are the main part of the work of this Committee. The second reason why I am so pleased to see you here, Mr. Chairman, is because you represent a country with which the Republic of Argentina has the most cordial and closest relations of friendship. Mr. Chairman, this is why, at this time, I should like to convey to you how pleased the Argentine delegation is and how closely we will co-operate with you as you discharge your difficult tasks. I should also like to extend our congratulations to my two friends, Mr. da Costa Lobo of Portugal and Mr. Boateng of Ghana, Vice-Chairmen of this Committee, and we should also like to congratulate our distinguished Rapporteur, Mr. Shrestha of Nepal.

It is encouraging to see that each year more countries participate in the debate on the topics before us today, expressing their views on various aspects of international co-operation with regard to the utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes and also indicating their interest in seeing the membership of the Committee increased to meet the desires of various States which, as members, would undoubtedly make a very valuable contribution to the Committee's work.

The Republic of Argentina has always attached great importance to the new possibilities offered particularly to developing countries by the appropriate utilization of space technology. My Government has borne this idea in mind and has attached priority to the establishment of close contact with space authorities in Brazil and Chile, particularly with regard to the remote sensing of natural resources. This same consideration has led us to seek the co-operation of other countries outside the area, so that we have been able to conduct numerous joint experiments which were reported in detail to the Sub-Committee on Scientific and Technical Affairs.

The Government of Argentina is also organizing a Latin American course on remote sensing, to be held in Buenos Aires from 1 to 26 November. This course will be given by experts from Argentina, from NASA and from the ESRO Data Centre of the Geological Service of the United States and is designed to provide training in remote sensing techniques for the evaluation of natural resources, with particular emphasis on agriculture, forestry and geology. This is the first time that a course

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

of this nature has been held in Argentina; the frequency of future meetings will be determined according to the results. I believe that this is a good opportunity to reiterate the offer made by the Argentine delegation to the Committee for other nations to use our facilities and work together with Argentine scientists with a view to carrying out joint experiments of mutual interest.

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

Our interest in these topics, has traditionally transcended purely technical experiments and has led us to participate actively in the drafting of conventions which have already begun to lay down a juridical framework for space activities. It is with great satisfaction that we learned that on 15 September the Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space came into effect. I trust that this positive fact will encourage the Committee to pursue energetically its task of contributing to the progressive development of space law. As we analyse the activities undertaken by the Sub-Committee on Juridical Affairs this year, I must express the satisfaction of my delegation with the progress that has been made with regard to two of the items under study. An important step forward has been made by the elaboration of nine principles to regulate States' use of direct broadcasting satellites. Our satisfaction is even greater in view of the fact that these principles are in consonance with the draft convention presented in 1974 by Argentina. We hope that the final text will enshrine what we considered to be an essential principle in this field: for direct broadcasting to be carried out, it is indispensable to receive the consent of the receiving State and it must also be empowered to establish the regulations it judges pertinent in the exercise of its national sovereignty.

We are also pleased that concrete progress has been made in the drafting of five principles and in the identification of three new factors with regard to the remote sensing of natural resources. The Sub-Committee on Juridical Affairs must bear the difficult responsibility of producing a document which will ensure that the utilization of remote sensing techniques shall be carried out to the benefit of all mankind and that it will also constitute an effective safeguard of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources.

I hope that there will be an agreement soon to accept two vital principles which are contained in the draft articles submitted by Argentina and Brazil in this connexion, and this is now co-sponsored by all Latin American members of the Committee. The principles are: firstly, the necessity of obtaining the consent of the sensed State which must be obtained prior to the remote sensing; and secondly, the observing State shall not provide information to third States nor shall it make it available to any person or entity without the consent of the observed State.

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

I regret that I must express our concern about the fact that negotiations on the moon treaty have become bogged down. I hope once again that common sense will prevail and that a formula will be elaborated which is acceptable and which enshrines the principle that the moon and its natural resources form a part of the common heritage of mankind. With regard to the report of the Sub-Committee on Scientific and Technical Affairs, we have followed with great attention studies carried out with regard to the remote sensing of natural resources. None the less, we believe that it is essential for both Sub-Committees to work jointly so that there may be a harmonious consideration of the scientific and juridical aspects of this question. We believe that the establishment of a working group would be extremely interesting. It would directly depend upon the Committee and would be entrusted with consideration of aspects which at present appear on the programme of work of both Sub-Committees. We believe that this group could perform to great benefit as a factor for co-ordinating this work.

We should like to reiterate our conviction that the United States can, and indeed must, serve as a focal point with regard to remote sensing by satellites, even at the experimental phase. These duties and functions would of course grow in importance when we move into the operational sphere.

We have studied the draft programme of the United Nations for the application of space technology with great attention. Once again I should like to express our acknowledgement to Mr. Murphy for the competence and devotion with which he has tackled his duties. We should also like to congratulate him for the results which have been achieved despite the extremely limited budget made available to him. We believe that the programme for the application of space technology should be expanded, both with regard to its content as well as with regard to its scope, and priority attention should be attached to the needs and interests of developing countries. So that this aim may be met, we believe that all appropriate measures should be taken to ensure optimal utilization of all means available to the expert but we also believe that greater financial support should be made available to him. This is fully justified by the magnitude of his duties.

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

The Argentine Government supports the convening of a United Nations conference on matters related to outer space. I should like to reiterate the position of my country in support of the fact that this should be an autonomous conference which will not merely take the form of part of a world meeting on science and technology but rather that its agenda should encompass all space activities including scientific, technical, juridical and political aspects.

My delegation supports strengthening the Division on Space Affairs. We consider it to be the focal point of international co-operation in this regard. We believe that this position must be given highly qualified personnel so that it might effectively meet all of the requests for aid, but we also believe that great attention should be given to the strict implementation of the principles of geographical distribution and to ensuring that experts from all regional groups be included. The Argentine delegation firmly supports the opinion that the Committee should keep to its schedule of yearly meetings so that it may meet the expectations placed in it.

On balance, the results of the work of the Committee this year are encouraging. This is principally due to the ableness and efforts of its Chairman, Ambassador Peter Jankowitsch, and the Chairmen of the Sub-Committees, Mr. Wyzner and Professor Carver. We should like to express to them our deep acknowledgement and the congratulations they so richly deserve. My thanks is also addressed to the staff of the Secretariat who quietly and efficiently have contributed to a large extent to the results obtained. In conclusion, I should like to express the pleasure of the Argentine Government when it received the recommendation made by the Committee that the United Nations would continue to sponsor the activities carried out in CELPA in Mar del Plata. I hope that the Assembly will ratify this recommendation enabling us to meet the work schedule prepared for 1977.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to assure the representative of Argentina, that I value very highly his very kind and generous words of confidence addressed to me personally and to the other officers of the Committee. I appreciate particularly his kind reference to the close and friendly relations existing between our two countries.

Mrs. SHELLI (Libyan Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic):

Permit me, Mr. Chairman, first of all to violate rule 110 of the rules of procedure which we agreed upon at the beginning of this Committee's work in order to associate myself with previous speakers in congratulating you, on behalf of my delegation, on your election as presiding officer of this Committee. We are convinced that, thanks to your expertise, you will guide the Committee towards the achievement of its objectives. I should also like to take this opportunity to address my warm congratulations to the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, and to wish them every success.

Recently the world has witnessed considerable advances in the field of outer space. New exploits and discoveries have come about. We hope that the results achieved will be devoted to the well-being of mankind. The world has also seen a beginning of co-operation among certain States. We hope that this will be a point of departure for fuller and more extensive co-operation and that these achievements will be used in the interests of States and mankind as a whole, in order to guarantee an improvement in the standard of living of societies, particularly the poorer societies, enabling them to overcome their economic, social and technical difficulties and to bridge the gap between them and the industrialized countries.

My country, which began its five-year plan this year, 1976 to 1980, for which a substantial budget has been allocated, has a solid national economy. Thanks to training facilities, scientific and technical personnel are enabled to follow modern scientific and technological achievements, including those that have occurred in the field of outer space, with a view to doing everything possible to promote the country's economic and social development and to enable the Libyan Arab society to achieve the highest possible level.

My delegation has followed with interest the activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, presided over by Mr. Jankowitsch, and we should like to take this opportunity to extend to him our deep appreciation of his efforts to bring the Committee's work to a successful conclusion. I would also like to express our entire satisfaction to the Chairmen of the Sub-Committees -- Mr. Wyzner of Poland and Mr. Carver of Australia, for their useful efforts at the previous session.

(Mrs. Shelli, Libyan Arab Republic)

My delegation has carefully considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space submitted to this session. We are gratified at the progress achieved in the last year. Although the tempo has been somewhat slow, we hope that the Committee will achieve the desired results very soon. We have a few comments to make about the report.

First, with regard to paragraph 19, we should like to express our satisfaction at the work accomplished by the Legal Sub-Committee with regard to principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding international agreements.

Secondly, we support the view of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which appears in paragraph 36, on data from remote sensing. We stress the need to disseminate information on the needs of developing countries through this medium, and also to disseminate information on the technical characteristics of devices used, thereby permitting developing countries to benefit from the advantages of this technology.

Thirdly, we share the view of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, expressed in paragraph 38, that the United Nations could play a co-ordinating role in the matter of remote sensing from satellites in the present pre-operational phase under the aegis of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. What is of particular interest to us is the definition of the framework of United Nations participation in this field and the significance that should be attached to the needs of developing countries. My country has created a specialized agency to follow developments in the vital field of remote sensing, and to ensure liaison with international scientific organizations and the training of technical personnel necessary for this purpose. We hope to be able to co-operate with these organizations and the United Nations, and in particular with developing countries in strengthening scientific units and training institutions, particularly in developing countries.

Fourthly, I should like to express our deep appreciation of the valuable efforts of certain countries and certain specialized agencies in regard to the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. I would mention, for example, the seminars and training courses which have been organized, referred to in paragraphs 47, 48, 49 and 50 of the report.

(Mrs. Shelli, Libyan Arab Republic)

Fifthly, with regard to paragraph 55 of the report, we fully support the idea of holding a United Nations Conference on space matters, provided that preparations and studies in depth are carried out in good time.

Sixthly, we support paragraph 71, endorsing the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee that at its fourteenth session priority be given to three items: questions relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellites; consideration and review of the United Nations Programme on space applications; and consideration of the options relating to a possible United Nations conference on outer space matters. In this connexion I should like to repeat our hope that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees would take account of our views, as follows: first, with regard to conventions on the regulation and use of direct television broadcasting, due account should be taken of State sovereignty, and of non-intervention in States' internal affairs, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 2960 (XXVII), 3334 (XIX) and 3388 (XXX); secondly, with regard to remote sensing of earth from space, which should be harnessed to the service of mankind as a whole, we would like to insist that this be done within the framework of the principles of the United Nations Charter and of international law, and the agreement of States must be obtained for these activities; furthermore, the State concerned should be able to benefit from the information deriving from these activities and this information should not be transmitted to outside parties without the consent of the party concerned; this is the right of all countries, and they should be able to take necessary and effective measures to preserve their national sovereignty and their natural resources; thirdly, we favour freedom of exchange of information among countries, provided that this be done for the maintenance of the common heritage of mankind and in the interest of all countries.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the Libyan Arab Republic for her kind words addressed to the Chairman and the officers of the Committee.

Mr. RUALES (Ecuador) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like, Mr. Chairman, to express on behalf of my delegation our congratulations upon your election to preside over this Committee.

This is a congratulation which I should like to also extend to other members of the bureau. I should also like to congratulate the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee for having submitted the interesting report which is now under consideration.

It has been correctly said that in outer space the spectacular progress of science has produced advances which precede -- or quickly outdistance -- the establishment of the judicial norms designed to regulate such matters. It is quite commonplace to say that we here are facing a difficult problem and that the law to be applied to the sophisticated techniques of space technology must evolve as new progress is made in this field and is placed at the service of all peoples. The utilization of space and the regulations governing it must be considered along the lines of the philosophy of the new international economic order, which would serve as the appropriate framework for fruitful international co-operation and solidarity, directed towards the utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes. Thus, all countries could acquire the necessary technology and the developing countries would not be left aside with regard to the possibilities offered nor with regard to the formulation of legal norms.

This is why we support the work which is being done by the United Nations programme for the application of space technology and we should like to emphasize the need of developing countries for whom programmes making their experts familiar with space technology and its application are of particular importance. My delegation believes that the organization of groups of research should be promoted amongst countries with common interests, since international co-operation in the utilization of space for peaceful purposes has been useful in establishing an atmosphere of understanding. We should like to express our hopes that outer space will not be turned into a dangerous field of military competition which would waste so many resources which could be better put to the use of progress and the well-being of mankind.

(Mr. Ruales, Ecuador)

I should like briefly to refer to the topic of States' utilization of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. The delegation of Ecuador believes that it is necessary to conciliate on the one hand the right to information and on the other, the need to protect the cultural characteristics and heritage of each people, which means that such direct broadcasting should be accepted by the State just as authorization is given domestically at this time for the operation of broadcasting stations. There should, of course, be an international code of conduct applicable to this field with regard to satellite remote sensing. So that fears may be dispelled potential dangers must be removed and the potential military use must be eliminated. It is indispensable that the sensed State participate in the process and the results, and that the obtained information not be made available without its consent nor utilized to jeopardize it. Ecuador attaches great importance to the orbiting of satellites which is the subject of study by various international organizations and in the near future, by the Committee on Outer Space. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of my country referred to this matter in the general debate at this session of the General Assembly and he emphasized Ecuador's interest in this natural resource of countries which are on the equinoctial line. This is a resource which is made available because of the special characteristics of this area in which the orbit is located. Indeed, while other satellites are orbiting around the earth geostationary satellites remain on the equator, rotating with the earth, and thus remaining constantly 35,871 km above the territory of States on the equator and also over the waters along the equator.

Ecuador believes that there should be rights established on this segment of the geostationary orbit located above its territory, and shares the position of other States located on the equator, such as Colombia, whose distinguished Permanent Representative yesterday made a very illustrative statement in this connexion. Our delegation believes that these aspects deserve special juridical treatment and that they should be analysed with greater attention. We believe that the geostationary orbit should be considered a natural resource of those countries having the right to participate in it, and that it is urgent to adopt measures to situate stationary satellites. Because of this and because there are situations

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which are of particular interest to other States, Ecuador believes that it is suitable and fitting for the Outer Space Committee to increase its membership so that States located along the equator and States with particular interests may be appropriately represented.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Ecuador for his kind words addressed to the Chairman and other officers of the Committee.

Mr. AZZOUT (Algeria) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, speaking for the first time in this Committee, I would first of all like to extend to you the warm congratulations of my delegation on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee and say how happy I am to see in the Chair the representative of a friendly country. I would also like to convey our gratitude to Mr. Jankowitsch for the full statement which he gave at the beginning of our session about the activities of the Outer Space Committee since the last session.

The work done by the Space Committee is, of course, interesting for more than one reason and we are certainly entitled to take satisfaction at the progress achieved in certain points. Nevertheless, priority problems like the draft treaty relating to the moon, the preparation of principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for purposes of direct television broadcasting, remote sensing of earth by satellites, still remain outstanding issues for lack of any solution taking account of the interests of all.

(Mr. Azzout, Algeria)

At a time when the need for a new international economic order which would be more just and more equitable is becoming more and more imperative, it is important that the concept of the common heritage of mankind be applied to the natural resources of the moon and the other celestial bodies. We cannot concede that one or more States should claim the right to define unilaterally their own juridical norms regarding the potential exploitation of lunar resources on the sole basis that they were the first to discover these resources. We do think that this question is a test for countries which are constantly affirming their desire to co-operate on a just and equitable basis with other members of the international community.

My delegation is pleased with the work done on the question of the preparation of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, particularly the formulation of the nine principles enumerated in the report of the Outer Space Committee. But in this area, too, we regret that no compromise was achieved, particularly on priority questions such as prior consent and participation of States concerned, programme content and control and unlawful or inadmissible broadcasts.

The primary objective in the field of direct television broadcasting by satellite remains, for us, the preparation and adoption of a set of rules of international law which would lay down the rights and duties of all States, whatever their social, economic or political systems, and which would take account of certain fundamental principles, particularly the sovereignty and equality of States and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

In spite of the efforts of the Outer Space Committee to resolve problems raised by the remote sensing of earth resources by satellite, the difficulties encountered at our last session have not yet been overcome. Like other developing countries, Algeria attaches particular importance to this technique, which opens up new prospects for the economic development of our young States, particularly in the area of agriculture and the inventorying of natural resources. That is why questions relating to the dissemination of data provided by remote-sensing satellites should be the subject of the greatest possible attention because of their economic and juridical consequences, which relate both to the principle of

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the sovereignty of the States over their natural resources, the right of access of States to data pertaining to their own territories, and the communication of this data to other States.

We do not share the view of certain delegations which believe that there should be no impediment to the observation of the earth's resources from space and that a State is free not only to obtain information about another State but also to disseminate such information to others. We do feel that co-operation, however necessary it may be, among those countries which possess the technology and those which receive it should be based upon mutual consent and should not become an instrument whereby the former can violate the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the developing countries, still less an instrument for even more inadmissible subordination of the third-world countries vis-à-vis those which possess technological superiority and the means of implementing it.

One of the purposes of our Organization, which is laid down in the Charter, is to bring about international co-operation with a view to resolving international problems of a political, economic, social and cultural nature. The field of space could constitute an important element in this co-operation. Our Organization should in this regard co-ordinate the programmes and activities of the various nations, particularly as between the countries which have highly-developed technologies and those which do not. We remain convinced that the Organization has an important role to play in this area, in spite of the inadequacy of the concrete results achieved so far, particularly by the programme on space applications. In order to make this programme viable and also to make it responsive to the legitimate hopes placed in it by the developing countries, our Organization, with the appropriate means, should be in a position to become a centre of initiative and decision-taking, thus permitting the developing countries in particular to acquire and master the various space technologies. This purpose cannot, however, be achieved by the mere transfer of technology from industrialized countries to developing countries but rather by the training of personnel able to utilize this technology.

Of course, it would be beneficial for this action undertaken within the United Nations programme on space applications to be supplemented by a United Nations

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conference on space. This would make it possible for all States to be better informed and to take a more active interest in the various ways of exploiting outer space.

In this context, the suggestion put forward by certain delegations with regard to the inclusion of items relating to space on the agenda of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology seems to us timely, and we hope that it will be backed by our Committee.

Finally, Sir, the rapid development of space technology and the tremendous prospects which it opens up for the well-being of mankind make it imperative to produce a system of juridical norms governing their use within the framework of international co-operation taking account of the interests of all and, particularly, the needs of developing countries. We therefore call upon the Outer Space Committee to step up its efforts to discharge the function entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Algeria for his kind remarks addressed to the Chairman and the other officers of the Committee. I should like to thank him particularly for his reference to the friendly relations existing between his country and mine.

Mr. UPADHYAY (Nepal): Mr. Chairman, let me express my great pleasure and satisfaction at seeing you and other members of the Bureau, the Bureau so eminently constituted and guided by you, and also my satisfaction at seeing one of my compatriots serving with you to guide the deliberations of the Committee. It is with a great sense of humility that my delegation is participating in the general debate on agenda items 31 and 32. My delegation would like to congratulate Ambassador Peter Jankowitsch, Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, for his lucid presentation of the report of that Committee.

(Mr. Upadhyay, Nepal)

It is a matter of great satisfaction to us to see the increasing number of developing countries becoming aware of the activities in outer space. The potentialities of the space programme have become too numerous. The practical application of space programmes in the field of mass communication, weather studies, surveys of natural resources of earth as well as oceanic resources have become so useful that the possibility of international co-operation in the field of science and technology and in the field of common endeavour of mankind for a world free from want has emerged as never before.

In the present-day world, when we are talking in terms of a new international economic order, the dissemination of information, particularly regarding scientific and technological information, the transfer of technology, etc., it is quite just to think of a new order of mankind as a whole, and to start such an order from an area which could be least controversial in so far as the objective is concerned.

The recognition of the need for international co-operation and for regulating activities related to outer space had been well-established as far back as 1961, when the General Assembly commended the principles for the guidance of States in the exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of all mankind and firmly pronounced that outer space and celestial bodies were not subject to national appropriation. The principle encourages us to promote co-operation among States and opens a new frontier for common human endeavour. While any achievement made in the direction of acquiring new knowledge by any nation has been a matter of great satisfaction to us and we have welcomed every one of them as a further step taken by mankind, I cannot conceal our immense satisfaction at seeing that many developing countries have become active in the space programme. We are particularly happy that among the developing countries, our friendly neighbour India has also been very actively engaged in these activities. It gives us great satisfaction to see that the Indian Space Research Organization is executing space programmes with success and has established three different centres to further the activity.

Remarkable progress has been achieved in various scientific and technical fields during the past years. We had the opportunity to see some slides of landings on Mars and also to listen to the eminent Professor Sagan of the

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United States on October 18. The Committee also had the opportunity to welcome two cosmonauts from the USSR, General Aleksey Leonov and Mr. Valery Kubasov. We are proud of the achievements of these countries in space exploration programme and hail it as a victory of mankind. However, it will not be completely out of tune to say that these achievements should have provided more reasons to find agreements in the elaboration of legal instruments which could regulate the behaviour of individual States and closer co-operation among them.

We, as a developing country, in fact one of the least developed among them, cannot see these activities and achievements in isolation from the suffering and miseries of mankind which need immediate attention. There are many areas in which international co-operation are needed more urgently than ever in order to alleviate the sufferings, the miseries and the want of humanity. Our appreciation and welcome of the space activities is based on the hope that this can be taken as one of the links in the chain that can be used to generate a better future for mankind. That is why we are not particularly happy to see that divergence of opinion among nations still remain a stumbling block to consider the final draft treaty relating to the moon as well as the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting and remote sensing.

The question of natural resources of the moon has been considered as a matter of priority during the deliberations of the Committee. It was believed that once this question could be dealt with properly, it would facilitate dealing with other related outstanding issues. We hold the view that the natural resources of the moon should be declared as the common heritage of mankind. The United Nations declared the natural resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction as the common heritage of mankind. Our understanding of General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961 is that the resources of the moon and other celestial bodies belong to all nations and not to individual nations.

However, it reminds me of the sad plight of the principle of the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond the national jurisdiction being the common heritage of mankind. The creeping jurisdiction of States on the sea and ocean has stunted and crippled the concept. We know the story of these developments which I would not be

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particularly happy to narrate here. If we do not tackle the question of the resources of the moon on the basis of the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space and if we do not do it soon, the States, particularly those with the capacity to do so or the near-capacity to do so in the foreseeable future, might become tempted once more to establish a "creeping jurisdiction in outer space". I would like to remind the Committee of the statement made by my colleague from Kuwait, my very good friend Mr. Imam, on 19 October in this Committee in this regard, with whose observations I fully associate myself.

On the question of elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting, we note with satisfaction that the Committee has been able to formulate nine principles to govern direct television broadcasting by means of satellites. We urge that this issue should be taken up with greater urgency in order to find a compatible international legal régime which would satisfy the need of consent of the recipient States with due regard to its social and cultural needs. My delegation has great respect for the principle of freedom of information, but at the same time is aware that the principle should not be applied in a manner that might give rise to new tension or could be construed as being used contrary to the principle of national sovereignty. A balance must be found. We consider that the establishment of a set of principles to govern direct television broadcast may prove constructive in furthering the work of the Committee.

The recent discoveries of deposits of minerals, as well as discoveries regarding formulation of new land masses and other information as a result of computer-aided interpretation of Landsat data has opened the great possibility of realizing substantial benefits by the countries of the world. Its immense potentiality to help survey deposits of minerals by a system of earth observation from satellites is a welcome development in the progress of technology. Similarly, the use of Landsat information for various other purposes, including the study of potential land use, potential agricultural productivity, erosion risk, etc. are of great interest to the developing countries like mine. We look forward to the formulation of principles that should give all States access to remote sensing data relating to resources under its sovereign jurisdiction. We shall favour a procedure for consultations between States that are the object of remote sensing

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and States that are obtaining such data. We are aware of the important assistance that remote sensing of natural resources may render to the developing countries and we urge that the requirements of the developing countries and especially the least developed among them should receive priority in such activities.

We have always advocated peace. Peace among nations on earth -- on land and at sea, and in space -- in the celestial bodies. Peace and prosperity are inseparable. We have always shared the ideal of a peaceful and prosperous world order where all mankind can co-operate as bearers of the same destiny, and so we wish all success to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in its future deliberations. My delegation once more thanks Ambassador Jankowitsch for his presentation of the draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.1 and lends its full support to the resolution.

Mr. HARRIMAN (Nigeria): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate you and the officers of your Committee on your selection and we pledge to you our support.

The United Nations has come a long way since the General Assembly adopted resolution 1721 (XVI) in which it expressed the belief that it should provide a focal point for international co-operation and the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. Within that period, treaties on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies, the agreement on the rescue of astronauts, the return of astronauts and the return of objects launched into outer space, the convention on international liability for damage caused by space objects and the convention on the regulation of objects launched into outer space have been signed, ratified or acceded to by members of this Committee. Not surprisingly, this has cleared the way for space crafts of today--manned and unmanned--to break through the frontiers of knowledge in those areas which may yet remain unknown for a long time to come.

Here may I commend the presence yesterday of cosmonaut Aleksey Leonov, and his colleague, and his message of hope explicit in his short statement bearing on co-operation between the two main space Powers which augurs well for the future of co-operation in this field among mankind. These achievements would have been unavailing without the resolve, courage and expertise of the scientist in his laboratory and the undivided dedication of men of visage in this forum to give life and purpose as they have done to the technology which, if properly harnessed, regulated and controlled within an acceptable legal framework, bids to become one of the greatest assets of all mankind.

It is in this light that my delegation accepts with gratitude the Committee's report of Ambassador Jankowitsch who during the past year as its Chairman has piloted the affairs of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with commendable ability. Mr. Chairman, my delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate you and through you the other members of the Bureau and will look forward to a fruitful and fulfilling relationship with you.

After having listened to the statements of the distinguished delegations of the space and threshold space Powers -- the United States, the USSR, Canada and

(Mr. Harriman, Nigeria)

the United Kingdom, to name a few -- my delegation feels constrained to admit how limited our knowledge is in this new field. Perhaps this is not accidental if one considers that outside the INTERSAT IV programmes which we share with many members as far-flung as Korea, Ecuador, the United Kingdom and Romania my country is only beginning to develop a programme on outer space activities. Nigeria is interested in entering into this and bilateral arrangements similar to the one now projected through the aegis of FAO with Italy and with all countries who may feel disposed to help. We feel that the text of the agreement on co-operation elaborated in document A/C.1/31/3 concluded on 13 July 1976 in Moscow between the USSR and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and Cuba, who at the moment are the contracting parties, is a step in the right direction and hope that this list was not intended to be exhaustive to the extent of shutting out the third world.

We have come a long way from 1961 to the extent that, with the Viking and Soyuz successes behind the international community, we are now talking of solar technology. We feel that in this within the capacity of a body such as ours to seek and offer accommodation within the ambits of our ideological, nationalistic, urgent political perceptions. My delegation will be the first to admit that from sheer frustration at times the third world has been constrained to raise their voices from the feeling of being left behind and out in the space race. But I must assure you that this has not been from anger. It is therefore gratifying that though this body has, as yet, not given the legal definition of outer space in its delimitation, the deliberations of the Legal Sub-Committee have been conducted without trappings and sometimes the strict resort to legality, thus making it possible in the spirit of give and take to arrive at decisions on the basis of consensus. We would like to keep this position in so far as the yearnings of the third world for the practical concepts of interdependence are not misconstrued and misrepresented.

It has become almost traditional over the past few years to start off our discussions without further consideration of efforts to draw up a treaty or treaties relating to the moon. My delegation is not going to pretend that the path towards realization of this goal has been easy. Suffice it to say that during this year the Legal Sub-Committee was almost within grasp of this objective.

(Mr. Harriman, Nigeria)

Alas this was not to be because once again when it looked like we were within reach of formulating principles spelling out the scope of the treaty, the Legal Sub-Committee came to grips over the question of the resources of the moon. In the course of an intervention on this topic last year, one representative is on record as having said that there were at the current stage of development of exploration on the moon or in the near future insufficient material prerequisites for the detailed elaboration of provisions to govern the status of the moon's natural resources. His delegation therefore felt that those complicated questions could only be resolved successfully in the future when practical experience in the use of resources of celestial bodies would make it possible to formulate well-founded normative provisions to regulate that aspect of space activity. He went on to add that neither was there any justification for the recent tendency to transplant automatically to space law principles and norms from other branches of international law.

This observation would therefore seem to my delegation too close to the Achilles heel of the problem. Be that as it may, we are appreciative of the fact that it is only this delegation that has ever shown interest in this subject, and if the undisguised lack of general enthusiasm in the space sector might accelerate interdependence and co-operation in an undisputed régime where material prerequisites for its establishment are not lacking, then we venture to hope that in the near future the Soviet Union and the many delegations who give so much time and thought to this problem will not have done so in vain. The fact that the cost of bringing to earth these resources might be prohibitive should not be sufficient to cause us to shy away from the problem which, like the sea-bed régime, will have to be tackled sooner rather than later.

(Mr. Harriman, Nigeria)

In the course of this year the Legal Sub-Committee has made notable progress in elaborating principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting and has achieved qualified success in the related field of remote sensing. By dint of hard work and perseverance, in and outside the working groups, it has tackled many problems in a spirit of total commitment. It is not for want of effort that we are left today with the unresolved problem of consent and participation, which alone stand in the way of the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use of this exciting technology. In the sustained effort to bolster up conflicting viewpoints, it is quite easy to present a misleading posture. We believe that, invaluable as the ardour for dissemination and the thirst for imbibing the free flow of information may be, it would be less than honest, if not impossible, for us to fail to recognize that no one can predict the exact uses of this expanding technology. This explains our position when, we suggested, during the last meeting of the Committee, that we might with advantage elaborate on the theme developed by Mr. Kissinger in his address before the American Bar Association. In that address, he stressed the need for consultation with the receiving States and proposed that, before undertaking direct television broadcasts, the broadcasting State must notify the States within the reception area of its intention to broadcast, and that such broadcasting State, at the request of the Government concerned in the reception area -- and may we add here, such requests may not be arbitrarily or unreasonably denied -- should undertake full consultations to resolve problems -- may I add, problems which may not be politically spill-over and cultural fall-outs -- that might arise in such intended broadcasts.

This summary in no way spells inhibition or checkmate to the progress of science since, particularly from the viewpoint of the third world countries, we must operate on the premise that there is no absolute guarantee as to the uses to which technology may be put. Thereafter, protestations of good faith or, at best, apologies for harm done might either be too late or unavailing. Thereafter guarantees or even the requirement of censorship licences, if either of these were possible, would in effect amount to locking the stable door after the horse has been stolen.

(Mr. Harriman, Nigeria)

We believe that openness within bilateral arrangements contracted in quiet diplomacy between sender and receiver States will better meet the total needs of both sides. Having said that, we believe that, in the area of environmental hazards, rescue of astronauts, shipwreck and similar matters of international concern to all, could be made exceptions to this general rule. To this end we join the representative of the United Kingdom in welcoming the successful conclusion in September of the conference convened in London by the International Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) on the establishment of INMARSAT which body, as we understand it, offers international co-operation in the use of space communications technology, the main object of which is to provide a useful service in ship-to-shore communications and in improving safety standards at sea.

We are in full accord with the anxieties expressed in the final Helsinki declaration with regard to human rights but we are not at all sure if the framers of that instrument have the third world in mind. In venturing into the uncharted sea of remote sensing, we cannot but proceed with caution. There is a general tendency to overlook the fact that this is sensitive area dealing with raw data from outer space. We agree with the view that one useful way of presenting the system elements and flow of data involved in remote sensing from satellites in a structured manner should be -- as is well documented in United Nations material -- by data acquisition, data reception, data pre-processing, data storage and dissemination, data analysis and information utilization.

Since we now know that these same broad data could also be obtained by rocket exploration, we cannot be too careful with the final use put to the end product. For this reason my delegation would strongly suggest retraining in the area of remote sensing technology, which must place emphasis on on-the-site training. At the same time, the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), whether jointly or separately, should continue to provide further training in that area, including the possibility of extending on-site training programmes.

With the further expansion of Landsat stations, it should be possible to adopt the Landsat data format as a standard. To ensure against misuse, we should like to see ground facilities for receiving, reprocessing and disseminating data from remote-sensing satellites financed, owned and operated by individual users or associations, or associations of users whose interests are compatible.

(Mr. Harriman, Nigeria)

We believe that the dissemination of global data on environmental hazards, floods, erosion, locusts, hurricanes etc. should not require the elaboration of legal principles, because in practice this could not affect the sovereign rights of States on information about their natural resources without dissemination of local data which requires the establishment of an ascertainable legal régime, particularly where the sovereign rights of developing countries which may own or co-finance the satellite facilities are concerned. Without finding ourselves in a conflict situation, we believe that this body should be able, given the political will, to provide the funds for such a régime within or without the United Nations structure.

We thank the various delegations which, through panels, seminars and training workshops have shown that the moral and financial sacrifice for such a commitment could be feasible in the over-all interests of the well-being of mankind, particularly of the developing countries.

Lastly, my delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat of the Outer Space Affairs Division for the selfless service that they have offered and continue to offer, although this is not always wholly appreciated.

We are a young and green country in a hurry to make up for the lost chance brought about by years of forced stagnation. We are happy to be associated with and to co-sponsor the Australian draft resolution which is due to be submitted tomorrow, and trust that in the spirit of continued co-operation we shall be able to reach the goals that have eluded us for so long.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Nigeria for his kind words addressed to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. BOATEN (Ghana): I should like first to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to members of the Committee for the confidence and trust they have placed in me by electing me unanimously to serve as one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee. I am happy that in this capacity I shall be serving under your distinguished leadership, Mr. Chairman. I have no doubt that under your guidance all the officers will ably serve the Committee with the efficiency and dedication that have traditionally characterized past officers of this Committee.

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

My delegation is happy to note, again, the valuable work done by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space during the year under review. In recent times, our global interdependence has frequently been emphasized. Our showing, however, at giving substance to this reality, has often fallen short of expectations. That is why my delegation -- and indeed the Government and people of Ghana -- has always welcomed any international activity that promises to give form and substance to this recognition. In the view of my delegation, one such activity is in the area of outer space science and technology. My delegation would like to pay a tribute to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Our special appreciation goes to Mr. Jankowitsch, under whose able guidance the Committee has adopted a procedure of work which not only makes for expedition, but also permits some in-depth consideration of the issues before it.

It is difficult to make any appraisal, however general and superficial, of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space without looking beyond the general report of the Committee to consider the report of its Legal and Scientific and Technical Sub-Committees. It is in this light that my delegation would like to make a few observations on the reports of the Sub-Committees.

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

At its thirtieth session, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of this Committee, adopted resolution 3388 (XXX). This resolution requested the Legal Sub-Committee to give priority to three main issues: the draft treaty relating to the moon, the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct broadcasting, and the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space. My delegation has noted with some regret that the issues which frustrated agreement on a draft treaty relating to the moon, namely, the legal régime governing the natural resources of the moon and whether the moon and its resources should be regarded by the international community as a common heritage of mankind, remain unresolved. It is hardly a surprise to me, one familiar with the trend of negotiations at the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, that these two issues persist as areas of divergence. My delegation is, however, heartened by the near assurance given to this Committee by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that "this year we came fairly close to agreement in the Working Group of the Legal Sub-Committee, and the remaining open issues have been significantly reduced" (A/C.1/31/PV.3, p. 6). We urge the Committee to continue its efforts towards resolving these outstanding issues.

As my delegation observed in its statement in this Committee last year, this is perhaps the best period to reach agreement on these issues, when little or nothing is known about the resources of the moon, and any elaboration of principles to govern their status and régime of exploration and exploitation is based on hypothesis.

My delegation is gratified that this year, as was the case last year, the work of the Legal Sub-Committee regarding principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting indicates considerable progress. In the view of my delegation an important point of divergence stems from the extent to which the concept of national sovereignty should restrict the principle of the freedom of the individual to information and the free expression of views. My delegation supports the principle of the freedom of the individual to information and the free expression of views. In the view of my delegation, however, it would be naive not to acknowledge present world realities. I would be the first to admit that the world has moved far away

(Mr. Boateng, Ghana)

from the cold war era of the 1950s and 1960s. However, it is equally realistic to concede that the world is still far away from the ideal international community we are all striving to achieve. Any principles formulated to govern direct television and radio broadcasting should therefore, of necessity, take account of these realities. The statement of the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Kissinger, at the meeting of the American Bar Association, persuades me to believe that I am not alone in this view.

My delegation is gratified to note that the Legal Sub-Committee made further progress in the elaboration of principles to govern earth resources surveys by remote sensing satellites. Although some of the words and phrases in the five principles formulated by the Sub-Committee remain in brackets, indicating lack of consensus, my delegation has no doubt that further discussion of the issues involved, particularly having regard to the new Soviet proposals on the matter, will lead to a convergence, or at least a further narrowing of gaps, between positions.

Here my delegation maintains that three basic principles should underlie any principles we formulate, namely, State sovereignty with its implications of national security and territorial integrity, international co-operation, and the sharing of scientific and technological knowledge within the framework of a new international economic era.

Once again, my delegation would like to express its appreciation of the continued responsiveness of the Secretary-General and his staff to requests for technical studies related to the terms of reference of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. These studies, my delegation has no doubt, have contributed substantially, as they have done in the past, to the quality of work indicated by the report of the Committee that is under consideration here.

With regard to options for co-ordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system outlined by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in paragraph 80 of its report (A/AC.105/170), my delegation can only take note at this stage, since the issue is the subject of further study by the Secretariat. My delegation would, however, like to make two proposals, namely, (a) that any recommendation in that regard should aim at economy without sacrificing effectiveness, and (b) that it should take into account the restructuring of the

(Mr. Boateng, Ghana)

United Nations system which is currently in progress. It should be borne in mind that the setting up of new organizations to deal with needs as they arise may not always be the most effective solution in organizations such as the United Nations system.

A study of the report on the effect on space applications by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee indicates a significant expansion of co-operation in the area. This expansion has taken place at two parallel levels: at the level of science and technology and at that of publicizing what outer space activities are all about and their relevance to national economies. In this regard, my delegation would like to pay a tribute to the increasing number of countries which have participated in this co-operation. The level of co-operation between Member States and United Nations agencies during the year under review has been impressive.

My delegation has also taken note with appreciation of the offer made by Pakistan to host the United Nations training seminar on remote sensing applications to be held in Karachi in February next year. It is with the same sense of appreciation that we note the offer of the Soviet Union to host the seminar on remote sensing applications for civilian resources and environment for the benefit of developing countries.

Ghana has a developing interest in remote sensing of earth resources. It is aware of the potential of the tool for rapidly and economically mapping and assessing agricultural and forest resources, mineral resources and soil capability. It is for this reason that in April 1975 the Ghana Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, in co-operation with the United States Information Services, hosted the West African Workshop on Remote Sensing in Accra. The content of the workshop included introduction of remote sensing technology, discussion of the general Landsat programme, instruments and equipment of the Landsat programme, various applications of remote sensing, processing techniques, interpretation techniques, and other images. The workshop was attended by 120 participants.

Ghana will without hesitation welcome any co-operation on a bilateral or subregional level in the field of remote sensing, data processing and application. The view of the Ghana Government, however, is that for any such co-operation to be beneficial to most developing countries, it should embrace the training of local personnel and their full and active participation at the very beginning in any such projects. My delegation has also noted with appreciation the growing number of countries offering facilities and fellowships for training in remote sensing. This is in keeping with the growing recognition of our global interdependence, and we welcome the trend.

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

In conclusion, my delegation has studied the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/31/L.1 introduced this morning by the Austrian delegation, and I am happy to announce that we have no difficulty in supporting and co-sponsoring it. My delegation welcomes the invitation of the Austrian Government to hold the next session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in Vienna. In this regard, my delegation supports the amendment proposed to draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.1 this afternoon by the representative of Romania.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Ghana and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Boaten for his kind words addressed to me and other officers of the Committee, and I assure him that I am indeed looking forward to close and fruitful co-operation with him.

Mr. KISAKA (Kenya): Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to join the others who have spoken before me in breaking the rules of procedure and congratulate you on your unanimous election to the chairmanship of this important Committee. It gives my delegation particular pleasure that a distinguished son of a country with which we have very cordial and fruitful co-operation will guide us during this session in the work of this Committee. Your personal experience and dedication to the work of the United Nations and the cause of international peace and security assure us that the deliberations of the Committee will be successful. We should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the other officers of the Committee, who are eminent and experienced members of their delegations. I should like to assure you, Mr. Chairman, that my delegation will co-operate fully with you and the other officers in ensuring that our Committee discharges its obligations.

My delegation, which has the honour of being a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, would like to thank Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria, the current Chairman, for his wise leadership of that Committee as well as for his clear and lucid presentation of its report.

Anniversaries are an important phenomenon for recalling and keeping up the momentum of specific events. Only yesterday my country celebrated Kenyatta Day. To us Kenyans this is a revolution day, the day when armed struggle was intensified in 1952 and our beloved leader Mzee Jomo Kenyatta was arrested, together

(Mr. Kisaka, Kenya)

with others, for advocating justice, dignity and freedom for all in Kenya. The momentum of this struggle led us to snatch our independence from the colonialists on 12 December 1963. As host country to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Kenya is positively interested in space technology, especially satellite communications, weather forecasting, mapping and remote sensing of natural resources. In the light of our interest in these programmes, another date which is of importance in the revolutionary development of our country is Saturday, 12 December 1970, the date when the first earth satellite station in Africa south of the Sahara was inaugurated. It is located at Mount Luganot, formerly known as Mount Margaret, 30 miles from Nairobi.

The satellite represents a gigantic step in the history of communications revolution. Its use has given us independent communications with the entire world through the East African Telecommunications Corporation. The development of communications satellite from Arthur Clark's first dream of it as a device to link all mankind together has gone on at a pace exceeding even Clark's expectations.

To dwell over long on what is so well known to all of you here would serve no major immediate purpose. The point to be stressed is that this magic has placed us in the mainstream of communication. The value of improved communications and satellites to interdependence is deemed obvious; indeed, to the extent that communications can flow rapidly, reliably, accurately and inexpensively, interdependence as a concept becomes more of a reality.

As I have stated, my country is not interested in the communications satellite only. The use of satellites for remote sensing is well known. My country has made some modest use of this technology. We have used it in a multidisciplinary study using Landsat. We are currently conducting a study of the range land habitat. This programme started in August 1975 and we hope to receive the final report in March 1977. In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), we are studying the migration of animals as a means of forecasting better use of land for agriculture. My country is also participating in regional co-operation in this field through the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), which only recently approved the creation of a regional training centre for remote sensing which my country will have the honour to host.

(Mr. Illueca, Panama)

The infinite space which only yesterday filled Pascal with awe is already an almost daily part of man's life, and the Apollos and Soyuz and Sputniks and Vikings of interplanetary scope traverse daily in a sovereign fashion areas where in the past we suspected merely the mythical shadow of gods. Together with these feats, which have no parallel in history, a phenomenon has occurred which seems to me to be of great benefit to world peace, that is to say, co-operation between the United States and the Soviet Union. A demonstration of this co-operation was the presence here of the United States Professor Sagan and, yesterday, of General Aleksey Leonov of the Soviet Union, a worthy representative of that country. Both men have human qualities, and their knowledge, experience and wisdom have not only expanded the physical horizon but also the spiritual horizons of the members of this Committee. We should like to thank both delegations -- that is to say, the delegations of the United States and the Soviet Union -- because they have made it possible for these men to come here for our enlightenment. This co-operation to which I have referred, has made it possible for science to take giant steps forward and has increasingly strengthened the ties of friendship between the two super-Powers and enhanced international peace, which our countries need so much. Happily, this co-operation is expanding to other areas, from the Asian continent all the way to Latin America, under the lively sponsorship of the United Nations, a magnificent example being the CELPA station at Mar del Plata, Argentina. We therefore find ourselves at a level at which everything is measured on an immense scale. For that reason, a superficial observer might have been tempted to think that the problem of the utilization of outer space is of interest only to those nations which have the fabulous means of science and technology of the contemporary era. It happens, however, that the contrary is true. Most nations in the world -- that is to say we, the developing countries -- are vitally interested in this serious question of the space of the known universe.

The future belongs to us as well and, in truth, until the day comes when we have united our resources and have a full scientific and technological capacity, we must ensure that this new stage of history does not repeat the old injustices and errors of the past. I am referring to the hegemony of the great over the small, with all its unfortunate consequences, which might take

(Mr. Illueca, Panama)

new forms if we are unable to establish a juridical system which can effectively guarantee, as far as the space question is concerned, the rights of all peoples to freedom, to education according to their own cultural values, to independence and to national sovereignty, not only in the political sphere but also in the economic sphere of natural resources.

With this in mind, it seems to me that what you yourself said, Mr. Chairman, is of great importance. You said that the purpose of the United Nations in establishing a legal régime for space activities is

"to see to it that this new and important instrument of mankind's progress be not used for purposes alien to the overriding principles of national sovereignty and peaceful co-operation of States, but rather be utilized for the sake of easing world tensions, strengthening international security and preservation and further development of cultural values of nations"

(A/C.1/31/PV.3, p.3).

In the same vein, although sometimes reflecting a genuinely progressive spirit and other times mere immediate interest, we have heard various people speak here who have defended an unlimited right to broadcast information of all kinds. The question is more complicated than it appears. Freedom for whom? Freedom to promote what political belief, what economic interests? Freedom with internal or external origins? Freedom inspired by what cultural values? Freedom subject to responsibility or not?

As long as the flow of information is unilateral in nature, we who receive it without being able to respond as effectively and to establish a balanced dialogue in which our voice would have the same power of persuasion, we have to fight for the establishment of principles and norms which safeguard our personality and national characteristics -- that is to say, our culture. Ambassador Jankowitsch, as we have seen, is fully aware of this fact, as is the Sub-Committee which is considering the possibility of convening in the near future an international conference to establish the legal and technical system to regulate space activities.

This question of the use of outer space is closely connected to one of the major problems with which our Organization is dealing today, as can be seen from the work of the Third Committee of the General Assembly: namely, the problem

(Mr. Illueca, Panama)

of the conservation and development of cultural values. Perhaps one could make a variation on a popular saying and say "tell me who supplies your information and I will tell you who you are" and -- I would almost venture to say -- "I will tell you to what culture you belong".

In connexion with this problem, which is not only scientific and technological but also political and cultural in nature, the Vice-Chairman of the delegation of Canada, Ambassador William Barton, stated with great insight in this Committee:

"If direct television broadcasting is not brought within an agreed international legal régime, and if it is carried out without the consent of the State concerned and without due regard or consideration for its social and cultural needs, there will be a new source of controversy and potential conflict to add to those we already have on earth." (A/C.1/31/PV.4, p.22)

Panama already has some painful experience in this connexion. Without going into a detailed narration of its problems, which are related to the just concerns of the Canadian representative, we would merely like to quote a few words from a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Panama, Mr. Boyd, to the Security Council, of which he was then the President, when it met in Panama in March 1973 to study Latin American questions. Mr. Boyd said:

"... the United States has assumed undue control over Panamanian air space, with all the consequent risks for the aircraft flying over our territory. Similar powers have been assumed by the United States with regard to the allocation of radio frequencies, and it has arbitrarily assumed frequencies for official and public services, whose granting is normally the right of the sovereign of the territory, since the radio frequency spectrum is a common natural resource shared by all nations of the world, whose simultaneous use is limited in each case." (S/PV.1704, pp. 23-25)

We therefore support the suggestion of the delegation of Canada to this Committee that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee should give high priority to the establishment of a body of principles to govern direct television broadcasting.

I should like it to be recorded that I am not speaking here of the dialogue between the Goliaths of this world. I am merely referring to the dialogue or

(Mr. Illueca, Panama)

rather the monologue of the large vis-à-vis the small. But there is more involved in this question. Together with the cultural and political problem, there is another fundamental and decisive problem. The location of a country on the network of longitudes and latitudes is also a natural resource. Further, some points in outer space, like the lands, coasts and the seas which form and surround a country, constitute its wealth and its natural resources. They are property which are inherent to its status as a sovereign nation and over which, therefore, it should exercise the full sovereignty which is the primary and basic attribute of national status.

(Mr. Illueca, Panama)

Within our Committee, these considerations were referred to last Wednesday by the delegation of Colombia. Although the Panamanian territory does not lie on the equator above which the flight of future geostationary synchronized orbit satellites would take place, the delegation of Panama would like to support the reasons submitted by the representative of Colombia because it contains principles which hold not only in this individual case but also in cases which refer to questions of space in developing countries.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Dr. Indalecio Liévano Aguirre, who we feel is one of the most outstanding spokesmen of Latin American thinking, stated that it was necessary to determine a juridical definition of outer space and geostationary space communications. The Colombian spokesman also referred to the very serious problems which would arise if States or foreign enterprises attempted to locate within the territory of sovereign States fixed broadcasting stations which would imperil the sovereignty of the States concerned. He stated that it was urgent

"to regulate the allocation of locales for stationary satellites because natural persons or juridical persons might claim a type of sui generis special sovereignty in sovereign States which is unacceptable to them". This very just and respectable position would in no way impede free orbital transit and communications the mechanisms for which are covered by the International Telecommunications Convention; but it does make a clear exception of the case of objects that are to be positioned over the segment of the stationary orbit which is unquestionably one of the natural resources falling within the purview of the full and permanent sovereignty of the territorial State. It is obvious that in the 1967 Treaty, those States over which the orbital segment is located do not renounce their rights over this geophysical zone as it is a natural resource falling within the purview of their sovereignty.

Panama believes that the recognition of the fact that such geostationary orbital segments remain within the ambit of sovereignty of the States in question -- those located on the equator -- should be clearly set forth. The delegation of Panama also supports the recommendations put forth by the Colombian delegation that the Sub-Committee on Juridical Affairs take into account this particular case which is not covered by the 1967 Treaty on the Utilization of

(Mr. Illueca, Panama)

Outer Space. My delegation likewise believes that it is timely to expand the Outer Space Committee so that more appropriate geographic distribution will prevail as it becomes increasingly possible to harmonize various juridical and scientific viewpoints.

These questions grow in importance each day because, despite their purely theoretic aspects, this is something which is vital to all countries, and particularly to those who as yet do not have their own space means. This is why, as I conclude my brief statement, I should like to express my hope that the work in this area will progress at the same rate as scientific progress itself, so that principles and norms for the utilization of outer space will soon become universally-observed legal instruments. Thus, future generations will not have to confront new kinds of injustice whether of political, of economic and cultural nature.

In the laudable report of the Outer Space Committee, note is taken of the fact that the Committee decided that the Sub-Committee on Legal Affairs should pursue its work on questions related to the definition or the delimitation, or both, of outer space or of outer space activities.

Geostationary orbits are natural resources that happen to be located exclusively within the sovereignty of developing countries. This is why the Colombian proposal is of the greatest importance to third world countries. It is therefore urgent for the Sub-Committee on Juridical Affairs at its next session to consider with all due seriousness the statements which have been made frequently by the Republic of Colombia on geostationary orbit. This would not only meet a legitimate request but it would also make it possible to find a timely solution to a question that is a possible source of future conflict.

The delegation of Panama will vote in favour of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/31/L.1, except that we should like to propose that the phrase appearing in the final part of subparagraph (b) of paragraph 4 of the operative part of the draft resolution -- which reads: "In the remaining time available" -- be eliminated so that this matter may be given the priority it deserves.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Panama for his kind words addressed to the officers of this Committee.

Mr. ELIAV (Israel): Mr. Chairman, may I open my remarks by congratulating you as well as the other officers of the Committee on your unanimous election. We are sure that under your experienced guidance the deliberations of this Committee will be conducted in a constructive and positive manner. My delegation would like to express its appreciation for the very important work carried out last year by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its suborgans under the able direction of its distinguished chairman, Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria and with the co-operation of his colleagues, the results of which are before us in its report, document A/3120. Finally, my delegation would like to commend the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat for its valuable assistance to the Committee.

My delegation would like first to refer to the excellent work of the legal sub-committee in the highly important and complicated area of remote sensing and the measure of agreement which it has already reached and formalized in the nine principles referred to in its report on the work of its fifteenth session, document A/AC.105/171. However, there remain some problems and we understand in particular the difficulty to find common ground on the question of the consent for one State to conduct remote sensing of the territory of a second State and to make available the resulting information to third parties.

(Mr. Eliav, Israel)

This is a problem which is of particular interest to developing countries like my own and they would hope that a middle way could be found between the further advancement and utilization of space technology in this field and the natural concern and apprehensions of the countries concerned. As many delegations have already stressed, in any case each State should be ensured full and unlimited access to the relevant information and data concerning its territory and resources obtained by this technology. Thus, my delegation whole-heartedly supports the conclusion of the Committee that international co-operation would be required to ensure that benefit of remote sensing be shared by all countries for the widest possible dissemination of all available data. We fully share however, the view of the representative of Canada, that this has indeed become an urgent problem for all of us to tackle.

As to the question of direct television broadcasting by satellites, to which so many delegates have already referred, we are pleased to note that substantial progress has been achieved on this matter too by the Legal Sub-Committee which has again been able to formulate a number of principles to be applied in this field. However, as the distinguished delegate of Norway pointed out the other day: "The very core of the problem which remains to be solved is the relationship between the broadcasting State and the receiving State."

Israel has always supported the principle of freedom of information both at the national and international level, which of course relates also to this question of satellite television broadcasting. On the other hand, we do recognize the problems involved since this too is a very sensitive matter relating as it does to the cultural, social and even religious heritage of the countries affected. Again we believe that the balance can and should be established between the full unhampered exercise of the freedom of information across boundaries and continents and the need to establish universal standards and even regulations of scheduled broadcasting which would ensure that there were no undesirable side effects and that no new fields of international tension were created. On the other hand, international co-operation, or at least co-ordination, in this field could make a great contribution to the mutual awareness of different cultural values and open up great possibilities in the realm of mass education.

(Mr. Eliav, Israel)

There is a striking similarity between the two issues of remote sensing and satellite broadcasting which have been so prominent in our discussions. Both are major utilizations of the result of space research and both demonstrate the tremendous and ever-widening gap between the scientific, technological and economic potential of certain Powers and all other States of the globe. Hence, the challenge before us is how to reconcile this gap with the principle of the sovereign equality of all States, to which we are all pledged.

There is one aspect in the work of the Outer Space Committee, or rather of its Technical and Scientific Sub-Committee, which is of particular interest to my country. I refer to the initiative taken by the distinguished Chairman of the Committee and the delegation of Argentina on the subject of solar energy and its generation in outer space. We welcome this initiative which is of vital importance in view of the world's energy problem and which has been supported here by various delegations. We have noted too with satisfaction that draft resolution A/AC.131/L.1 which is before our Committee endorses the recommendation included in the report of the Outer Space Committee namely, that the Secretary-General request Member States to provide information on programmes or plans for the generation or transmission of solar energy by means of space technology. In our view the Outer Space Committee could become a catalyst for international co-operation on this matter which may yet become one of its most important practical achievements. We wonder whether the Committee could not ultimately broaden the scope of its activities on this subject and become a main factor in promoting international co-ordination, if not co-operation, both in the spheres of the research and of the utilization of solar energy. After all the sun in its entirety is part of outer space. And utilization of any solar energy is thus a peaceful use of outer space. Israel, which for its part is making a special effort to explore and harness this boundless source of energy, would be very happy to participate in any effort to establish international co-operation in this field which would be of particular significance to countries who like our own, and we hope only for the time being, lack other abundant sources of energy.

May I now take this opportunity to deal briefly with the activities of my country in the field of space research proper, which are conducted under the general direction of the national committee on space research, and which are set out in full in the report Israel submitted to the Secretary-General, document A/AC.105/167/Add.4.

(Mr. Eliav, Israel)

My delegation is doing this in a spirit of humility, knowing very well the very limited dimensions of our activities in this field. However, we think it might be of some interest to show once again that even small States like Israel can participate in the global effort concerning outer space. First, we are indeed happy to be connected in some small way with the subject of space flights. Thus, scientists from the University of Tel Aviv are conducting experiments concerned with ionospheric plasma properties and Earth resources related to manned space flights carried out by the United States. The findings of these experiments, which are conducted and carried out on the basis of an agreement with the United States Space Agency (NASA), are also available to scientists from other countries and they relate mainly to the field of geology, hydrology, agriculture and oceanography. Furthermore, rare gas analysis of moon samples brought to Earth by the members of the Apollo mission is being carried out by the same University for the study of solar winds and flares and cosmic rays. In yet another field, the Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa is carrying out research in the non-linear membrane theory which is applicable to certain structures in space vehicles. Our universities and research centres such as the Weizman Institute are active in the field of remote sensing, with particular emphasis on research regarding Earth resources, agriculture and the monitoring of surface pollution. We are also using atmospheric data measured by satellites for weather prediction, as well as for applied research in other fields. Some additional activities in the field of outer space conducted in Israel include a radio observatory in Haifa where the ionospheric total electron content is being monitored, utilizing signals from viewer stationary satellites; utilization of the Leidar system for the detection of the stratospheric aerosol layer centred at an altitude of 20 kilometres; and several research projects ranging from one on the correlation between earthquakes and the interplay of physical forces on the moon to one on the thrust control of solid propellant rockets.

Finally, the Israeli satellite Earth tracking station in the Judean Hills continues its operation which is now on a routine basis after an experimental period. This station maintains regular contacts with the Atlantic Ocean satellite Intelstat system.

(Mr. Eliav, Israel)

On the international scene Mr. Chairman, Israel participates fully in the activities of organizations, such as Intelstat, the Committee on Space Research and the International Federation of Astronautics. We are pleased that COSPAR is holding its twentieth international scientific meeting in Israel during the year 1977. A decision to this effect was unanimously adopted at the COSPAR plenary meeting in Kampala in July 1974 and reconfirmed at its plenary meeting in Varna, Bulgaria, in June 1975. Israel hopes that this meeting will make a noteworthy contribution to the advancement of space research. The International Federation of Astronautics has also decided in principle to hold its twenty-seventh congress in Israel in 1978.

(Mr. Eliav, Israel)

We should all be happy that international co-operation on the peaceful use of outer space is proceeding without major obstacles although some problems do exist. It is to be expected that the major efforts and achievements in this field should be made by the two Powers to whom I have referred and whose enormous scientific infrastructure and economic resources by far surpass the rest of the world. However, there is also a role for the smallest States, especially if they combine their efforts on a regional basis, as the achievements of the European Space Agency and other similar agencies or special projects to which many distinguished representatives referred have shown. It is thus only natural that the draft resolution which is before the Committee is sponsored by such a wide range of States hailing from all geographical groupings and that it enjoys a general measure of support to which we would gladly add our own.

It is with this situation in mind that we would like to express our full understanding and sympathy with the suggestion of the distinguished representative of Colombia supported by the distinguished representatives of Spain and Ecuador that the membership of the Outer Space Committee be expanded. Such a step would demonstrate the universal importance of the Committee and perhaps elicit some substantial contributions to its work, and it would also be in line with the ever-growing scale of the Committee's responsibilities. Finally, it would enable some additional smaller States which have been active in the field of space research to co-operate in a more direct way in the community of international effort thereby helping them to benefit more fully from its results.

May I add to this the hope that the atmosphere of cordiality, seriousness and practicability which has marked the deliberations of this Committee will indeed become a model for international conferences. Outer space research and activities, by their very nature, stress our global coherence and our human fraternity. According to the biblical story which might be called the first attempt at space research, the attempt to construct the Tower of Babel reaching into the sky failed because of the lack of international co-operation, so to speak, as the people concerned did not understand each other's language. Today we are all convinced that such co-operation is vital to achieve the maximum

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benefit for mankind. For the conquest of outer space, we should not be limited to spectacular exploits, exciting and stunning as they may be. Let us all do our very best to deepen and stimulate international solidarity to this end.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Israel for his very kind remarks addressed to the officers of the Committee.

Before we conclude the general debate, I should like to inform the Committee that the representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization would like to address this Committee. Even though it has not been customary for the specialized agencies to address the First Committee, I think it might be useful for the Committee to hear the statement of the representative of FAO. As there are no objections I now call on him to speak.

Mr. LAURENT (Food and Agriculture Organization) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for having called on me to speak and I likewise wish to thank the distinguished representatives, in particular those of Italy, Kenya and Sierra Leone who were good enough to have referred to the activities of FAO which were either generally conducted or executed in their countries.

Basing myself on the declarations made on the item under discussion, my delegation considers that a few additional comments relating to some of these activities and having to do with personnel training in the field of remote sensing of natural resources, those of the earth, might be of some merit. FAO has always given particular attention to the training of personnel. This is a point which was emphasized a short while ago by the representatives of Algeria and Kenya. This explains the large number of study sessions held in the past with its technical participation.

Among the countries which helped to promote these initial meetings we may note Ecuador, Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt and Indonesia, the latter four countries having served as headquarters for regional exchanges.

During the year 1975 the organization contributed to a number of courses offered with the assistance of the United Nations in the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Botswana and Swaziland and these are courses which

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were attended very largely by nationals of non-industrialized countries. Moreover, numerous technical meetings, which the FAO will be associated with, are scheduled for 1977 in Africa, in Asia and specifically in Pakistan and in Bolivia -- that is in South America -- in co-operation with the regional economic commissions, as will be realized on reading document A/C.1/31/L.2.

With the object of enabling the technicians, especially those from developing countries, to assimilate in the shortest possible time some of the practical aspects of this new technology of remote sensing, FAO established in 1975 a specialized laboratory centre at its headquarters, in Rome.

Paragraph 63 of document A/3120 indicates that this entity fulfils for the FAO the role of a focal point. It operates in close association with the technical divisions of the organization and thanks to the highly appreciated assistance from NASA, which is, at present the most important source of images and information.

A limited number of specialists attached to the centre provide the required services both at headquarters and in the field. There are some 40 national regional projects, whose execution is strictly tied into the continuous interpretation of the information obtained from foreign satellites. The facilities available at the centre, though modest, are adequate, the most important being an information system containing catalogues, maps and microphones, a laboratory for the analysis of images with appropriate equipment, a section for the teaching of interpretation and a library.

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The representative of Italy has already mentioned the importance for the international community of the experimental training course called for by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This course, which will be opened at FAO headquarters on 25 October and which will be closed on 12 November, will be the first of its kind to be organized by the United Nations and FAO, together with the Italian Government and with the assistance of United States and Soviet experts and of UNESCO, concerning the applications of remote sensing to agriculture. Taking into account the recent tragedy which befell the Sahelian region, the emphasis on this occasion will be placed upon crop practices and methods of inventorying crops and livestock within the context of arid and semi-arid regions of Africa. There will also be a discussion of techniques for interpreting photographs obtained from satellites and procedures applicable in developing countries to harvest expectations at the national and regional levels. In the same context, a second vocational training meeting will follow in April or May of next year. It will deal with a concrete subject of world-wide scope related to the increase of agricultural production.

This is perhaps an opportunity to note in harmony with the representatives of Canada and Nigeria, that the concentration of study and demonstration facilities at a remote sensing centre located at FAO headquarters will in no way minimize the attention to be given to grass-root training. The study sessions of limited duration in Botswana and Swaziland and those scheduled for November in Colombia illustrate this proposition. It could hardly be otherwise at a time when this approach, which reflects the growing interest in national conditions, where there are specific characteristics, is incorporated smoothly into the new guidelines recently applied to the work programme of the FAO. In fact, during 1976 the ratio between training activities conducted at headquarters and those carried out in the field will be 1 to 5.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, may I be permitted to recall that the FAO has had the pleasure and the honour of hosting the first meeting of the Sub-Committee of the ACC on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. On that occasion, the Deputy Director-General for the Department of Agriculture of FAO referred to the need for adequate co-ordination of the present and future programmes executed by the

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United Nations and its specialized agencies, with a view to ensuring the highest possible efficiency. I am pleased to indicate that within this same framework of interagency and interinstitution co-ordination, certain utilitarian projects of global or regional interest such as those relating to harvest forecasting and that relating to the anti-desert locust campaign have shown marked progress. This last activity, undertaken as a pilot project by the Remote Sensing Centre and the divisions of FAO concerned in co-operation with African teams of the Desert Locust Commission, has already evolved an appropriate methodology. It has also confirmed the recommended technique for the semi-operational phase which will take place in the course of the present year.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the observer for FAO for his statement. We have thus concluded the general debate on agenda items 31 and 32, relating to outer space. We shall now proceed to taking a decision on the draft resolution, but first I call on the representative of the United States of America.

Mr. HIRSCH (United States of America): My delegation has asked for this opportunity again to address the Committee for three purposes. First, we are very pleased to join 33 Member States of the Outer Space Committee and others in co-sponsoring the draft resolution which was circulated yesterday. We believe that the Outer Space Committee and its two Sub-Committees have made significant and important progress in the last year. The resolution before us gives due recognition to those achievements while at the same time charting the goals and objectives which should concern us in 1977. Second, we are pleased to endorse the amendment introduced by the Government of Romania, accepting the invitation of the Austrian Government to hold the June 1977 meeting of the Outer Space Committee in Vienna. My delegation wishes to make an additional observation on the resolution before us. The final version of paragraph 13, pertaining to the strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat, has been reformulated to omit direct reference to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3388 (XXX), which states that this should take place within current resources. The United States continues to believe that the strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division should take place as much as possible within existing budgetary resources.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the United States. I am sure that the Committee will take note of his remarks. I should like to announce that Ivory Coast has become a co-sponsor of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/31/L.1, as orally amended. I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. BANERJEE (Secretary of the First Committee): Before the Committee proceeds to vote, I should like to draw the attention of members to the documents (A/C.1/31/L.2 and Add.1) that have already been circulated with regard to the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/31/L.1. In addition, I should like also to draw the attention of the Committee to a matter raised by the oral amendment presented this afternoon by the representative of Romania. The Secretariat, under rule 153 of the rules of procedure, wishes to inform the Committee that it is understood that, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV), when a Member State invites a United Nations subsidiary body to hold its session at a venue other than that for which the session has been scheduled and budgeted for, such Member State will bear the difference in cost involved in the holding of that session.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Secretary of the Committee. The Committee will take note of his statement. A wish has been expressed by the co-sponsors of the draft resolution that, following the established practice, it should be adopted by consensus. If I hear no objections, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the resolution as contained in document A/C.1/31/L.1 and orally amended this afternoon by the representative of Romania by consensus.

The draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.1), as orally amended, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of the Soviet Union, who wishes to make a short statement.

Mr. FIRYUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have asked for the floor at this late hour in order to express the satisfaction of our delegation at the spirit of co-operation displayed in our Committee, as shown by the adoption by consensus of resolution A/C.1/31/L.1, as amended by the delegation of Romania, among the co-sponsors of which is the USSR. In this connexion, I am bound to express my profound gratitude and that of the Soviet delegation to all those delegations which in their statements have referred to the contribution of the Soviet people in the study and conquest of outer space for peaceful purposes and the development of extensive international co-operation in this sphere of such great importance for the whole of mankind. We wish particularly to thank those delegations which have spoken warmly of my fellow citizens, Soviet cosmonauts, and in particular, Aleksey Leonov and Valery Kubasov, who had the honour of being present at yesterday's meeting, and also for the opportunity given to Aleksey Leonov, to address the First Committee and extend his wishes for success in this noble task of the development of international co-operation in the study and conquest of outer space for peaceful purposes. The activities of Aleksey Leonov and his colleagues, cosmonauts and astronauts, is a clear example of the service to the cause of the co-operation between States in this important sphere of the development of modern science. By its progress, it contributes to the development of mankind as a whole.

The CHAIRMAN: We have thus concluded consideration of the first two items on this year's agenda of our Committee, covering international co-operation in outer space. The fact that we have managed to do so in a spirit of constructive and fruitful discussion augurs well for the successive stages of our work. I want to thank members of the Committee for both their valuable contribution to the debate and their participation in the process of resolution making, which so greatly facilitated the adoption of this important resolution by a welcome consensus. I trust that our further deliberations will indeed be imbued with the same spirit of co-operation and understanding.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.