



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



PROVISIONAL

A/C.1/PV.2048  
10 October 1975

ENGLISH

Thirtieth Session

FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND AND FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 10 October 1975, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. GHORRA (Lebanon)  
Rapporteur: Mr. ARTEGA-ACOSTA (Venezuela)

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

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75-71016/A

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 32 AND 33

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/10020)

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/10020)

The CHAIRMAN: We begin today the substantive part of the work of the First Committee by considering two items related to the activity of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, namely item 32 entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space" and item 33 entitled "Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting."

Our deliberations on these items will take place against a background of significant achievements in outer space technology. We all have in our minds the feat performed by the United States and the Soviet Union last July, when two space craft, one launched from each country, joined in space, and astronauts and cosmonauts performed that famous handshake which enhanced the hopes not only for co-operation in outer space, but also for greater détente here on earth among nations and further co-operation for the benefit of mankind. Such co-operation cannot but promote conditions of peace and security.

International public opinion, and even many of us here, sometimes underestimates the importance and the value of progress in the development of outer-space technology. I believe that it is always useful to remind ourselves of the progress already achieved in communication by means of artificial earth satellites, weather reporting and remote sensing. New vistas on the future are constantly being opened and exposed. Direct broadcasting cannot but promote better understanding among peoples of the world. Remote sensing will enable them further to improve their environment, unfold the riches of the earth and the seas and improve also their means of livelihood, such as agriculture. At a time when better means of ameliorating the conditions of life in the developing countries are being sought, outer space technology and its application will be major contributing factors in the process of their development.

(The Chairman)

We are indeed grateful to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees for the very useful work they have done. The achievements of the Committee have been reflected in its past reports to this Committee and testify to the excellent spirit of international co-operation in a political organ in which issues have been considered in the light of the benefit that the international community as a whole, regardless of the economic and political development of its members, could share rather than the difference of political views that would otherwise tend to keep them apart.

Before calling on the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, I should like to take up a matter of procedure for your consideration. In previous years the Committee considered these two items jointly on the understanding that those delegations that desired to do so could make separate statements on either item. In accordance with this practice, I take it that it is the wish of the Committee to follow this procedure on the same understanding. If I hear no objection, the Committee will proceed on that basis.

It was so decided.

I shall now call on the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, who will introduce the report of that Committee.

Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria), Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: Mr. Chairman, in presenting this year's report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to you and members of the Committee, I am, of course, most anxious to do so in strict compliance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in particular, rule 110. However, it would be most difficult for me to address this Committee for the first time under the leadership of my old and respected friend, Ambassador Edouard Ghorra without expressing at least a small measure of the immense satisfaction my delegation and I myself feel in seeing you, Sir, assuming this key role in the proceedings of this year's Assembly. We are very much looking forward to working under your guidance on the item now under discussion and further items before this Committee.

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Outer Space Committee)

Let me now present to the Committee the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its eighteenth session, which is contained in document A/10020.

As you know, the Committee's deliberations in the past year were based mainly, as in previous years, on the activities of its two subsidiary bodies: the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

To give you briefly an impression of its work, once again, the Legal Sub-Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3234 (XXIX), vigorously pursued its work on the draft treaty relating to the moon with a view to reconciling differences of opinion and finalizing a draft treaty.

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With this aim in mind, the Sub-Committee re-established its Working Group I with the mandate of giving priority to the question of the natural resources of the moon. This item was regarded by many delegations as the problem whose solution would facilitate agreement on the two remaining issues still outstanding: the scope of the treaty and the information to be furnished on missions to the moon. The best efforts of the Working Group on the issue of natural resources resulted in a redrafting of the text into articles X and X bis. As there was no consensus, unfortunately, the Committee recommended these two draft articles to Member States for thorough examination as a possible basis for achieving a solution of that issue.

Continuing its work on the question of the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting and with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2916 (XXVII) and 3234 (XXIX), Working Group II of the Legal Sub-Committee, re-established for that purpose, made further progress on drafting texts of principles on several new provisions in addition to continuing its work on the texts of five principles drafted at its 1974 session.

The Committee commends to the particular attention of Member States the complete set of principles, including those texts on which consensus has been reached and those alternative texts where consensus could not be reached, as reproduced in annex II of the Legal Sub-Committee's report (A/AC.105/147).

This was the first year that the Legal Sub-Committee has been able to begin detailed consideration of another most important item, namely the one relating to the legal implications of earth-resources surveying by remote sensing satellites as requested by General Assembly resolution 3234 (XXIX). The Committee was pleased that Working Group III, established by the Legal Sub-Committee for this purpose, was able to ascertain that certain common elements were to be found in the various draft international instruments submitted to it for consideration as well as in the views expressed by many Member States, as contained in paragraph 22 of the

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Committee's report. The Committee agreed that the Legal Sub-Committee at its fifteenth session should be requested to concern itself, as matters of high priority, with the following: first, the draft treaty relating to the moon; secondly, the elaboration of principles for governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct broadcasting, with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements; and thirdly, detailed legal consideration of remote sensing of the earth from space, with a view to identifying further common elements among the views of States as well as proceeding to the drafting of principles with regard to those particular areas of the subject where common elements in the views of States can be identified.

The Committee noted further that matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer-space activities had also been discussed by the Legal Sub-Committee at one of its meetings, which discussion resulted in a useful and interesting exchange of views. The Committee agreed that the Legal Sub-Committee at its fifteenth session next year should continue its work on matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer-space activities.

I will now turn briefly to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. The Committee noted that, with regard to the remote sensing of the earth from space, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, at its twelfth session, had considered in detail both the current pre-operational/experimental phase as well as a possible future global international operational remote sensing system or systems. The Sub-Committee's views on these matters are set out for Members' consideration in paragraphs 27 and 28 of its report (A/AC.105/150).

The Committee confirmed the view of its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee that further studies of organizational and financial matters relating to a remote sensing system or systems should progress together with consideration of the legal aspects of remote sensing. While taking into consideration the task of the Legal Sub-Committee and without prejudice to the fulfilment of these tasks, the Committee endorsed the recommendation

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of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee that the Secretariat be requested to prepare for the consideration of the Sub-Committee at its thirteenth session next year a number of studies in the area of remote sensing, as specified in paragraph 32 of the Committee's report, and endorsed the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that the Secretary-General be requested to undertake practical steps as outlined in paragraph 33 of the Committee's report.

The Committee also requested its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to consider possible scientific and technical criteria relevant to the definition, for the purpose of remote sensing, of the terms "natural resources of the earth" and "data on the natural resources of the earth acquired by means of remote sensing" and to transmit its findings in this regard to the Legal Sub-Committee at its next session.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the progress that had been made in the implementation of the United Nations programme on space applications, as set out in chapter II of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/150). The Committee endorsed the United Nations programme on space applications for 1976 as proposed to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee by the expert on space applications. Several representatives expressed the view that both the content and the scope of the United Nations programme should be expanded. The Committee took the view that any expansion of the United Nations programme on space applications should be based on careful and substantive assessment of the need for such expansion.

The Committee further endorsed the suggestion that the Secretary-General again draw the attention of Member States to the questionnaire of 19 August 1974 on the needs of developing countries for assistance in the practical applications of space technology in order to obtain a wider range of replies than heretofore. Such views could be of considerable importance when the Sub-Committee has before it the subject of future United Nations programmes on space applications.

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The Committee noted with appreciation that 12 Member States agreed to act as hosts for the panels/seminars/workshops or technical visits sponsored by the United Nations in the current year and in 1976, and in that respect it renewed its recommendations to Member States engaged in outer space programmes to receive such panels either on a regional or a wider basis, with a view to the widest possible spread of information and sharing of experience, especially for developing countries.

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The Committee further expressed its appreciation of the assistance provided by the specialized agencies in co-sponsoring or participating in various regional seminars and workshops in the area of space applications.

The Committee also expressed its appreciation of the offers of fellowships for training in areas of space applications and technology made by Member States and commended these fellowships to the attention of Member States, particularly the developing countries.

The Committee discussed the need for ensuring effective co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the areas of space applications, and agreed with the views of the Sub-Committee as set forth in paragraph 51 of its report. The Committee commented favourably on the need for ensuring better co-ordination between its two Sub-Committees, which would assist in increasing the effectiveness of progress in the areas under consideration by these Sub-Committees, and advised the Sub-Committees of its views, as described in paragraph 45 of its report.

Under the item of exchange of information, the Committee noted with appreciation the reports submitted by Member States on their national and co-operative space programmes, and agreed with the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee that these reports reflected a most encouraging trend towards expanding international co-operation, bilateral as well as multilateral, in the peaceful uses of outer space.

The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General submit a report to the Committee at its nineteenth session on ways and means by which the United Nations system might implement a full-scale programme of public information on the peaceful uses of outer space, particularly on those aspects of space applications that have special reference to the problems being faced by developing countries.

Among other matters considered by the Committee during this year was the question of granting United Nations sponsorship to international sounding-rocket launching facilities. The recommendation of the Committee in this connexion is contained in paragraph 50 of its report, in which it expresses its satisfaction with the work being carried out at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket-Launching Station, the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in India, and the

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CELPA Mar del Plata Rocket Launching Station in Argentina, relative to the uses of sounding-rocket facilities for international co-operation and training in the peaceful scientific exploration of outer space, and accordingly recommended that the General Assembly continue to grant sponsorships to these two ranges.

The Committee noted the views expressed by Member States regarding the idea of a United Nations conference dedicated to space matters, as well as those views concerning the possibility that space matters be included in the United Nations conference on science and technology proposed for the late 1970s. In the light of these views, the Committee recommended that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee devote a number of meetings during its thirteen session -- including possibly convening an informal working group during that session -- to considering the desirability of holding an international conference on space matters, and report on this subject to the Committee at its nineteenth session.

The Committee took note of the views of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee regarding its future role and work as expressed in paragraph 55 of the Sub-Committee's report (A/AC.105/150) and endorsed the recommended priority for the work programme as contained therein.

I hope that in the course of this brief introduction I have been able to outline for this Committee some of the more salient features of the work of the Outer Space Committee and its subsidiary bodies as reflected in the report which is now before you for your consideration.

In this connexion let me just draw your attention to the heavy burden of work which the Committee and its subsidiary bodies have placed upon the Committee's secretariat, the Outer Space Affairs Division. Each year the need for specialized studies, reports and surveys to be prepared by the secretariat becomes a little greater. In addition, the secretariat is asked to increase its activities in ensuring more effective inter-departmental and inter-agency co-ordination and is also requested to exercise initiative in practical experimentation that will assist the developing countries and their needs in the area of education.

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Outer Space Committee)

Dedicated and hard-working as this small secretariat is -- and it has proved this to the Committee time and again -- I know I speak for many members of the Committee when I say that we should consider ways and means of strengthening the Outer Space Affairs Division so that it can continue to serve the Committee in the future with the same high degree of excellence that it has shown in the past.

As I have said before, since its inception in 1962 the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies continues to increase considerably as the technology of outer space continues to present to the international community larger potentials for its utilization for the benefit of all of mankind.

It is in view of these important developments in many fields of outer space that a growing awareness of the potential of outer-space techniques is shown by Members of this Organization. I was gratified to note that during the debate in the General Assembly this year a number of speakers have begun to acknowledge the importance of outer-space techniques to economic and social development. Without referring to any one speech, I believe this is another sign of the encouragement which Members of the Organization as a whole wish to give to the work of this Committee. The international community has thus become more acutely aware of the immense usefulness and practicability of outer-space techniques. Bilateral and multilateral co-operation in outer space has increased many times, and with it the scope and range of outer-space programmes. Today, to the long roster of names of man-made satellites sent into outer space, which was once dominated by those sent out by the United States and the Soviet Union, there have been added many new and colourful names, such as Ariel, Anik, Aryabhata, Miranda, San Marco, Symphonie, Starlette, Taiyo, designed and executed by Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan and, most recently, India.

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Regional efforts by nations in many continents have culminated in the establishment of wider programmes of co-operation in space research. The list of nations that have made a substantial commitment to national regional and international programmes of space research now covers every geographical area of the world. The year 1976, I am sure will increase and continue this trend. I can assure the Committee that members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space look forward to another such year of fruitful work in the Committee, under the valuable guidance and support of the General Assembly.

I should not like to conclude these brief opening remarks without paying a special tribute to all the officers of the Outer Space Committee, especially its Vice-Chairman, Mr. Datcu of Romania, and its Rapporteur, Mr. Luiz Paulo Lindenberg Sette of Brazil. I also wish to include in this tribute the dedicated staff of the Outer Space Affairs Division, now under the able guidance of Dr. Lubos Perek, who joined the Secretariat this year as Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division. The Committee is indebted to all of them.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Mr. Jankowitsch, for the kind and friendly remarks he made about me. I am in the happy position that rule 110 does not apply to me and can, therefore, on behalf of the Committee and on my own behalf, extend to him our deepest appreciation of the excellent presentation of the report of his Committee. I am sure that his dedicated service to the work of his Committee, as well as the report that has been produced by that body and the statement we have just heard will provide sufficient stimulus for our deliberations and a good basis for our action. We are grateful to him, to the officers of the Outer Space Committee and to members of the Secretariat who have assisted the Committee for the very useful and excellent work that they have produced.

I now call on Mr. Rydbeck, representative of Sweden, who is the Chairman of Working Group II.

Mr. RYDBECK (Sweden): Mr. Chairman, since you have invoked rule 110 this should not perhaps be the occasion for me to break it since, as you have mentioned, I am the Chairman of a working group. But you will realize that I cannot refrain from telling you how happy we are to see you in the Chair and presenting my delegation's and my personal warm congratulations. They go also to the other officers of the Committee.

I also want to thank Ambassador Jankowitsch for the excellent and comprehensive report that he has just made on the work of the Outer Space Committee.

Peaceful applications of space technology can provide considerable benefits in the efforts of man to achieve social and economic development. The significance of this for the developing countries must be constantly taken into account. The role of the United Nations in promoting these benefits is extremely important.

Besides providing encouraging prospects for useful contributions, the rapid development of space applications may also give States reasons for concern in various respects. The role of the United Nations in taking positive action to allay any such fears is equally important.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

The solutions, which must inevitably strike a balance between the two, will no doubt have to include considerable elements of international co-operation. The calls for increased international co-operation on outer space made last July by American astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts thus deserve our full endorsement. The spectacular link-up of the Apollo and Soyuz space capsules certainly deserves our congratulations at the same time.

The question of a new world economic order has been foremost in the minds of delegations, not least recently during the hectic few weeks of the seventh special session of the General Assembly. Among the things that became evident in the discussions at that session were the difficulties inherent in bringing about fundamental changes in established economic systems. I mention this because similar difficulties would not seem to confront the questions of outer space as dealt with by the United Nations. Ideally at least, matters of outer space with their futuristic character would not imply the necessity to replace any previous international order. Instead, it is our responsibility to look into the future and to create the basis for a lasting and truly just world order in this expanding field of human endeavour. The virtual absence of established facts accomplis does not, however, necessarily mean that it is an easy task to arrive at generally acceptable settlements of the important international political questions raised by various applications of outer-space technology. The patient efforts being deployed year after year to this end by the United Nations Outer Space Committee and its subsidiary organs are proof in themselves of the importance and the difficulties of the issues involved.

Sweden is a member of the Outer Space Committee. Since its inception more than 15 years ago we have actively sought to identify fields deserving priority attention by the Committee. We have also continually presented our views about the nature and content of arrangements that in each case would serve the legitimate interests of States. Our efforts to bring about a just international order in the field of outer space will continue.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

One of the priority subjects being dealt with by the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerns direct television broadcasting by means of satellites. Through the promising technology in this field individual home television sets will be able to receive broadcasts directly from satellites. One important implication of this will be that virtually for the first time television programmes emanating from one country may be widely received in another without passing through the ground transmitting and relay network of the latter.

For many years now the Outer Space Committee has been dealing with the question of international rules to govern direct television broadcasting by means of satellites. The Working Group set up especially to deal with this issue, of which I have the honour of being the Chairman, has met for five sessions up to now. For the past two years the Legal Sub-Committee has addressed itself to the direct broadcasting issue in detail. A number of early difficulties have been overcome. By way of example, there no longer seems to remain any question as to whether or not there should be international governing principles.

Some important differences still remain, however, and they involve the substance of the rules to be adopted. One of these vital questions concerns the relationship between broadcasting States and receiving States. Sweden, which in this field works in long-standing and most rewarding co-operation with Canada, belongs to the majority of States which believe that this new means of broadcasting should be utilized only in a genuinely co-operative manner. In other words, we wish to avoid potentially harmful unilateralism.

Our interest in this regard is manifested in the draft principles submitted by Canada and Sweden jointly. In our proposals we envisage an important element of direct participation by receiving States in broadcasting which involves coverage of their territory. In the event that the co-operation and participation thus advocated by us as the essential elements should fail, additional rules, thus basically of a safeguard character, seem necessary.



(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

In their draft principles Canada and Sweden envisage the right of States, if necessary, not to receive direct television broadcasts from other States intended for audiences in the territories within their jurisdiction. Explicit provisions to this effect would confirm the sovereign right of States to regulate their communications systems.

A continuation of the excellent and constructive negotiating atmosphere that actually characterized the drafting efforts on this item earlier this year in the Legal Sub-Committee and the genuine political will of all participating States to pursue conclusive negotiations would provide the vital prerequisites for further real progress in the work that still lies ahead. We sincerely hope that these requirements will be fulfilled and that an agreed set of principles on direct television broadcasting may be submitted to the General Assembly at its next session.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

In this context, I also wish to recall the direct relationship between, on the one hand, our efforts here in the United Nations on the direct broadcasting item and, on the other hand, the work of the World Administrative Radio Conference for the Planning of the Broadcasting Satellite Service, to be held early in 1977 under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The fact that the current efforts on direct broadcasting in the Outer Space Committee might appear to be primarily in the field of international law and that the responsibilities of ITU are mainly in the technical field must not detract from the basically international political core of the problems confronting us in this field. The ultimate responsibility of the General Assembly in this field should thus be quite clear.

Remote sensing from space offers most promising possibilities in the vital struggle of mankind to improve social and economic conditions. The viability and effectiveness of this peaceful application of space technology is already being proved in current experimental programmes. The potential benefits, which seem to be particularly great for the developing countries, may be found in a number of fields of practical application. Agriculture, forestry, mapping, hydrology and environmental monitoring are but a few examples.

The important task of the Outer Space Committee in the field of remote sensing is, in our view, at least two-fold. One important consideration is to ensure that the benefits of remote sensing are available to States and that the access of States to space-derived remote sensing data of the earth will be on just and equitable terms. The other main task involves the concerns of States regarding aspects of their national sovereignty. More specifically, it is felt that some safeguards against possible international abuse of remote sensing data might be called for.

Currently, the item is being studied in detail by both the Legal and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committees of the Outer Space Committee. These main questions are equally topical in both forums.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

The interest of the Swedish delegation is very great in the challenging and urgent search for adequate answers to these questions. In our opinion, it is quite clear that future operational remote sensing activities must be conducted in a manner respecting the legitimate interests and concerns of States. In order to ensure that this is the case, a generally agreeable international régime for these activities must be found. Responsibility for finding such a régime rests with the United Nations.

Any such régime must strike a balance between, on the one hand, the interest of States in access to data covering their own territories on just terms, and, on the other hand, the concern over possible abuse of such data by other States.

Sweden is of the view that agreed forms of international management of remote sensing activities would go a long way to solving the problems raised. If there could be agreement that all future operational remote sensing satellites should be internationally owned and operated, States would have the assurance of data availability. Through their participation in the management of the system, they would also have less reason for concern about their sovereignty as far as the sensing is concerned. Both of these points would seem to be of particular interest to the developing countries. In addition, and equally important, agreements that the data-handling procedures, taking place on the ground should be conducted under the direct control of the States and regions actually covered by the data could further provide quite substantial additional advantages. Those advantages would thus also be gained in a manner that clearly respects the interests of States regarding access to data covering their own territories.

The ideas that I have just described combine considerations of interests, of economics and national planning, of international law and of the technical realities involved. What I have said concerns organizational decisions that would be useful and should be taken. In the Swedish view, some agreed principles of international law might also have an important role in the field of remote sensing.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

The Swedish delegation finds that there is good reason to be satisfied with the work that has been carried out on the remote sensing item during the past year. We welcome the fact that on the issue of remote sensing the reports of both Sub-Committees include common elements of view, and preliminary conclusions and recommendations. These are encouraging factors for the important and urgent efforts that lie ahead. It is also most valuable that agreement has been reached on the mandate for the continued detailed consideration that should be given to this item by the Legal Sub-Committee. The task of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee -- *inter alia*, to formulate specific outlines for international management in this field -- will be facilitated by a number of important studies that are being requested of the Secretariat. The interrelationship between the work of the two Sub-Committees must not be lost sight of. Decisive action is necessary in their combined efforts in this field, if we wish to determine in a responsible fashion the future operational applications of remote sensing from space. Otherwise, we run the risk of being faced with the rather less attractive alternative of man's being compelled to follow in the wake of rapidly developing technology.

In this statement by my delegation I have addressed myself to some important aspects of two of the priority items dealt with by the United Nations Outer Space Committee. This selection reflects the great interest my delegation takes in questions relating to direct broadcasting by satellites and remote sensing from space. It also reflects the relevance of these questions to the First Committee by their obvious international political implications. This does not imply, however, any lack of interest on the part of the Swedish delegation in the other fields dealt with by the Outer Space Committee: our active participation in the detailed deliberations of the Outer Space Committee and its suborgans speaks for itself in this regard.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Sweden for the kind words he addressed to me and to the other officers of the Committee.

I have no further names on the list of speakers. Before adjourning the meeting, I wish to make the following announcements. I have just received a communication from the General Assembly to the effect that Papua New Guinea has been admitted a Member of the United Nations. This addition to its membership makes the United Nations stronger. I shall refrain from making my welcoming statement to the new State of Papua New Guinea until it has representation in the Committee at a future meeting.

I should like to inform the Committee that Liberia has become a sponsor of the draft resolution in documents A/C.1/L.707, on the conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, and of that contained in document A/C.1/L.711 on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and of new systems of such weapons -- both of which were introduced by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

We shall not be holding a meeting this afternoon owing to the lack of speakers. As I mentioned before, I do not like to be in the position of having to cancel meetings for this reason. There are six names on the list of speakers for Monday morning's meeting, but there are so far only two names inscribed for the afternoon meeting. I should like to appeal to representatives to inscribe their names to speak at Monday afternoon's meeting, and I hope that some of them may be able to do that before leaving this meeting.

I intend to close the list of speakers for the two items that are before the Committee on Monday afternoon.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.