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Held at Headquarters, New York,
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Chairman: Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina)
later: Mr. HEUGEBAUEP (German Democratic Republic)
(Vice-Chairman)
Rapporteur: Mr. da COSTA LOBO (Portugal)

- 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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(Mr. Osman, Egypt)

In welcoming the present co-operation between countries concerned with space experiments and hoping for further co-operation, we and other developing countries hope that all mankind will benefit from the results of this space research and these experiments. In this connexion, we cannot see any possibility of or any justification for a conflict of interests: at any rate, we cannot see how such a spirit could prevail in an interdependent world.

This is not the place to go into details concerning the benefits which should be enjoyed by all as a result of bridging the present technological gap between the advanced, developed world on the one hand and the developing world on the other. There is no longer any doubt concerning the role that should be played by the application of space experiments in the development field, or the desire of developing countries to benefit from this application in the solution of their development problems and their search for a better standard of living for their peoples.

In my country, for example, the authorities and bodies concerned have been able to achieve significant results in various fields by taking advantage of one application of space technology, namely, remote sensing.

The first step towards enabling developing countries to benefit from the application of space experiments and the results of space exploration is to provide them with a better knowledge of the possibility of so benefiting according to their needs and requirements in the various fields. In this respect, I should like to put on record our great appreciation of the task undertaken by the United Nations programme on space applications in helping developing countries to become acquainted with the possibility of benefiting from modern technology in that field. Egypt had the honour of playing host to one of the seminars held within the framework of that programme -- the UN/FAO Regional Seminar on Remote Sensing of Earth Resources and Environment, held in Cairo from 4 to 13 September 1974. The seminar was attended by 46 representatives of 25 African and Arab countries through the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for West Asia. The success of that seminar only increased

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our belief in the need to expand and intensify the programme so that it may fulfil its important role vis-à-vis the developing countries. The continuation of that programme and the fulfilment of its task is a matter of great concern to us and we call for the expansion of its scope and for financial support. We are supported in this appeal by various other countries, and we hope that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will consider all the possibilities, including that of establishing a fund for voluntary contributions to finance the programme in the case of any difficulty in financing it from the United Nations budget.

Regarding the work of the Legal Sub-Committee throughout last year, we should like first of all to express our appreciation of the great efforts made in past years to arrive at a compromise which would be acceptable to all the parties concerned on the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. While expressing our appreciation of the spirit of co-operation that made that draft possible, we should like to put on record here that we would have preferred that objects be numbered and marked on a compulsory basis, which would be in conformity with the fundamental objective of the draft convention, complementing the earlier Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects and the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space. We should like to put on record that our understanding of article X of the draft which has been arrived at is that all parties would collaborate in a spirit of good faith in reconsidering the marking and numbering of these objects and would make such a procedure compulsory in the course of a few years. We also hope that countries concerned with space experiments will increase their research work with a view to overcoming the technical obstacles that have given rise to the difficulty concerning compulsory registration of objects.

My country's delegation supports the priorities agreed upon concerning the examination and study of other items still before the Legal Sub-Committee. However, we hope that sufficient time will be allocated for consideration of a definition of outer space: such a definition would be of primary

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importance, since it would enable us to distinguish between air space, which is subject to State sovereignty in accordance with international law, and outer space, to which conventions and treaties concerning outer space should be applied.

We should also like to express the hope that the spirit of co-operation which exists among the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will continue so that compromise solutions may be arrived at on the draft treaty on the Moon, the draft principles governing direct television broadcasting by satellites, and the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space.

I wish also to express the determination of my delegation to do all it can in the future work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in a spirit of constructive co-operation, in contributing to the discharge of that Committee's responsibilities.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Egypt for the words of congratulation which he was kind enough to address to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. LOPEZ BASSOLS (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, since I do not wish to deprive the head of my delegation of the pleasure of extending congratulations to you, I will come at once to the substance of our present discussion.

The first results of the decision of the General Assembly at its last session to include a new group of States in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space are already clear. The discussion of the scientific and technical implications of one of the most outstanding achievements of human knowledge, requires the participation, in the proper forum, both of those States which can speed up their development with the aid of space applications and of those which can contribute and share in a long academic tradition and advanced technological development.

(Mr. Lopez Bassols, Mexico)

In the last decade we have seen the codification of international law regarding outer space which already includes three treaties: 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, Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects launched into Outer Space; and the Convention on International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects.

For the first time, legal science has pitched its camp before the onslaught of a technology, the existence of which it would have been difficult for even the most optimistic to have forecast a century ago. Thus, as a complement to the last instrument I mentioned, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is now submitting for consideration and adoption the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. The convention constitutes a new fragment of the corpus juris of outer space and is the result of prolonged negotiations which go back more than a decade. Our delegation supports the draft convention and we are most anxious to have it immediately adopted by the General Assembly.

It is with no intention of detracting from the merit of that document that we would like to make a comment or two. In the spirit of understanding which prevailed at the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee, we accepted the final draft, including article X, but we did not fail to recognize the advantages which would have arisen from a mandatory system of marking. That is because in a period of seven years, the international community has given proof of an evolution whereby, with political determination, this field of possible rivalries and ~~xxx~~ conflicts has been transformed into a sphere of peaceful and fruitful co-operation for the benefit of mankind.

We should now like to review other items of the report of the Committee and to express our deserved congratulations to the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Jankowitsch for his very successful work, as well as to the Chairmen of the Sub-Committees, Ambassador Wyzner and Mr. Carver.

Regrettably the Legal Sub-Committee was not able to complete the draft treaty relating to the Moon, which was the other item of the highest priority entrusted by the Committee to that Sub-Committee. As we understand it, the

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primary purpose of the treaty is to prevent any claim to sovereignty over or ownership of the natural resources of our satellite or of other celestial bodies, and we maintain that the Moon and its resources are the common heritage of mankind and that, therefore, all countries must participate in the exploitation of those resources and in the benefits to be derived from it, with particular attention to the needs of the developing countries.

In connexion with the drafting of the principles that are to govern the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, a draft text of five principles has been elaborated. We think that the Sub-Committee should speed up its work by eliminating many difficulties. It is necessary to work with caution to reconcile the principle of the sovereignty of States and the principle of freedom of information.

On the question of the remote sensing of the earth's resources by satellites, my delegation has already repeatedly stressed the urgency of setting up an appropriate legal framework. The fact that there is agreement on a series of governing principles does not exclude, but, on the contrary, encourages transition to a second organizational phase in which, on the basis of these principles, States may be able to reach specific agreements. What is needed is, first, a clear picture of the rights and duties of States which are passively or actively involved in remote sensing. This is why our delegation views with favour the draft treaty submitted by the delegations of Argentina and Brazil, which already has our support.

My delegation welcomes with natural interest the possibility of having a second United Nations conference on the peaceful uses of outer space. We think that it should provide a rich source of information on advances in the application of space technology, particularly for the developing countries, now when we are approaching the close of a century of remarkable achievements by some, which, on the other hand, have regrettably broadened the technological gap.

The delegation of Mexico has consistently contributed to the legal work of the Committee since it was established, and today we renew our willingness to co-operate by co-sponsoring the two draft resolutions on the item before us.

Mr. PLAJA (Italy): Mr. Chairman, I am addressing the First Committee for the first time at this session and I hope that you will forgive me for a slight infringement of the rules. Indeed, I would not like to miss this opportunity to congratulate the Committee on its wise choice in electing you, since I know, particularly because of the personal relations that I have had the pleasure of maintaining with you for so many years, how this choice has secured to the Committee the leadership of a most brilliant, influential and respected representative, which is the best guarantee of the successful accomplishment of our work.

After having listened with great interest to the thought-provoking considerations of the speakers who have preceded me, I wish to present some remarks of my delegation on both items 32 and 33 of our agenda, covered by the "omnibus resolution" in front of us and on the draft registration convention, which represent the successful result of many hours of painstaking debate in the Legal Sub-Committee and in the Outer Space Committee itself.

Allow me at this point to join many other colleagues who have complimented the distinguished Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, Ambassador Jankowitsch, and the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, Ambassador Wyzner, for their dedication and untiring efforts towards the achievement of working solutions for the many problems they were confronted with during this past year. Our appreciation goes, too, to Mr. Carver of Australia who has conducted with wisdom and skill the endeavours of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and to Ambassador Rydbeck who has been the standard bearer and the moving force behind the extremely useful work of the Working Group on satellite broadcasting.

(Mr. Plaja, Italy)

I wish, incidentally, to take this opportunity to express the gratitude of my delegation for the kind expressions of praise directed toward our colleague Mr. Fiorio for his chairmanship of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites.

Since Italy is a long-time member of the Outer Space Committee, I do not wish to take up the time of representatives by repeating here the comments made at the last session of that Committee on the various problems which the Committee and its subsidiary bodies dealt with in the past year; neither would I deem it appropriate at this time to illustrate the initiatives through which my country has made its contribution to the development of space technology on the national as well as on the international level.

Let me only announce with great pleasure another success of the programmes conducted by Italy in co-operation with other countries. These joint efforts have led to the orbiting of the British satellite UK5, the launching of which took place from the Italian equatorial base San Marco -- operated in co-operation with the Government of Kenya -- by means of an American Scout rocket.

This example of international co-operation leads me to acknowledge another great success of international co-operation and good will: the drafting of the convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. The agreement reached on its text has not been an easy one and, as is normal in such international negotiations, it is the result of several compromises which reflect the spirit of accommodation of many members who sacrificed their original positions in order to achieve general consensus.

The draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space represents another small step not only towards the completion of the new body of space laws we have been working for, but also towards a new "Magna Carta" of global laws and regulations which will be used and respected in the future for the determination of the conduct of international relations among the people of the world.

We support the draft convention and we firmly hope that the General Assembly will adopt it as proposed in the draft resolution that has been submitted for that purpose.

(Mr. Plaja, Italy)

Coming to the so-called "omnibus resolution", which has its direct origins in a recommendation and proposal elaborated by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies, my delegation, having participated in and having made its contribution to the work of those bodies, has sponsored it and therefore hopes that it will be adopted by the Committee.

Of course I am aware that some of the paragraphs may not command unanimous support, but on the whole I think that the draft reflects rather well what I shall define as the "sense of this Committee" and that the differences of opinions on some of the points are not of such a nature as to induce members to take positions against the draft resolution as a whole.

For its part, the Italian delegation is satisfied with the text which, it seems to me, covers the whole range of desirable activities and studies to be undertaken by the Committee and its subsidiary organs in the future. May I refer, in particular, to the request addressed to some United Nations agencies to keep the Outer Space Committee informed on the important subject of the geostationary orbit.

My delegation in fact has already, on more than one occasion, reminded the members of the Outer Space Committee of the concern with which they should ponder the question of the international utilization of the geostationary orbit: I wish now to reaffirm the necessity of proceeding as soon as possible to the definition of some rules or criteria, to be agreed to internationally, which may constitute a clear guideline for the equitable distribution of locations of satellites in the synchronous orbit.

This, I believe, will prevent, in time, international disputes arising and rivalry for positions in space which are not as unlimited as one may tend to think.

Everybody in this room is well aware of the many problems concerning economics, the environment, energy, social affairs and, simply, survival that face every country today. After an unjust attack on technological progress as the culprit of the ecological problems of the world, the majority of the people have recognized that the only hope for a better world to live in lies in the rapid application of technological innovations to serve the needs and requirements of mankind, including, of course, environmental protection.

(Mr. Plaja, Italy)

In many developed countries this new doctrine is taking a firm hold and the days of research conducted for the sake of pure knowledge itself are a thing of the past. More and more advanced technological developments are oriented towards the alleviation of the ills of our planet. The results are already promising and should be even more so in the future.

Of course advanced technology in the many instances almost synonymous with space technology and it is fitting and proper that the United Nations should devote its full attention to the practical uses which can be devised for space technology in the service of all Member States.

In this respect, remote sensing of the earth from space and direct television broadcasting from satellites, especially in the educational field, are promising powerful tools for the betterment of our lives -- and here I speak not only for the developing countries but for the developed ones as well. For that reason my delegation sees with satisfaction that the "omnibus resolution" contains several paragraphs dedicated to the future task of the Outer Space Committee in assessing all the implications of such new techniques, and in promoting them.

To those paragraphs my delegation wishes to attach, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, a philosophical consideration, namely that in the future debate on the complex issues related both to remote sensing and to broadcasting, the Outer Space Committee and its subsidiary bodies should try to minimize the difficulties created by the unavoidable existence of centuries-old national rules and rather lean towards the creation of new international principles of conduct which would achieve benefits for all.

With these concepts in mind my delegation wishes to echo some of the previous statements made by our colleagues with reference to the usefulness of the Working Groups on Direct Broadcast Satellites and on Remote Sensing, which have enormously facilitated the work of the Legal and of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. In this light, therefore, my delegation regards as a positive step the adoption of a flexible attitude on the reconvening of those Working Groups and also the possible creation of new ones, at any time when the complexity of the problems in front of us requires a more articulate approach for the contemporary

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evaluation of the scientific, legal, political and social aspects of those subjects. This, I feel, would particularly be in the interests of the developing countries for whose problems a more balanced and imaginative solution could be better found through a global and modern approach.

Bearing this in mind, I wish to commend our colleague from India, Mr. Vellodi -- well known to all of us for his many years of fruitful work carried out in the United Nations Secretariat -- for his initiative in devising a questionnaire for Member States designed to elicit ideas of States, especially the developing ones, about the possible need for assistance and advice in the use of space technology for the achievement of practical benefits in their respective countries.

My delegation shares the conviction that the response of Member States to the questionnaire -- and we sincerely hope that a response will be sent by all Members, small and large, developing and developed -- will be of fundamental importance for the United Nations next year in the shaping of a most efficient and meaningful programme in this field.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank Ambassador Jaipal of India for his kind congratulations to me and to the other officers of the Committee.*

* Mr. Neugebauer (German Democratic Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

Mr. GICHERO (Kenya): Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasant duty to congratulate you on your election wisely to guide the deliberations of the First Committee with the assistance of the two Vice Chairmen, Mr. Siddiq of Afghanistan and Mr. Neugebauer of the German Democratic Republic, and Mr. Costa Lobo of Portugal as the Rapporteur. Kenya would not normally have taken part in the acclamation that elected Portugal to the Bureau of the First Committee or, for that matter, to any other Committee, but we did so in appreciation of the decolonization policy of the new Portuguese Government. We note with great appreciation the confirmation of this new policy by the President of Portugal, His Excellency Mr. Francisco da Costa Gomes, only yesterday before the august body of the United Nations General Assembly.

Having said that, I should now like to come to the substantive topic of our Committee at this stage. It was only two years ago that the General Assembly chose my country, Kenya, to be the home of the United Nations Environment Programme secretariat. Hence, I need not dwell on the articulation of Kenya's concern about outer space as one of the remaining frontiers in man's quest for fully understanding and utilizing his environment. Consequently, Kenya is positively interested in space technology, and particularly in satellite communications, weather forecasting and mapping, and obviously in the dissemination of knowledge on space technology.

Our tribute goes to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for its very able and commendable work. We therefore strongly support the idea of assisting astronauts who are in difficulties. This is in the hope that our present world of inequalities will finally be based on international interdependence and co-operation so that any accomplishments by any State will benefit all humanity. Kenya is very committed to this realization.

Since the Convention on liability for damages has been finalized, we in Kenya consider the question of the return of objects launched into outer space to have more relevance to Kenya and all States at large. Kenya will therefore be a party to any rightful agreement regarding that question in the future. As a logical step in this direction, Kenya supports the United Nations in the application of space technology and in particular for the national development of each Member State. Of course, Kenya hopes as a

(Mr. Gichero, Kenya)

Member of this world body, that this would be for the realization of economic, social, educational and cultural development to bridge the existing gap between the developing and the developed world. It is in this hope that Kenya supports the United Nations decision to dispatch its experts to advise interested developing or developed countries on such application and, for that matter, strongly recommends that each country should give utmost consideration to the subject by contributing positively to the various seminars and meetings that will in future be convened under the auspices of the United Nations.

There is no reasonable doubt that if space technology is properly transferred to the national developments of member countries it will help all of them. This is why we believe that this new space venture should bridge the industrial gap between the developed and developing countries. As a result, Kenya would wish to appeal for the immediate implementation of resolution 3102 (XXVIII) on International Co-operation on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It is therefore our hope that all Member States will co-operate closely in this field.

Outer space has for long fascinated mankind. I should not like to expound on what has already been properly delved into by representatives to this Committee. However, I should like to observe that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, has not up to this time been signed by all countries. Notwithstanding this, Kenya strongly objects to the use of weapons in what amounts to mass destruction of outer space. We therefore without any reservations request that all Member States inform the Secretary-General, as well as the international community at large of the conduct and locations and also the results of their respective activities in outer space. This should be in the spirit of international co-operation in the exploration of outer space and the use of the results derived from the exploration for the benefit of all mankind both at present and in the future.

Kenya admires any explorations into outer space as long as the end result is designed to benefit the international community. We therefore hope that all

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information on the results of space experiments will be made available to both developed and developing countries. No one will doubt that the present achievements are a result of laborious aeronautical experiments. It is true that the benefits of space technology will be varied in the realm of satellite communications, television broadcasting, weather forecasting, navigation surveys of natural resources and also the remote sensing of the earth. Hence, it goes without saying that both developed and developing countries have a stake in this very important endeavour that should transform our planet.

With the above preliminary conclusion I should like to put on record again that Kenya supports the spirit of the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts, and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Member delegations will agree with me that the concern of most of us, representing both nuclear and non-nuclear States, is the damage which comprises loss of life, personal injury or other important aspects of health, damage to property of States or persons, natural or juridical, that fall on sovereign States or international intergovernmental organizations. We call upon the nuclear countries that are leading in the field to safeguard us regarding these problems. So far, it appears to us that this crucial point has been overlooked, mainly because if there is any damage -- and for that matter, I should like to refer to article IV of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects -- it is clearly stated that "If the damage has been caused to the third State on the surface of the earth or to aircraft in flight, their liability to the third State shall be absolute". (A/Res/2777 (XXVI) p. 25)

I should like to come to the end of my brief statement by placing on record the fact that Kenya is greatly interested in the use of satellites for long-distance communications. We are, therefore, fully committed to continue our participation in the International Telecommunications and Satellite Consortium which is intended to provide satellite communication with global coverage. As an outcome of the East African Community Authority held in Kampala in 1967, it was decided by our three East African States of Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya, that the earth station should be established on Mount Longonot in the Rift Valley part of Kenya. I am happy to confirm that this station, which started operating in 1970, continues to do so and it is hoped that in future, with increased facilities, more countries will benefit from this centre.

(Mr. Gichero, Kenya)

It is our hope that spacecrafts similar to applications technology satellites over the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans will finally be available in our part of the continent for collecting and transmitting the much needed information on the world we live in, as well as the neighbouring outer space.

In the space venture, it is our pleasure to put it on record that our continuing co-operation with Italy in the San Marco Project over the Indian Ocean has been very rewarding. We welcome other countries giving a helping hand in more extensive co-operation in understanding and interpreting outer space. In order to achieve that, we call upon the leading countries in the field of outer space not to set up any geostationary operational environment satellites that will interfere with any of the existing regional studies.

We need co-operation, and desire no rivalry, in this field. That is why I should like to conclude Kenya's contribution on this subject by observing that we very much appreciated the concern with the use of natural resources on the Moon in Argentina's draft agreement, and we similarly appreciate the attitude of both Canada and France with regard to the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space. We appreciate all concerted action in this undertaking, and we shall offer our unreserved assistance to all countries.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish especially to thank the representative of Kenya for the kind words he addressed to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. BAYANDOR (Iran): Mr. Chairman, allow me at the very start of this statement to extend to the Chairman of the First Committee, on behalf of my delegation, our warmest congratulations upon his election to that office. We are confident that under his wise and constructive leadership a fruitful outcome will attend our proceedings in the coming weeks.

My delegation also wishes to congratulate you, Sir, and Mr. Mir Abdul Wahab Siddiq, on your elections as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, as well as Mr. Antonio de Costa Lobo on his election as Rapporteur.

(Mr. Bayandor, Iran)

As we review the developments in the field of outer space exploration during this past year, we are once again aware of the significant activities that have highlighted man's attempt to push back ever further the frontiers of his knowledge in this field. We have been impressed by the accomplishments not only of the two major space Powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, but also by memorable strides taken in this field by some other countries as well.

In my own country, on a modest scale, the Government has, since 1969, taken effective measures towards the practical application of space technology for its development projects in the areas of communication, education, meteorology, geophysics and earth resources. We have sketched in elaborate detail a description of Iran's activities in these fields as part of the information which we gave to the Secretariat, which is to be found in document A/AC.105/123/Add.5. Consequently, I shall refrain from taking up the Committee's time by recapitulating what we have set down in our national report.

Nevertheless, I wish to state here once again that my country views with great satisfaction the advances made in the development of space science, and is fully convinced of the need for its ever wider application in solving some of the multifarious problems that confront us on this planet.

Permit me now to address myself to some of the items contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/9620). My delegation wishes to express its gratitude to the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, as well as to the Bureau and members of various subsidiary bodies, for the good work they were able to accomplish and the great effort they exerted to limit areas of disagreement on the more intractable issues. As a member of the Committee, my delegation has had the privilege of working with them and other members of the Committee in that worthwhile endeavour.

We are of one mind with those who believe that the unanimous approval given in the Committee to the draft convention on registration constitutes a significant contribution to the existing body of law in the field of outer space. The task of elaboration of the convention involved hard work and bargaining. The outcome is the best of what could have been achieved at the present time. It is, therefore, our sincere hope that the draft convention will receive the approval of the General Assembly.

(Mr. Bayandor, Iran)

Against the background of the success just cited, it is rather disappointing to note that it has not been possible to reconcile the outstanding differences of opinion that are still proving to be the major stumbling blocks in the way of achieving further progress on the treaty relating to the Moon.

As we all know, no agreement has been reached on some of the major issues, particularly with respect to the status of the natural resources of the Moon.

My delegation's views on the subject of the legal status of the natural resources of the Moon are well known and hence I need not expound them here at length. Suffice it to say that we have on previous occasions supported the view expressed by those who would consider such natural resources to be part of the common heritage of mankind.

My Government still holds the view that a good basis for arriving at a settlement of this issue is to be found in the formula which emerged from the deliberations of the so-called mini-group during the 1973 session of the Legal Sub-Committee. That formula was a package compromise on a cluster of issues related to the exploitation of the natural resources of the Moon. In spite of the impasse which later emerged and some of the new suggestions for dodging the central issue of natural resources, my delegation feels that any realistic attempt to conclude a Moon treaty must turn its focus once again to that formula.

On the subject of direct broadcast satellites, we perceive that divergent views on various issues, particularly on questions related to participation, prior consent and the technical problem of spill-over, still prevent the finalizing of agreed principles in this field.

Judging from the record, we find that during the debate in the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, as well as in the Legal Sub-Committee, the main points of contention seem to proceed from the difference of opinion between those who would champion the cause of freedom of information on the one hand, and the proponents of the principle of absolute State sovereignty, on the other.

In our view, there need be no such rigid dichotomy regarding these two principles, which are both of such vital importance for the orderly and civilized functioning of the international system. A conscious and concerted effort to find a conciliatory and balanced approach should in our opinion ensure that the solution of this problem will not elude the international community much longer.

(Mr. Bayandor, Iran)

Considering the immense benefits that can result from the application of this technology, especially in the field of education, we can only urge that expeditious and vigorous measures be taken to bring about an equitable solution which, while not compromising the need for the freedom of information, will also refrain from violating the principle of State sovereignty. In the case of remote sensing operations, it is by now crystal clear that if properly channelled, the available technology in this area can result in immense benefits to mankind. To date, its importance is most readily evident in the area of natural resources and of the environment. But an ever-expanding field of application also necessarily gives rise to various concerns related to legal implications.

(Mr. Bayandor, Iran)

Consequently, one of the more urgent tasks facing this Committee is to seize the initiative and provide suitable momentum in evolving equitable international principles that will govern the application of remote sensing technology in various fields. In our world of finite dimensions and shrinking resources, the importance of harnessing the uses of remote sensing technology to ease the burdens of the developing nations becomes vividly apparent. In the foreseeable future at least, the developing nations of the world will have to look to the industrialized countries which possess such advanced technology to help them realize the benefits in this area.

Taken together, the above aspects demonstrate the need for an equal emphasis on legal and organizational approaches to the question. Such a combined approach, while safeguarding the national sovereignties of the States concerned, will, however, not deter or delay efforts towards a more successful application and exploitation of this type of technology.

My country, for its part, has been involved in co-operative projects with the United States National Aeronautic and Space Agency, through which a full survey of Iran's natural resources has been conducted. An illustrative report of such a survey, compiled by the Plan and Budget Organization of Iran, was recently placed at the disposal of the Outer Space Division of the United Nations Secretariat under the title "Evaluation of the Utility of ERTS-1 Data for Mapping and Developing the Natural Resources of Iran".

In spite of the excellent and dedicated efforts last year on the part of members of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, we realize that a great deal more needs to be done to bridge the gap that now separates us from the final realization of our goals. And since the Working Group on Remote Sensing is not scheduled to meet in 1975, it means that efforts will have to be redoubled in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to bring to final consummation the very useful work that has already been accomplished.

While we await these positive developments with a sense of hopeful anticipation, we feel confident that, in the meantime, the proposed studies to be undertaken by the Secretary-General, as set out in paragraph 30 of the Outer Space Committee's report (A/9620), will greatly facilitate future progress in this area.

(Mr. Bayandor, Iran)

While still on this subject, I should like to note with interest the joint initiative of the delegations of Argentina and Brazil in submitting a draft "Treaty on Remote Sensing of Natural Resources by means of Space Technology" (A/C.1/1047). We hope that this document, together with other initiatives which might be forthcoming in this area, can provide guidelines towards a constructive approach to the problem.

Turning to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, my delegation takes pleasure in commending the excellent work done by Mr. Murthy, the United Nations Expert in charge of space applications. In view of the significance of the work being done in this area, we believe that the United Nations space applications programme should receive greater financial support in order that it might be more effective.

With respect to the suggestion contained in paragraph 44 of the report (A/9620) for the convening of a United Nations conference to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of space activities, my Government sees no difficulty in supporting this idea in principle. Such an event could, if appropriately structured, become instrumental in charting the proper course for the further channeling of assistance in this field to the developing nations.

However, we share the view that such a conference should not be held on the level of another academic exercise. It must be action oriented and must endeavour to provide practical answers to concrete problems rather than being made the forum merely for the review of existing problems in this area. The Iranian Government will soon communicate its detailed views on the subject of this conference, in response to the Secretary-General's letter of 3 August 1974.

As a co-sponsor of the two draft resolutions now before this Committee (A/C.1/L.678 and A/C.1/L.679), allow me to conclude my remarks by expressing the hope that they will command the unanimous support of the membership of this Organization.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Iran for his congratulations to the officers of the Committee.

We have thus concluded the list of speakers for this morning's meeting. However, Ambassador Yango of the Philippines has asked to speak in order to make some comments on one of the draft resolutions, and I call on him now.

Mr. YANGO (Philippines): I have asked to speak in order to make a suggestion for the consideration of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.678.

In the light of the general debate we have had so far, my delegation wishes to suggest the inclusion of another operative paragraph in the draft resolution. It would be inserted immediately after operative paragraph 27 and would read as follows:

"28. Reiterates its request to 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, and looks forward to its report thereon in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2914 (XXVII) and 3182 (XXVIII)".

The other paragraphs of the draft resolution would of course have to be renumbered accordingly.

The formulation I have suggested is based entirely on the wording of the similar operative paragraphs in resolutions 2914 (XXVII) and 3182 (XXVIII).

As I said in my statement yesterday, this matter is of the utmost -- indeed of vital -- concern to my country. Only this morning I learned that as I was speaking to this Committee yesterday Typhoon Terring, the sixteenth typhoon of the season in our area, was creating havoc in the Philippines with its high winds and strong rainfall. Young crops replanted after the devastation of the typhoon that hit the Philippines last August were again destroyed.

Because of those events, my delegation is urgently impelled to submit for the consideration of the co-sponsors its suggestion for the addition of the foregoing operative paragraph to the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.678.

Mr. CHRISTIANI (Austria): Since we have only just heard the suggestion of the representative of the Philippines, we have not, of course, been able to consult the other sponsors of the draft resolution as yet. Hence, I am speaking now only on behalf of the Austrian delegation.

Since this matter is of great importance to the Philippines delegation and since the proposed language is similar to that used in last year's resolution, I am very glad to support the suggestion for the insertion of the additional paragraph read out by the representative of the Philippines.

As I have already said, I cannot speak for the other sponsors of the draft resolution. Nevertheless, I hope -- indeed I trust -- that this suggestion will cause them no difficulties.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure that the suggestion made by the representative of the Philippines will be taken into account by the Committee during the further discussion of the draft resolutions before us.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.