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Held at Headquarters, New York,  
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Chairman:

Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS

(Argentina)

- International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space:  
report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /32/ (continued)
- 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 /33/ (continued)

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## AGENDA ITEMS 32 AND 33 (continued)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/9620; A/C.1/1047; A/C.1/L.678, L.679 and L.680)

Mr. BANYASZ (Hungary): Mr. Chairman, permit me to begin the first statement by my delegation by conveying my best wishes to you and to all the officers of the Committee on your election. I can assure you that my delegation in this Committee, as in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, is ready to co-operate in carrying out the tasks we have before us with a view to their success.

At last year's session I concluded my statement on the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with the remark that "the future begins today". Now I should like to proceed by stating that what we began yesterday is progressing in an ever-widening channel, with ever-increasing goodwill and readiness for co-operation. Having followed with great attention the Assembly's general debate that closed a few days ago, we are more and more firmly convinced that the process of détente taking place in the political atmosphere of our globe provides an assurance of co-operation in the upper atmosphere and in outer space, as well as in many other pressing tasks awaiting solution. This co-operation, the materialization of dreams of mankind that are decades and, I might say, centuries old, has produced an ever-growing number of obvious results. Having come to an understanding on a number of issues, we are now holding talks on how to make still more effective and more practical use of all those material and intellectual capabilities which our countries could devote to exploring the ways and means of the peaceful uses of outer space. The socialist countries and other peace-loving countries have on innumerable occasions given voice to the conviction that the guiding principle of such research can only be that our co-operation in outer space as a special zone of peace should contribute to the strengthening of the peace and security of peoples.

(Mr. Banyasz, Hungary)

Along the path we have travelled so far we have eliminated quite a few dangers. Let us bear in mind, for example, that at any given moment there are perhaps more artificial satellites drifting in outer space than airliners flying overhead, although no one has ever compiled statistics on the subject. Accordingly, we are pleased to welcome and support the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, which is the result of unremitting efforts. To quote the realistic words used by Mr. Jankowitsch, the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, that draft reflects "the optimum level of compromise that could be reached at the present stage of technology". I wish to say that I am among those who are of the firm opinion that the convention, upon the recommendation of our Committee, will be unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

The results that have been attained on the road towards taking possession of outer space since last year's session of the General Assembly are well reflected in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space -- speaking of which, we have to commend not only those responsible for the results therein enumerated but also the authors of the report itself. To verify that this statement is justified, we have only to look at the reality behind the report. I wish only to refer to the series of recent successful Soviet space projects and to the space walks of United States astronauts. We are all glad that, as a token of increasing co-operation and as a result of the agreements already concluded, Soviet and United States astronauts will in the near future set off on a joint space venture.

(Mr. Banyasz, Hungary)

I wish to point also to those results of research achieved within the framework of Intercosmos and other programmes -- projects carried out under the auspices of the United Nations, which, in addition to broadening man's knowledge of outer space, may well serve to make our everyday life richer and more rewarding and to promote our economic, technological and cultural progress.

Hungary is not a space Power, but of course we take an interest in the nationally and universally applicable uses of the results of space exploration for peaceful purposes. For this reason we have always done our best to participate in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, thus also in the work of the Committee and in the Working Group of the Legal Sub-Committee considering the question of a treaty relating to the Moon. Our delegation appreciates the efforts made to work out a draft treaty, and is confident that pending issues will in the near future be solved in a spirit of mutual understanding.

Being aware of and recognizing the efforts which went into the formulation of the balanced text which at present objectively reflects the constructive compromise arrived at over existing differences of opinion on certain matters, our delegation subscribes to the other draft resolution awaiting approval by our Committee, relating to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The draft in its present form is certainly suitable, if endorsed by the General Assembly, for setting the course of our common work in order that we might continue our efforts to settle unsolved questions. The constructive atmosphere of our General Assembly session, which serves to broaden international détente and co-operation, and which truly reflects the common will of the overwhelming majority of Member States, will provide a further guarantee for the eventual implementation of the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Hungary for the good wishes he was so good as to convey to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. ISA (Pakistan): Sir, my delegation takes great pleasure in extending to you its sincerest greetings on your unanimous election to the chairmanship of this pivotal Committee of the General Assembly. During the many years that you have been in the Organization, all have come to admire your abilities and qualities of leadership. We are confident that under your capable guidance the Committee will proceed with its work in the best manner. Our felicitations go also to the two Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur on their respective elections. I assure you and the other officers of the Committee of my delegation's full co-operation in the work of the Committee.

Last year, following the increase in the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Pakistan for the first time participated in the deliberations of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. It was indeed an instructive experience, which has enabled my country to play a role in the Committee's work in the field of outer space, the potential beneficial uses of space technology and the enormous problems to which it gives rise for the world. We have made an earnest effort to make a modest contribution to the work of the Committee and its subsidiary organs; we look forward to our increased participation in those bodies in the future.

In recent years great progress has been made in the scientific and legal aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space. The Outer Space Committee has indeed played a very useful role, not only in enhancing awareness of the peaceful potentials of outer space, but also in ensuring, step by step, that injuries which might flow from such activities are prevented or at least minimized. One may recall the Conventions already adopted in this regard, namely, the Outer Space Treaty of 1966, the 1967 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space and the Liability Convention of 1971. To this modest but impressive list of international legal instruments to regulate activities in outer space has now been added the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. Basing itself on the draft conventions submitted respectively by France in 1968 and Canada in 1972, which were later combined in a single draft convention, and the draft convention submitted by the United States

(Mr. Isa, Pakistan)

in 1973, the Outer Space Committee, through its Legal Sub-Committee and the latter's Working Group, has been able to formulate the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, submitted for approval at the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly. This draft convention is a necessary complement to the Liability Convention, and constitutes a valuable addition to the body of space law. Liability for injury from a space object can be correctly ascribed only if there is some system to determine the origin of the space objects. My delegation supports approval by the General Assembly of this draft convention; Pakistan is accordingly a co-sponsor of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.679.

The Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, in his statement to this Committee on 11 October, gave a resumé of the work carried out by the Outer Space Committee and its subsidiary organs during the last year. The information supplied by him was supplemented by the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee. I do not therefore think it necessary to recall those developments in my statement; I shall confine myself to giving my Government's views on the various aspects of the Committee's work.

Now that the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space has been completed, we support the view that the Legal Committee should at its next session give equally high priority to the consideration of the three outstanding items: that is, first, the draft treaty relating to the Moon; secondly, the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting; and, thirdly, the legal implications of surveying the earth's resources by remote sensing satellites.

We express the hope that the work done by the Legal Sub-Committee on the draft treaty relating to the Moon will be completed as soon as possible. The Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites has made a useful contribution in outlining draft basic principles; the Committee should have the flexibility to reconvene that Working Group whenever it deems it useful to do so.

(Mr. Isa, Pakistan)

With regard to the remote sensing of the earth by satellite, my delegation joins others in commending the useful work done by the Working Group concerned in assessing the current stage of development of remote sensing and in facilitating understanding of the potential benefits of this space application. In order fully to utilize the remote-sensing technique in the surveying of natural resources and the human environment and to use it for development purposes especially in developing countries, it is necessary that the next step should be taken with full knowledge of all the organizational, financial and legal implications involved in the various possible courses of action. We, therefore, support the various studies requested of the Secretary-General in this regard. We are conscious of the necessity and the importance of devising an international legal framework to regulate remote-sensing activities, but we feel that the organizational and legal aspects of remote sensing from space should be tackled side by side. In this regard, we take note of the draft basic articles of a treaty on remote sensing of natural resources by means of space technology presented by Argentina and Brazil during the present session of the General Assembly. My Government will no doubt give its full consideration to the proposal.

The United Nations space applications programme symbolizes United Nations efforts to spread the benefits of space technology to developing countries. The programme has indeed been useful to the developing countries in increasing their awareness of the beneficial uses of outer space through the holding of a series of seminars and panel discussions and the visits of the United Nations Expert to developing countries. We feel that the effectiveness of this programme should be increased, and that in view of the growing interest and demands of the developing countries, the programme should be expanded. In order that the expansion be responsive to the need and requirements of the developing countries, my delegation, along with others, had, in the Scientific and Technological Sub-Committee, submitted a questionnaire to be sent to all States. My delegation is confident that the report which the Secretary-General will prepare on the basis of replies received from States to the questionnaire would be helpful in assessing the areas where the programme needs to be expanded. In regard to the existing

(Mr. Isa, Pakistan)

programme, my delegation expresses its sincere thanks to the countries that acted as hosts to the various seminars and provided training facilities and fellowships and to those that have made similar offers for the future, and expresses its appreciation for the efforts of several United Nations agencies, particularly WMO, ITU, UNESCO, FAO, and of other United Nations bodies such as UNDP and UNEP, for their interest in and contributions to the development of space applications for the benefit of developing countries. We have observed that most of the UNDP funds allocated so far in the area of space applications are limited to a very few countries, as can be seen from the document A/AC.105/124. My delegation would like to emphasize the need for judicious distribution of financial support in the form of UNDP funds to developing countries. We hope that UNDP will make every effort to redress this imbalance.

Before concluding I would like to give my delegation's views on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.678.

We are in full agreement with the objectives of the draft resolution and with much of its substance. We recognize the value of United Nations assistance to the research projects in the field of space technology. We consider that co-operation between developing and developed countries and among developing countries themselves in this important and promising field can play a useful role in furthering the cause of the economic development of the latter. The fact remains, nevertheless, that the technology of space is an offshoot of the development of military research and missile technology. The possibility of peaceful research being utilized in the reverse direction cannot, therefore, be excluded. It is with this in view, and bearing in mind recent developments, that we should have liked to see in the draft particular stress laid on measures to prevent such an undesirable development. The whole idea of international co-operation in research would receive a set-back, if any of the space facilities which are under United Nations sponsorship were to be used, directly or indirectly, for military purposes. We regret that, even though this viewpoint is widely shared, our concern is not adequately reflected in the draft resolution. We would have liked to have seen a provision in the draft for a binding and unequivocal commitment by countries receiving United

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Nations assistance that they would never divert facilities developed with such assistance to other than peaceful uses. In the light of this, my delegation found itself unable to co-sponsor the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.678.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Pakistan for the very kind words which he was good enough to address to myself and to the other officers of the Committee.

I should like to announce that the delegation of the Soviet Union has had its name added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution appearing in document A/C.1/L.678.

Mr. RESHETNYAK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR is gratified to note that during the year which has elapsed since the present item 32 was considered at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, space exploration and the ever-expanding international co-operation in the field of the utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes are continuing to develop successfully. Among the achievements of the Soviet Union in this area, we may mention the launching into lunar orbit of the unmanned station Luna 22; the further implementation of the programme for launching manned spacecraft, namely, Soyuz 14 and Soyuz 15; the launching into orbit of the scientific station Salyut 3 and its successful rendezvous with the Soyuz 14 and Soyuz 15 spacecraft, and a number of other achievements. An example of deepening international co-operation in the exploration of outer space is the active preparation for the joint flight of the spacecraft Soyuz-Apollo which is planned for next year, and also the far-reaching programme of space investigation on the part of the socialist countries which is called Intercosmos. We should like to point out that the beneficial changes which have occurred in international relations and the continuing process of détente in international affairs are promoting further steps towards extending that sort of co-operation and give us reason to make very optimistic prognoses about future efforts in this area.

The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR would like to make a few brief comments on the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which is now before the First Committee.

(Mr. Reshetnyak, Ukrainian SSR)

The results of the work of the Outer Space Committee during the past year give us every reason generally to commend the efforts of that Committee and of its subsidiary bodies during 1974. An undoubted achievement of the Committee is the fact that it has concluded its work on the preparation and presentation for adoption by the General Assembly at its present session of a draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. The draft convention, upon which agreement has been reached taking into consideration and complying with the interests of a number of groups of countries, is an excellent compromise regarding the not particularly easy problem of registering space objects, and therefore our delegation is in favour of adopting the draft convention in the form in which it was adopted by the Legal Sub-Committee.

Unfortunately, practically no headway has been made in elaborating a draft treaty relating to the Moon. It has already been pointed out that the reason for this situation is the insufficiently realistic approach on the part of certain States to the solution of individual problems which really have a more general international legal character. In this connexion our delegation would like to stress the importance of the Soviet draft treaty relating to the Moon, which represented an excellent basis for the elaboration of a mutually acceptable text for such a treaty.

Regarding the question of the drafting of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, certain progress has been made. Although very little has been done, we can commend the Legal Sub-Committee for having started its work on a specific formulation of these principles. Our delegation considers that it is precisely the Legal Sub-Committee that should subsequently be directly involved in formulating principles to regulate the activities of States in utilizing satellites for direct television broadcasting, since the discussion of the political and legal problems connected with the exploitation of outer space are within the exclusive purview of the Legal Sub-Committee.

At the same time it should be borne in mind that the drafting of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting should serve, in accordance with resolution 2916 (XXVII), the purposes of concluding an international agreement or agreements. Our delegation would, once again, like to refer to the importance for success in this task of the Soviet draft convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, which was submitted, as the

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Committee knows, at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly. It is our belief that this draft may serve as an excellent basis for fruitful work by the Committee because, on the basis of the generally acknowledged norms of international law, it contains provisions that are aimed at further developing co-operation among States in the use of outer space in the service of peace, progress, the development of mutual understanding and the strengthening of friendly relations among States and peoples.

The cornerstone of the Soviet draft is the provision which states that direct television broadcasting can be of use to mankind only on the condition that it is based on observance of the principles of mutual respect, sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit. We think it is important to recall that it is inadmissible to use direct broadcasting from outer space in order to publicize ideas of war, militarism, nazism, national and racial hatred and enmity between peoples, as is precisely stipulated in the draft convention submitted by the Soviet Union.

The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR fully shares the view that the General Assembly should make an urgent appeal to all members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary organs, particularly the Legal Sub-Committee, to accelerate and to complete as soon as possible their work to reach a consensus on articles for a treaty relating to the Moon and draft principles governing the activities of States in the field of direct television broadcasting. We believe that, generally speaking, we should try to enhance the role of both sub-committees and make more dynamic the work they do on the more specific and direct consideration of questions involved in the utilization and exploitation of outer space, and I am referring here to the Legal Sub-Committee and to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

Quite rightly, many speakers have dwelt on various aspects of the problem of remote sensing of the earth from outer space. In studying the organizational and technical aspects of this very promising field of space endeavour, a great deal still has to be done by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, since that is the most authoritative body in that area. However, we should not overlook the importance of timely consideration of the extremely complex legal aspects of remote sensing of the earth. In this connexion, we should like to draw attention to the joint Soviet-French draft principles to govern the activities of States in the field of remote sensing using space technology, which might considerably facilitate the work of the Legal Sub-Committee.

(Mr. Reshetnyak, Ukrainian SSR)

In conclusion, Sir, my delegation, heeding your appeal and for procedural reasons, has refrained from making the traditional speech of welcome to you and to the officers of our Committee. However, since everyone who has spoken before us has addressed both to you and to the other officers of the Committee their warm congratulations on your election and their wishes for your success, since we whole-heartedly associate ourselves with those expressions and since we do not wish to remain in splendid isolation on this matter, we are very pleased to do likewise now.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic for his words of congratulation to the officers of the Committee. In fact, he was very much in order when he avoided the usual ritual of pronouncing his greetings, although he did in fact express them, and for that he deserves my thanks.

Mr. AL-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic):

Mr. Chairman, my delegation could not miss this opportunity to express to you its feelings of satisfaction and joy at your election to the chairmanship of this important Committee as well as the election of the representatives of Afghanistan and the German Democratic Republic to the vice-chairmanship and of the representative of Portugal as Rapporteur of the Committee. In congratulating you on your election to this important post we should like, through you, to welcome and to salute the peoples of Argentina, Afghanistan, the German Democratic Republic and Portugal.

The Syrian Arab Republic, as a developing country which aspires to sincere, fruitful and growing co-operation among the countries of the world for a better future for all, is following with great interest the activities of the United Nations in the field of outer space, and highly appreciates the sustained efforts that are being made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as by its sub-committees, in order to draw up international rules and regulations that will serve to bring about international co-operation in the utilization of outer space in the interests of mankind as a whole.

The encouraging results that have been achieved by the Legal Sub-Committee -- primarily that of the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space -- give us every reason to hope that the obstacles which continue to impede a number of achievements in this area -- particularly the elaboration of international regulations concerning the Moon, direct television broadcasting through artificial

(Mr. Al-Masri, Syrian Arab  
Republic)

satellites, and remote sensing -- will now be eliminated, thanks to our good intentions and sincere faith in the principles of international co-operation and friendly relations among peoples of the world.

(Mr. Al-Masri, Syrian Arab Republic)

The considerable technological progress that has been achieved in the field of outer space has opened up a new era in the history of mankind and made it possible for space technology to be placed at the service of all peoples and countries throughout the world for the consolidation of international peace and security. But the technological progress that has been so swiftly achieved in the space field should be accompanied by equal swiftness in the development of international law; for if technological progress in outer space is not accompanied by revision and elaboration of the international rules that govern in this area, there will be an increasing number of difficulties that will serve as impediments to achievement of the objectives we are seeking in the framework of constructive co-operation in space in the interests of mankind as a whole.

Development and codification of international law in relation to the activities of States in outer space, and commitment on the part of all countries to respect those rules, particularly those countries most advanced in technological progress, will help reduce the possibility of any misuse of outer space for purposes incompatible with those of international co-operation and not in accord with the sovereignty and security of States. This leads us to emphasize strongly that outer space must be used for peaceful purposes in the interests of all peoples of the world. This will certainly require the drafting of international legislation that is firm and categorical in forbidding nations from using outer space for non-peaceful purposes or for violating the sovereignty of States or threatening their security or their peace. The drafting of such legislation and the establishment of international bodies to supervise and control its application are the best guarantee for the protection of the security and territorial integrity of countries.

My country, like the other developing countries, attaches particular importance to natural resources, and it is for that reason that we would support any effort to carry on exploration for natural resources through the use of space technology, that is through the remote sensing of natural resources.

My country wishes to reaffirm the importance of the results that might be achieved in the cultural, social and scientific fields, within the context of international co-operation, through direct television broadcasting by artificial satellites, which we believe will make an effective contribution to reducing the

(Mr. Al-Masri, Syrian Arab Republic)

gap between the developed and the developing countries and assist in merging different cultures and furthering their development.

My country therefore believes that activities in these two fields should be subject to specific international rules which safeguard the right of the countries concerned by requiring prior consent on their part. Such prior consent would not in itself be, as some may think, an obstacle to the implementation of such rules; it would, rather, be an indispensable prerequisite for ensuring fruitful international co-operation on the basis of total respect for the rights of States and their sovereignty over their own countries.

Taking as our premise the principle that the international community is the owner of outer space and of everything that may be discovered therein in the way of natural resources, as in the case of the Moon, for example, it necessarily follows that there will have to be further development of the principle of participation in the regulation and use of such resources. We assign priority to the interests of the developing countries, and we therefore consider that one of the primary duties of the United Nations, on the one hand, and of the developed countries, on the other -- particularly those with highly developed space technologies -- is to assist the developing countries technologically and scientifically and to grant scholarships and fellowships to people from those countries so as to enable them to derive benefits from the practical applications of space technology to their own development.

Finally, I should like to point out that speedy and positive progress in the elaboration and realization of international rules to govern the various activities pursued by States in outer space, and a commitment by all countries to respect those rules, will demonstrate the seriousness of our work and of our faith in the principles of international co-operation and international law.

The delegation of my country, having learned of the draft resolutions that appear in two documents before us, documents A/C.1/L.678 and A/C.1/L.679, would like to have our name added to the list of the co-sponsors of these two drafts.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Syria for the very kind words he has addressed to the officers of the Committee and to their respective countries.



(The Chairman)

The Secretary of the Committee has taken note of the fact that the delegation of Syria wishes to add its name to those of the co-sponsors of the draft resolutions appearing in documents A/C.1/L.678 and A/C.1/L.679.

I also wish to announce that the delegation of Nicaragua has also added its name to those of the co-sponsors of both of these drafts.

Mr. YANGO (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, my delegation extends to you our sincere congratulations on your election to the post that will provide guidance and leadership to the work of our Committee during the current session of the General Assembly. Considering your notable experience and capability in the work of our Organization, we entertain no doubt at all that our work will be concluded fruitfully and meaningfully.

We also congratulate the other members of the Bureau, the two Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur, who will be helping and co-operating with you in the discharge of your responsibility.

(Mr. Yango, Philippines)

At the outset, we should like to commend the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the work it has accomplished in the past year under the worthy and able leadership of its Chairman, Ambassador Peter Jankowitsch. The past year has proved to be another milestone in the fruitful endeavours of the Outer Space Committee. We express our appreciation, in particular, to the Legal Sub-Committee and its Chairman, Ambassador Wyzner for the successful completion of the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. This draft convention is one more outstanding contribution of the Outer Space Committee to the development of international law for the peaceful uses of outer space. In our view, the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space is a necessary complement to previous agreements such as 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; and the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects. A mandatory system of registering objects launched into outer space is established under the draft convention not only at the national but also at the international level. Such registers are a source of vital and necessary information in the continuing efforts of mankind in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

It is true that the Legal Sub-Committee still has before it a number of unfinished matters such as the draft treaty relating to the Moon, the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting and the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space. These matters should be given high priority in future sessions and we feel confident that the Sub-Committee, through persistence and determination, will be able to achieve agreement in the same manner as it did by producing the text of the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space.

In this connexion, it may be said that the draft convention is perhaps not the best instrument for the purpose but, as a product of compromise, it is the best agreement that could be achieved under the circumstances.

(Mr. Yango, Philippines)

My delegation would support this draft convention for adoption by the General Assembly at this session and for eventual signature by Member States.

After reading the report of the Outer Space Committee, my delegation is gratified to note the increasing international co-operative activities in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space. These activities serve to enhance the possible contribution of space technology to the development of the developing countries. We commend the different panels, seminars, symposia and training workshops that took place last year, such as the regional panel on remote sensing of the earth by satellite, hosted by the Government of Argentina; the symposium on meteorological data organized and financed by the Government of France; the summer school on remote sensing for the benefit of Member States in Africa, held in Tarbes, also organized by France; and the panel meeting on satellite broadcasting systems for education held in March 1974, hosted by the Government of Japan. We also take note of the regional seminar workshop on remote sensing for the benefit of member States of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for West Asia, to be held under the auspices of the Government of Egypt; the inter-regional seminar on remote sensing applications for cartography, to be hosted by the Government of Brazil in November 1974; and the regional seminar on the applications of remote sensing, to be hosted by Indonesia during 1975. In this connexion, we must not fail to acknowledge the offers of fellowships for training in the area of practical applications of space technology, made by the Governments of Brazil, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

These efforts at international co-operation underlie the ever-growing interest in the application of space technology for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of mankind. It is in this context that my delegation also expresses great appreciation for the work accomplished this year by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee. Its Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites has devoted its attention to the potential use of remote sensing of the earth by satellites in the development programmes of all countries, especially of the developing countries. We hope that it will continue its work along these lines with a view to facilitating the spread of the benefits of this new technology to all countries.

(Mr. Yango, Philippines)

Another important step taken by the Sub-Committee was its discussion of the possibility of a second United Nations conference on the peaceful uses of outer space to be held possibly in 1978, a decade after the first Conference of this kind and 20 years after the initial consideration by the United Nations of the subject of the peaceful uses of outer space. We believe that the outstanding developments in space technology and their potential application for the benefit of all countries warrant the holding of another conference on the peaceful uses of outer space; to ensure a successful conference, however, initial steps should be taken at the earliest opportunity. We therefore support the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that the Secretary-General should obtain the views of Member States and submit a report thereon for the consideration of the Sub-Committee.

Allow me now to touch on the subject of a report taken up by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. In the report of the Sub-Committee on the work of its eleventh session in document A/AC.105/131, page 12, paragraph 48, appears the following:

"The Sub-Committee took note of the progress report submitted by WMO (A/AC.105/130) on its tropical cyclone project and welcomed the efforts made by WMO in this area, particularly within its three regional associations and it called upon WMO to continue and intensify its efforts towards discovering ways and means to mitigate the harmful effects of tropical storms and to remove or minimize their destructive potential, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 3182 (XXVIII). It looked forward to receiving further progress reports on this subject."

This matter is of vital and utmost interest to my country. It will be recalled that upon the initiative of my delegation the General Assembly, at its twenty-seventh session, adopted unanimously on 9 November 1972 resolution 2914 (XXVII), entitled "International Action for the Mitigation of the Harmful Effects of Storms". This resolution had its beginnings when President Marcos of the Philippines conceived the idea of enhancing international co-operation in mitigating the destructive effects of storms. Operative paragraph 4 of that resolution reads as follows:

(Mr. Yango, Philippines)

"Requests the World Meteorological Organization to pursue actively the implementation of its tropical cyclone project, continuing and intensifying its other related action programmes, including the World Weather Watch and, especially, the efforts being undertaken towards obtaining basic meteorological data and discovering ways and means to mitigate the harmful effects of tropical storms and to remove or minimize their destructive potential;"

Operative paragraph 5 of the same resolution reads as follows:

"Calls upon the Member States concerned to undertake or intensify research, as well as operational projects, towards this end and requests other Member States to contribute and assist in these projects;"

Last year in resolution 3182 (XXVIII), the General Assembly reiterated its request to the WMO as embodied in operative paragraph 4 of resolution 2914 (XXVII) and requested anew a report on the matter by the WMO.

It is therefore most heartening and encouraging to my delegation to have the report of WMO which, as I said, was considered by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. This Report is entitled "Progress Report (1973/74) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on its tropical cyclone project."

It goes without saying that the tropical cyclone, hurricane or typhoon is one of the most destructive forces of nature. Its destruction is visited upon well-defined geographical areas of the world and its devastation and harmful effects recur regularly year after year. My country suffers the havoc and the destruction of such tropical cyclones, big and small, on the average of about 20 times during each monsoon season. These periodical visits also occur in countries in the Caribbean and in the south-west Indian Ocean. Very recently, we were reminded again of these destructive visitations which occurred in Honduras, Bangladesh and the Philippines. Because of these disasters, incalculable damage to property was incurred. Thousands of lives were lost in the recent hurricane that devastated Honduras.

(Mr. Yango, Philippines)

In view of the gravity of these events, we strongly urge that the utmost efforts should be applied towards the objective of mitigating the harmful effects of tropical storms and removing or minimizing their destructive potential.

We are now reaping the benefits of the application of space technology in communications, and further progress is envisaged in this field. We are now beginning to understand the potential benefits that can be derived from the survey of earth resources using remote sensing techniques. There are apparent beneficial prospects in space processing and manufacturing, and certainly the development of technology in satellite meteorology is advancing.

The report of WMO indicates that a meeting of the regional association for the South-West Pacific, held in Manila in February 1974, considered urgent co-ordinated action in connexion with the mitigation of tropical cyclone damage. The association also decided that a technical conference could usefully be held later in 1974 for the benefit of members of the regional association for Asia and the South-West Pacific which should deal mainly with tropical cyclone modification, rain stimulation and monsoon moderation. These are efforts in which WMO is deeply concerned and involved; however, its report states that further progress in the tropical cyclone project will essentially depend on further support from countries outside the typhoon area.

My delegation cannot but emphasize and respect the assessment of WMO. In the spirit of operative paragraph 5 of resolution 2914 (XXVII), we renew our appeal to Member States concerned to undertake or intensify research, as well as operational projects, taking into account the advances in satellite meteorology and other technology that could mitigate the harmful effects of storms and remove or minimize their destructive potential. The hopes for deliverance from the harmful effects of perennial typhoons and hurricanes are rooted in continuing research and development of technology.

It is the fervent hope of my delegation that WMO will continue and intensify its endeavours further to promote its tropical cyclone project and that the countries outside the typhoon area which have the resources

(Mr. Yango, Philippines)

and technology for rendering assistance will give their unstinted support to this project.

My delegation reserves the right to speak again at an appropriate stage in our deliberations, if necessary, to address itself to the two draft resolutions which were introduced this morning by the representative of Austria.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank Ambassador Yango of the Philippines for the cordial congratulations that he was so kind to address to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil) (interpretation from Spanish): I am extremely grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the delegations present here for affording me an opportunity to make some brief comments on document A/C.1/1047, which was distributed yesterday in this Committee. It contains draft basic articles for a treaty on remote sensing of natural resources by means of space technology and is jointly submitted by the delegations of Argentina and Brazil.

In my statement in the general debate when I announced this new proposal for the establishment of a legal framework for remote sensing, I dwelt at length on the reasons and rationale that led us to submit it. I shall therefore not repeat our arguments but shall limit myself to describing and explaining -- on behalf of my delegation and that of Argentina, which has conferred on me the great honour of being its spokesman on this occasion too -- the main elements of our joint proposal. I shall therefore refer to the text contained in the document that I have mentioned.

The following basic considerations led to our proposal and are, accordingly, reflected in the preamble of the draft treaty submitted by us.

First, space technology and its application represent an effective way of promoting the global research of natural resources, with a view to remedying the growing scarcity of food and raw materials, taking into account that for every State the main economic assets are its human and natural resources.

(Mr. Frazao, Brazil)

Secondly, the new techniques of remote sensing are an effective stimulus for economic and social development and will allow for international co-operation in this field, taking particularly into account the needs and interests of the developing countries.

Thirdly, the use of the technology of remote sensing of natural resources will bring to light legal implications that require an immediate and equitable solution within the framework of a general treaty and agreements on mutual co-operation.

Fourthly, it is necessary to reaffirm in this connexion the principles contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions concerning the permanent sovereignty of peoples and nations over their own natural resources, in particular resolutions 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 and 2158 (XXI), making it clear that we desire to safeguard the exercise of this sovereign right of States.

Lastly, it is also necessary to refer to the over-all legal framework within which remote sensing activities are to be carried out.

I turn now to the operative part of the text. In article I we find the statement that remote sensing activities should be carried out in the interests of international co-operation and development, taking especially into consideration the interests and needs of the developing countries.

Article II reaffirms that remote sensing activities must be carried out in accordance with the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

Article III indicates the important role of remote sensing in preserving the environment and in preventing the exploitation of natural resources from causing the destruction of the environment.

(Mr. Frazao, Brazil)

Article IV reflects the elements that flow from the principles stated in the preamble and contained in the resolutions mentioned therein: principles which should guide the activities of remote sensing of natural resources: sovereign equality of States, good faith in fulfilling international commitments, as well as other principles of international law which lead to co-operation. In this connexion, it is fitting to reaffirm, with regard to the sovereign equality of States and the self-determination of peoples, not only the right to internal sovereignty and independence, but also the economic aspect namely, the legitimate exercise of exclusive sovereign rights over natural resources. I feel sure that all these principles are accepted by all States Members of this Organization.

Article V contains the element of consent in data gathering which, in our opinion, is of the utmost importance for the establishment of effective international co-operation in remote sensing. International remote sensing activities, in essence, imply an actual transfer of information, particularly with respect to natural resources. This transfer of information necessarily implies elements relating to the political and economic security of States in which the remote sensing activities are carried out. The permanent sovereignty of States over the natural resources of their territories and maritime areas under their jurisdiction obviously includes not only their right to control access to information about these resources, but also the right to control the dissemination of that information. A State in the exercise of its permanent sovereignty over its natural resources obviously has the right to use remote sensing to obtain a better knowledge of their location, size or nature or for any other reason. States which do not possess the necessary technology for these purposes can authorize satellites which belong to another State to engage in remote sensing of their territory and maritime areas. Without this express consent, however, no State should be allowed to benefit from its technological superiority in order to obtain access to information which it could not otherwise obtain.

(Mr. Frazao, Brazil)

Articles VI and VII follow on from article V and are therefore self explanatory. But may I draw the Committee's attention to the principle contained in article VII regarding the rights of States which are the subject of remote sensing to participate fully in those activities for which consent has been given, including the guarantee of technical assistance to be provided by the sensing State.

The principle of full access to all information and data resulting from remote sensing is also made explicit in article VIII.

Articles V to VIII refer to data collection and information from remote sensing. Articles IX and X, in turn, deal with the dissemination of these data. Our text merely gives general outlines for international co-operation in this field. But may I nevertheless emphasize the fundamental element of the express authorization of the State which is being sensed with regard to subsequent distribution of the information.

Article XI refers to the promotion of the transfer of space technology in remote sensing.

Article XII deals with the participation of all States in the remote sensing of natural resources of territorial and maritime areas outside national sovereignty or jurisdiction.

Article XIII refers to the international responsibility of States in respect of their national remote sensing activities, a principle which is laid down in article VI of the Treaty on Outer Space of 1967.

Article XIV indicates that the settlement of disputes must be sought within the framework of Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Articles XV and XVI, finally, deal with the relationship between this draft treaty and bilateral, international and regional agreements.

I hope that I have not abused the patience of members with these comments. My delegation, like the delegation of Argentina, wishes to express its gratitude for the early indications of interest shown in the general debate with regard to our joint text. We sincerely believe that this draft, which will be submitted to the Legal Sub-Committee at its next session, constitutes a good point of departure for the drafting of a legal framework for remote sensing, which is essential.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to thank the representative of Brazil for introducing the draft treaty contained in document A/C.1/1047, which was prepared by Brazil and Argentina.

Tomorrow we shall conclude the consideration of the two items on outer space. We have a large number of speakers for the morning and afternoon meetings. Although on the basis of the debate and the consultations that I have had, it is my impression that we may not need to have a formal vote on the draft resolutions, any delegation wishing to explain its position before or after the decision to be taken by the Committee will, of course, be permitted to do so. I would request delegations wishing to explain their position to give their names to the Secretariat.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.