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FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND AND FIFTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 14 October 1975, at 10.30 a.m.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. MIKANAGU (Vice-Chairman)	(Burundi)
<u>later:</u>	Mr. GHORRA	(Lebanon)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. ARTEAGA ACOSTA	(Venezuela)

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

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 (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)

Mr. BRUCE (Canada): Since this is the first occasion on which my delegation is speaking in this Committee at this session, may I join with other delegations in breaking our rules of procedure to convey to you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and to the other officers of the Committee, our warmest congratulations on your election. You have a very difficult and complex job in front of you. I can assure you that my delegation will do everything possible to assist you in your work.

This is the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations and the eighteenth year since issues relating to outer space first appeared on the agenda of the General Assembly. The preoccupations of all Member States of this Organization continue to be with the quest for peace and co-operation among the peoples of the world, and perhaps more particularly this year, with the urgent need for more rapid global economic and social development.

In both of these quests, the peaceful uses of space technology have a real and increasingly important role to play. The application of space technology in areas such as remote sensing, communications, and direct television broadcasting, has demonstrated its almost unlimited potential in such fields as education, the management of the environment, agriculture, the development of resources, navigation, meteorology, general economic development planning and, of course, regular telecommunications among nations and their peoples.

Outer space has become a major example of successful international co-operation which has led to tangible mutual benefits for peoples of many nations. Perhaps the most important single expression of this co-operation was

(Mr. Bruce, Canada)

the Apollo-Soyuz space flight in July of this year. My delegation wishes to join other delegations in congratulating the United States and the Soviet Union for that impressive venture. Representatives of my country were privileged to watch the launching of the Apollo from Cape Canaveral and to follow the flight on television. Earlier we had seen the launching of Soyuz brought to us by television from the Soviet Union. May I digress to say that members of the Outer Space Committee have reason to be particularly grateful to NASA for inviting them to attend the launching at Cape Canaveral. Such achievements fully reflect the intent of the other space treaty which States that "in the exploration and use of outer space ... States ... shall be guided by the principle of co-operation". The Apollo-Soyuz venture is an important and welcome achievement in carrying forward co-operative programmes in outer space.

While Canada has not been directly involved in such impressive experiments, we have proceeded with our own space programme designed to meet our domestic needs and to contribute to bilateral, regional and multilateral programmes for the peaceful uses of space. Let me mention a few examples which may be of interest to other delegations. Last May our third geostationary telecommunications satellite, ANIK III, was launched into space. It provides additional capacity for telecommunications traffic in densely populated areas as well as with remote regions of our Northern and Arctic regions and our more distant communities in other parts of our country. The provision of telephone, television and radio services to an increasing number of isolated towns and villages is a new and important use of domestic satellite systems. We think and hope that our experience may be of some use and interest to other countries facing similar development problems.

In order to meet our anticipated demand for more and better communications in the future, Canada has also built a new, high-powered experimental satellite, the communications technology satellite, which is to be launched early next year. It is doing so in co-operation with the United States and in association with the European Space Agency. This satellite, one of the first generation of direct broadcast satellites, will permit the use of small transportable earth stations for the reception of television, and will enable us to provide high quality

(Mr. Bruce, Canada)

two-way communications with the most remote corners of our nation. In addition to testing the advanced technology that will be required for broadcasting satellites of the future, our communications technology satellite will also be used by a number of Canadian universities, educational institutions, private organizations and by federal and provincial government departments and agencies, to investigate the applications of satellite communications in such fields as health and medical care and educational and cultural exchanges. I mention these developments as practical applications of our present-day space technology.

Turning to other fields, Canada is participating in an experimental aeronautical satellite programme together with the United States and Western Europe which, we hope, will be of benefit not only to the participating countries but also, we think, to many other countries. This AEROSAT programme, as it is called, is a co-operative venture designed to improve aeronautical communications. In addition to this project Canada, together with many other Governments, is also taking an active part in negotiations under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) aimed at establishing an international maritime satellite system, designed to improve and expand communications on the oceans of the world and especially in the increasingly congested major shipping routes.

(Mr. Bruce, Canada)

In February of this year Canada signed the Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, and in the same month became a party to the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts and the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects. It is perhaps worth mentioning that in acceding to the liability Convention Canada made a declaration, as provided for in resolution 2777 (XXVI), that it will recognize as binding in relation to other States accepting the same obligation the decision of a claims commission concerning any dispute to which Canada may become a party under the terms of the Convention. Canada is now a party to all four instruments of general international space law.

I should now like to make a few comments about the report of the Outer Space Committee and its two Sub-Committees, and about the important work which is on their agenda in 1976.

Before doing so, however, I would take this occasion to convey, on behalf of my delegation, our deep gratitude to Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee; Mr. Carver of Australia, the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee; and Mr. Wyzner of Poland, the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, for the very valuable contribution they have made in helping those bodies to carry forward our work.

In assessing the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees in 1975, Canada has been particularly pleased at the co-operative and productive manner in which the members have tackled the task of elaborating principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. My delegation is very encouraged by the positive way in which the debate proceeded at the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee. In our view, it has achieved considerable progress in responding to the mandate given to it by the General Assembly in resolution 2916 (XXVII).

(Mr. Bruce, Canada)

While recognizing those important achievements, we are well aware that our differences are not resolved and that a final draft declaration of principles on direct broadcast satellites is, unfortunately, not within our immediate reach. We should not, however, let this lack of agreement discourage us. Indeed, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to repeat the sense of urgency which we feel, and we appeal to members of this Committee to join in working toward a consensus on the fundamental issues which still separate us.

In that connexion I should like to remind members of this Committee that Sweden and Canada have worked closely together over the years in our common effort to assist the Committee in carrying forward its work programme. I can assure the Chairman and the members of the Committee that my Government looks forward to continuing this close, friendly and constructive co-operation with Sweden in our further efforts to assist the Outer Space Committee in arriving at effective and generally acceptable solutions in our work on a declaration of principles on direct broadcast satellites.

We should like to draw the attention of this Committee to a special conference which the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will be holding in 1977 and which is relevant to the Outer Space Committee's work on direct broadcast satellites. I refer to the January 1977 world administrative radio conference for the planning of the broadcasting satellite service. From that ITU conference there will emerge agreements on the future development of broadcasting satellite systems throughout the world and on the technical and administrative procedures which are to be followed to establish such systems. It is important that the ITU conference take into account the deliberations of the Outer Space Committee on direct broadcast satellites as, in our view, it is the responsibility of the United Nations General Assembly to establish the political framework within which the technical discussions in ITU should proceed. For that reason we are pleased to note that the draft resolution which was introduced by Ambassador Jankowitsch and which Canada is co-sponsoring makes a reference to that conference.

(Mr. Bruce, Canada)

Canada retains a deep interest also in the continuing international consideration of matters related to the remote sensing of the earth from satellites. We believe that this is an area deserving the urgent attention of both the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. We are pleased that some progress is being made toward arriving at common agreement, particularly on the necessity of working toward the maximization of benefits for all countries through co-operation and participation in international, and particularly regional, programmes.

But my delegation is somewhat concerned that there may be a danger of inhibiting the maximum development and application of this technology through the over-hasty formulation of restrictive legal norms which do not sufficiently take into account the scientific and technical realities and possibilities of remote sensing technology. In the opinion of the Canadian delegation, it would be a great pity if in attempting to develop an international system, or régime, for remote sensing we became so intent on restricting the technology through legal principles in order to protect perceived national interests that we failed to appreciate and exploit fully its benefits.

Certainly there has been ample evidence in the ongoing United States LANDSAT programme -- in which Canada and other countries are particularly privileged to share -- that this technology is proving its great usefulness for studying problems common to developed and developing countries. To illustrate that point some 55 States, from all regions of the world, are now co-operating, and others are planning to participate in some way, in the United States LANDSAT programme.

Clearly, remote sensing technology is at an advanced stage of technological perfection. Examples of its practical application are already quite evident and can be expected to increase greatly with wider international participation and co-operation in remote sensing programmes. Canada would continue, therefore, to encourage all countries to join in efforts to ensure the widest possible use of remote sensing information so that no is missed to achieve the maximum benefit for each and every State. The Canadian delegation believes that

(Mr. Bruce, Canada)

the international community has more to gain by viewing the question of remote sensing less as one of international regulation than as one of establishing the most efficient organizational means of international co-operation.

Having said that, however, Canada does see a need for international guidelines or principles governing remote sensing. But such guidelines should not only guard against the possibility that remote sensing might be used by some States or organizations to the disadvantage of others; they should also encourage the widest possible development and application of this technology. Thus the Canadian delegation believes that in exploring the legal implications of remote sensing we should base our approach on three basic considerations: first, there should be a thorough appreciation of the practical scientific and technical realities and possibilities of remote sensing; secondly, the interests not only of certain States but of the international community as a whole should be taken into account; and, thirdly, guidelines, or treaty provisions, should be complementary to other, broader components of international and regional co-operation.

I should now like to comment briefly on two other sections of the report of the Outer Space Committee. We have in the report the proposal that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should consider the desirability and usefulness of holding a conference on outer space matters. My delegation wishes to co-operate in determining the need for such a conference. In our approach to that assessment our basic concern is that we must assure ourselves that such a conference will make a real contribution to the further practical applications of space technology and the dissemination of the benefits of that technology to all interested nations.

(Mr. Bruce, Canada)

My delegation endorses the Programme on space applications and I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those involved, and particularly the United Nations Expert, Mr. Murthy, on their excellent work and the important contributions they have made to the growing understanding of and interest in space technology around the world. We are pleased that the Secretariat has been asked to prepare a number of studies for the next session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Such a pragmatic approach reflects the importance of ensuring that the United Nations continues to move forward in its study and assessment of these matters in step with the development of the technology itself.

As I have mentioned, my delegation thinks that the United Nations Programme on the applications of space technology is sound and useful. However, before we consider moving in the direction of a costly expansion of our work, we should ensure that the maximum use is made of facilities and opportunities at present available -- for example, the continuing programme of panels, seminars and workshops being organized so usefully in various regions and countries of the world. We would also expect that any significant expansion should be based on a thorough analysis of the needs of countries, and particularly developing countries. To this end, we would wish to encourage those States which have not already done so to undertake realistic studies of their immediate and longer-term requirements, and to convey these to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, through the Secretariat, in reply to the questionnaire of August 1974.

In closing, my delegation is pleased to be one of the sponsors of this Committee's draft resolution. We are satisfied with the Outer Space Committee's activities in the course of the past year and we look forward to seeing more progress in the year ahead. I can assure representatives that Canada will continue to participate positively and actively in the deliberations of the Committee and its Sub-Committees in the years ahead.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Canada for his compliments to me and the other officers of the Committee.

Mr. CONSALVI (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, first of all, I should like very briefly to congratulate you and the other officers of the Committee on your election. I am pleased to congratulate you personally because I am convinced that under your leadership the deliberations of the First Committee will be conducted successfully. You come from a country with which Venezuela has not only excellent diplomatic relations but also very close humanitarian ties.

As a developing country and as a nation aware of the serious problems besetting mankind, convinced as we are that all these problems can be solved intelligently, Venezuela is particularly interested in the diverse problems which the peaceful use of outer space poses for the United Nations and its Member States. Like the sea-bed and the ocean floor, outer space can and should be considered as a future resource for mankind and consequently the interest of third-world countries in the discussions on these matters is obvious and understandable. We are beset by so many unknown problems as to what we should or should not do as we try to gain for our people living standards compatible with human dignity.

The advances of science in the exploration and knowledge of outer space and the conquest of space technology prompt us to believe that the peaceful and rational use of outer space, without any desire to establish domination or gain temporary advantages, can provide a great reserve of resources for mankind and its development.

These matters of course present a challenge in a number of different ways. As in other areas covered by the agenda of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, our goodwill will be sorely tested, as will be the co-operation and understanding of the world of the future, which must not be determined by unilateral privileges or selfish domination. Outer space must and does belong to everyone, and we do not believe that anyone would try to apply to it what used to be known as "the right of conquest". The peaceful use of outer space poses problems for the present and the future. Those countries which have only recently emerged into the present are anxious to bring about a better future and if we sound impatient we hope this will be understood. We see in the peaceful use of outer space a most important element of the world to which

(Mr. Consalvi, Venezuela)

we want to belong. When we speak of the peaceful use of outer space, we mean that this will not be possible if its exploration and exploitation are not in accordance with the true principles of international co-operation, or if for any reason certain ideas relating to the "peaceful domination" from which we have suffered on earth are transferred to outer space.

The task, in some ways the challenge, which faces us is that of constructing a legal order which, while safeguarding the sovereignty of every State, will direct the peaceful use of outer space towards the economic, cultural and social development of all countries, and in particular the developing countries, because it is our countries that urgently need the benefits of space technology. The direct participation of the developing countries in space programmes and the technology relating thereto must therefore be increased.

We see a close link between these matters and the desire of the countries of the third world for the establishment of a new international economic order. Here let me say that we completely agree with the views put forward here by the Permanent Representative of Sweden, Mr. Olof Rydbeck, on the major difficulties which are always encountered when attempts are made to bring about changes in an established economic system, but it is time to do something about those difficulties.

The recent nature of space technology should make it possible to regulate it without being too dogmatic and with sufficient flexibility to adjust the regulations to the dynamic and promising achievements in this sphere. The United Nations is the only body able to carry out that task, and, with the goodwill, understanding and co-operation of those States which possess space technology, results should be achieved which reconcile the positions of all States.

The United Nations Programme on the applications of space technology is obviously very important for the developing countries. We believe that emphasis should be placed on education and training, as Member States which have replied to the Secretary-General's questionnaire have confirmed. The delegation of Venezuela notes with interest the recommendation of the Committee on the

(Mr. Consalvi, Venezuela)

Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General that he should prepare for 1976 a report on ways and means by which the United Nations system might implement a full-scale programme of public information on the uses of outer space and, in particular, on those aspects which have the greatest impact on the specific problems of the developing countries.\*

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\* The Chairman took the Chair.

(Mr. Consalvi, Venezuela)

characteristics discovered, and hitherto unknown data acquired about our countries and their possibilities. It is one technique that can be of immediate use in solving such complex problems as the food problem, to mention only one. In the Committee, the delegation of Venezuela pointed out the right approach to this problem. We think that this is the right time to undertake the drafting of an international instrument on remote sensing, in order to regulate the operation both of acquiring the data, and of processing and distributing them.

With those views in mind, Venezuela became a sponsor of the draft treaty on the remote sensing of natural resources by means of space technology submitted at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly by the delegations of Argentina and Brazil. In our view that draft is a valuable contribution to the formulation of an international régime to govern remote sensing activities. We know that there are some delegations who have different views, who think that remote sensing is not completely developed and that regulation might obstruct progress. But we do not agree with that view because there are extremely important questions at stake.

At the present session Venezuela is a sponsor of the draft resolution on items 32 and 33 of our agenda, and hopes that that draft will receive the unanimous support of the members of the First Committee.

We listened with great attention to the statement made by the representative of Austria, Mr. Peter Jankowitsch, as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Indeed, much could be said about that excellent statement, but for obvious reasons we will confine ourselves to one comment on the possibilities of solar energy. As a representative of an oil-producing country, we are trying to find a more fitting use for our non-renewable resources, particularly petroleum, in line with their true potential, since petroleum can meet so many human needs, including housing, clothing and even food. Hence oil should be safeguarded from the wasteful use of the past. We are therefore particularly interested in alternative sources of energy. The advantages of solar energy were well described by the representative

(Mr. Consalvi, Venezuela)

of Austria in his introduction of the report of the Committee over which he presides, and whose work deserves our deep appreciation.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Consalvi for his statement and for his references to my country, to myself and to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. DALTON (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer you the sincere congratulations of the United Kingdom delegation on your election to preside over the work of the First Committee. It has given us great pleasure to see a representative of your country thus honoured and due recognition given to your outstanding personal qualities.

The United Kingdom is committed to the principle of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The conquest of mankind's newest frontier has been led by individual States. However, if we are to bring the benefits of this constantly expanding technology to all the peoples of the world, it is essential that the United Nations be actively concerned. International co-operation, therefore, involves first the definition of those areas from which benefits are expected, and determination of the needs of States, and subsequently the preparation of international agreements.

The United Kingdom has taken a full part in the work within this framework of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees during the past year. While agreeing with others that there remains a great deal of work ahead, we are satisfied with what has been achieved. We are pleased, therefore, to co-sponsor the draft resolution which had been introduced by the representative of Austria. At this point I would like to thank him and his delegation for all their work on space matters at the United Nations. Operative paragraph 1 of the resolution contains an endorsement of the entire report of the Committee. I need not, at this stage of the debate, go into detail on the subjects which the Committee has discussed in the past or into the views of my delegation on them. Looking to the future, it goes without saying that we approve the priorities and terms of reference laid down in the report for the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.



(Mr. Dalton, United Kingdom)

on the nature of the régime which will guide the use of direct broadcasting in the future if we concentrate on the likely, as opposed to the fanciful, use of this technology. We have one outstanding example before us of co-operation between the exponent of an advanced technology and another State wishing to make use of it, namely, the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment conducted by India and the United States, with a significant contribution from the United Nations. My delegation would like to congratulate them all on the successful beginning they have jointly made to this new venture in the use of space technology for beneficial purposes. The United Nations must not so restrict the use of direct broadcasting that this example cannot be followed on a wider scale. As for our future discussions on this subject, my delegation was very interested in the detailed explanation given yesterday by the representative of the United States of its constructive view that any system for direct broadcasting should be accompanied by full consultations among the countries concerned.

Operative paragraph 15 of the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.712) concerns the suggestion of the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Committee might examine whether or not there was a role for it in the field of solar energy. My Government is involved in discussions of this vital topic in a number of multilateral organizations; for example, we are participating in the programme of energy research and development of the European Economic Community. Within the United Nations system, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, too, is working on it. We have an open mind, therefore, about involvement of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the subject, and we look forward to hearing concrete suggestions about the fresh ground which it is thought the Committee might break in developing international co-operation in this field.

Many speakers before me have referred to significant developments during the last year in international co-operation in space. One of these is the formation of the European Space Agency, of which the United Kingdom is an active member. The logical development of earlier European organizations, it enjoys greater powers to execute a wide range of projects. It is an example

(Mr. Dalton, United Kingdom)

of regional co-operation in those areas which either lie beyond the capacity of individual national programmes or where the participation of a number of Governments can yield greater benefits.

Finally, in paragraphs 35 to 43 of the report of the Committee on the United Nations programme of space applications we are given examples of the way in which national programmes dovetail with international activities. The United Kingdom is pleased to have the opportunity to co-operate with this programme in the provision of fellowships for developing country students of satellite communications technology. Next year, as well, the University of Reading in the United Kingdom will host a United Nations seminar on the application of remote sensing techniques. To conclude, I would like to express our appreciation for the work of the Expert on Space Applications, through whom these activities, which are a small contribution to the international community, are organized.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his kind references to my country, to myself and to officers of the Committee.

Mr. JAFFER (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, allow me to extend our warmest congratulations to you, Sir, on your unanimous election. My delegation is confident that under the wise and experienced guidance of an eminent son of Lebanon, with whose people mine enjoy close and age-old ties, our deliberations will make rapid progress towards success.

My delegation also congratulates your distinguished fellow officers of the Committee on their unanimous election.

The Committee is presently considering agenda items 32 and 33. My delegation thanks the Secretariat -- particularly the Director of the Outer Space Division, Mr. Perek; Mr. Murthy, the United Nations Expert on Space Applications; and their colleagues -- for the useful documentation provided. The introductory statement by Ambassador Jankowitch deserves our special commendation. The Outer Space Committee, in the opinion of my delegation, owes much of the progress made by it to the Austrian representative's tactful, patient and dedicated leadership.

(Mr. Jaffer, Pakistan)

The United Nations has now come to represent almost the entirety of mankind. There are amongst us those who are equipped with all the trappings of development and power, while many others are far from that goal. Pakistan belongs to this latter group of countries and is resolutely striving for development and is committed to the ideals of social justice and a better life for its people. The struggle of the vast majority of mankind has a significance which cannot and must not be overlooked.

What makes this stage of our struggle for national revival of particular international significance is our awareness of this state and an acute and determined desire to overcome this lag at the earliest. This is an awareness, an anxiety that is common to, and is shared by all developing countries of the third world.

My delegation fully recognizes the leeway that we have to make up to reach the technological sophistication of the developed countries. We are also acutely aware of the need to make haste, to hurry, if the dawn of a better tomorrow for our people is not to remain a dream. In its efforts to accelerate this process, the Government of Pakistan has harnessed, and is harnessing, all available resources, human and material.

The fast-expanding field of space technology and its peaceful applications offer a new possibility of accelerating the development process in countries like mine. This, and not our modest capacity, should explain the depth of our interest in the peaceful uses of outer space.

My delegation has, on other occasions, expressed its views on various topics engaging the attention of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees. To give but one example, speaking in the Legal Sub-Committee on the subject of remote sensing, my delegation said:

"Not only in Pakistan, but in many other developing countries also, lie substantial untapped treasures. Neglect of, and dissociation from, the explosive blossoming of scientific knowledge till recent years have left us inadequately equipped for the speediest exploitation of this natural wealth. What then can we do in a hurry? Utilize the expertise and technical know-how available

(Mr. Jaffer, Pakistan)

with developed States to equip ourselves with the wherewithal to embark upon this essential odyssey".

My delegation went on to cite one of its priority requirements as accurate and dependable information about our resources. While recognizing the inability of any developing States to acquire independent sources of such information, we advocated a State's legal right of full access to sensed information, in keeping with its sovereign right over its resources.

Similarly, with regard to another space application, that is, direct broadcasting by satellite, the position of my delegation is on record. We note with satisfaction that a number of early difficulties have been overcome. Ambassador Rydbeck of Sweden, the Chairman of the Working Group on Direct Broadcasting Service, deserves our thanks for much of the progress in this field.

These are only two of the areas of applicability of space technology. The ultimate responsibility of the United Nations in this field is now universally recognized. The Pakistan delegation shares this interest and concern. This very interest motivated us earlier to suggest the establishment of an international régime, preferably an agency, to safeguard against possible misuse or abuse of the fast-expanding reservoir of technical expertise and know-how. My delegation has noted with gratification that many members of the Outer Space Committee have seen some merit in such an arrangement. While addressing the First Committee on 10 October, the distinguished Ambassador of Sweden remarked:

"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 secure 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." (A/C.1/PV.2048, p. 22)

We are aware of the misgivings which the idea of an international régime arouses in certain quarters. To assuage these and to initiate a step-by-step process of forward movement, the Pakistan delegation joined

(Mr. Jaffer, Pakistan)

a number of other delegations in submitting in the Outer Space Committee a working paper on inter-agency co-ordination. All the co-sponsors had been propelled by their common perception of the urgent need for wider co-ordination and co-operation amongst all United Nations agencies and organs in the space field. We felt that financial constraints necessitated such a pooling of scarce resources.

My delegation is glad to learn that a growing awareness of this need has led to greater cohesion and co-operation amongst various agencies this year.

It is appropriate in this context to make a reference to the good work being done by the United Nations Expert on Space Application. He continues to provide frequent training opportunities, particularly to developing countries. While we do appreciate these, we consider that his capacity should be augmented by enhanced allocations. This would enable him to move beyond the organization of seminars to more particularized technical assistance. This would also enable the United Nations to support other national undertakings in striving for social and educational benefits in the space-research field rather than in the two traditional ones. One must bear in mind the fact that some of us amongst the developing countries are fairly well served by our technical manpower but need specialized technical assistance to improve resultant productivity.

My delegation is gratified at the wide identity of views in this Committee. The same commonality of approach has prompted a number of co-sponsors to submit a draft resolution, document A/C.1/L.712. Pakistan is happy to be one of these co-sponsors.

We realize that a draft acceptable to all has, perforce, to represent a compromise. The Pakistan delegation endorses its major thrust. We would have been happier if some points had received greater emphasis. Allow me to refer briefly to these.

My delegation, like some others, had raised the question of the definition and/or delimitation of outer space activities. Lack of time denied this point the attention it deserved. In our opinion, a reference as in paragraph 26 of the report of the Outer Space Committee, supplement

(Mr. Jaffer, Pakistan)

supplement No. 20 (A/10020), or at least like the one in operative paragraph 8 of resolution 3234 (XXIX), was called for.

We would have preferred operative paragraph 12 to be a little more specific, in light of the suggestion made in paragraph 45 of the report of the Outer Space Committee.

My delegation would have welcomed a reflection of the support enjoyed by the suggestion for an effective international régime to guard against misuse or abuse of space technology for other than peaceful uses.

To widen the base and scope of space applications in developing countries, the United Nations should seriously examine the advisability of encouraging and supporting other projects.

My delegation did not press for the inclusion of the above concerns in the draft resolution. This accommodation was inspired by our willingness to preserve and maintain that consensus and we strongly commend the draft resolution for unanimous adoption.

The CHAIRMAN I thank the representative of Pakistan for the friendly words he had for my country, myself, and the officers of the Committee and I am sure I can interpret the feelings of the secretariat of the Outer Space Affairs Division also.

Baron von FECHNER (Federal Republic of Germany): Another year has passed in which the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has actively and efficiently continued its work. Before turning to the key issues of the Committee's report before us, I wish to congratulate its Chairman, Ambassador Jankowitsch, on the results which the Committee has achieved under his direction. At the same time I should like to express my appreciation of the work of the two Sub-Committees under their Chairmen, Ambassador Wyzner and Professor Carver. I also wish to pay a tribute to the members of the Working Groups for their very useful basic studies.

The past year was highlighted by an outstanding event which has again focused world attention on the importance of the peaceful uses of outer space. We have followed with great interest the preparations for the Apollo-Soyuz project and we were gratified to see the flight proceed successfully last July. I am convinced that this joint American-Soviet venture, apart from its scientific implications for the exploration and use of outer space, will serve as an example for further peaceful co-operation in this field. Such events are an excellent means of improving the public's awareness of the possibilities of outer space technology.

The creation of the new European Space Agency (ESA), whose Convention was signed on 30 May 1975 by my country and nine other European States, marks an event of special significance for European co-operation in outer space. As the successor to the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) and the European Space Vehicle Launcher Development Organization (ELDO), the new Agency has taken over all the joint European outer space programmes in which the Federal Republic of Germany participates.

The scientific satellite COS-B, designed to explore celestial gamma ray emissions, was the first satellite to be successfully launched by ESA. Four additional scientific satellites are to follow. However, the European outer space programme is mainly concerned at this time with geostationary application

(Baron von Wechmar, Federal  
Republic of Germany)

satellites for meteorological observation and telecommunication. The development of the MARCTS experimental satellite for maritime communication should be of special interest in this connexion in view of the proposed international maritime communication satellite system. A European rocket capable of launching satellites into orbit is being developed within the framework of the ARIANA programme. Co-operation between Europe and the United States in the development and use of Spacelab makes good progress. The Federal Republic of Germany has assumed special responsibility for this programme. We believe that the exploration of and the activities in outer space from manned space stations will be of particular significance in the future.

The Federal Republic of Germany also participates in international projects outside ESA. Of these I mention the German-American solar probe HELIOS which was launched into orbit in December 1974. A second flight model is scheduled to be launched in January 1976. Together with France we are engaged in the experimental telecommunication satellite project SYMPHONIE. The systems of both flight models -- the first of which was launched in December 1974, the second in August 1975 -- are in excellent working order. We are now in a position to make SYMPHONIE technology available to all interested countries.

After these general remarks I should like to turn now to individual items in the Commission's report. We have made considerable progress in the course of this year in our efforts to find solutions to pending questions which are acceptable to all. The first issue discussed concerned the outstanding problems in connexion with the draft treaty relating to the moon. The Commission agreed that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue to consider the draft treaty as a matter of high priority at its fifteenth session. We are all aware of the need to work out an international agreement which makes due allowance for the vested interests of all States in the exploration and use of moon resources. We are also aware of the difficulties which have been and still are an obstacle to an early agreement. Yet we are convinced that with perseverance we shall advance towards a solution.

Progress has been achieved in the deliberations within the Legal Sub-Committee on direct television broadcasting. The Legal Sub-Committee has succeeded in

(Baron Von Wechmar, Federal  
Republic of Germany)

formulating five of the principles considered by the Working Group: applicability of international law, rights and benefits of States, international co-operation, State responsibility, and possible settlement of disputes.

My delegation looks with confidence also on the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee. In pursuing its task the Committee will have to devote special attention to the principle of freedom of information. My delegation believes that this principle, which also embraces the freedom to transmit and receive information, must not be impaired. Nor need the principle of State sovereignty, on which some States wish to base a right of prior consent, interfere with the freedom of information. Both principles should and can be reconciled.

We all agree that international television broadcasting should serve to further improve understanding between peoples. This implies in our opinion, that the individual should have free access to all areas of information. These considerations have prompted us to make allowance for the rights of the individual in connexion with the principles of the applicability of international law and of the rights and benefits of States. As early as 1948 the United Nations in its Universal Declaration of Human Rights, solemnly recognized the free access to information as part of the rights of the individual. These rights were reaffirmed in the European Convention on Human Rights of 1950 and in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966. This evolution deserves to be further encouraged. To serve this aim is one of the most noble tasks of the United Nations. We are all aware of the need of ensuring an ever growing knowledge of and deeper understanding for the different ways of life of others so as to further friendship between peoples. The free flow of information, especially through the exchange of television programmes, is a major means of bringing this about.

(Baron von Wechmar, Federal  
Republic of Germany)

My delegation believes that the speedy and thorough consideration of all principles under discussion should be continued.

The main Committee and the Sub-Committees also devoted much of their time to questions of the remote sensing of the earth from outer space. The Legal Sub-Committee was considering those questions for the first time and thus found itself confronted with a host of open questions. They concern not only technical and organizational matters but financial issues as well. As those questions are obviously interrelated, they should be considered on an interdisciplinary basis, taking into account also the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Only thus will it be possible for us to avoid duplication.

In a field so new to us we must first of all gain experience. We are conscious of the risk of working out legal norms which may turn out to be hopelessly inadequate in the light of subsequent technological developments. We have therefore noted with satisfaction that the main Committee has reaffirmed the opinion of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee that considerations of legal aspects and of organizational and financial issues should proceed simultaneously. Only after we have formed a clear concept of the problems confronting us shall we be able to formulate definite legal rules. We should therefore work towards flexible definitions which could eventually be given the form of a declaration.

In view of the complexity of the matter and of our lack of experience it is indeed understandable that we have not yet reached agreement on all points and that not all member States have yet seen their ideas come to pass. Yet the results achieved up to now are encouraging. Discussions thus far have confirmed my delegation's view that remote sensing will continue to be a field of high priority. We are thinking in particular of the requirements of the developing countries for which remote sensing satellites can be of great significance. We have therefore submitted to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee three mission studies -- on agriculture, hydrology and air pollution -- and we shall be holding a seminar on remote

(Baron von Wechmar, Federal  
Republic of Germany)

sensing next summer under the auspices of the United Nations. In view of the significance of the subject my delegation will devote special attention to remote sensing in the Committee's work next year.

My delegation is aware of the fact that the Outer Space Committee has assumed an essential and a leading role as the centre of world-wide co-operation in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space. The beginning of that development was marked by intense activities to formulate basic international legal instruments. The Federal Republic of Germany has in the meantime acceded to or brought nearer ratification the treaties worked out in the United Nations. Last year we completed the legislative procedure for the ratification of the liability Convention. The instrument of ratification will soon be deposited with the United Nations. The registration Convention, which the Federal Government has also agreed to ratify, will shortly be submitted to the German Bundestag.

In the years to come the exploration and peaceful use of outer space will become increasingly important for all our countries and peoples. That will imply additional responsibilities also for the United Nations and its Outer Space Committee. The Federal Republic of Germany will actively support any initiative which will enable the United Nations and that Committee effectively to meet the challenge.

I should like to conclude by paying tribute to the members of the Outer Space Affairs Division for their efficient and dedicated work.

Mr. LOPEZ BASSOLS (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): In due course the chairman of my delegation may wish to address some comments to you, Mr. Chairman, but I should like here and now to say how very pleased we are at your well-deserved election to preside over the First Committee.

One of the most outstanding events of the space age took place this year -- the Soyuz-Apollo mission. It reflects the continuation of a new era of co-operation and peace, now encompassing outer space, between the two nations upon whose harmonious progress depend the destiny of the world and the future of the new technology. As part of that same expression of scientific and technical co-operation the countries of the third world welcomed the success of the Indian-Aryabhata programme.

(Mr. Lopez Bassols, Mexico)

My delegation would like to thank Ambassador Jankowitsch for his very clear introduction of the Committee's report on the work of its eighteenth session. We should like also to pay tribute to the splendid work done by the Chairmen of the two Sub-Committees, Ambassador Wyzner and Mr. Carver.

I should like first to refer to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee. We believe that the mandate given to it by General Assembly resolution 3234 (XXIX) has been fully carried out.

Regarding the draft treaty on the moon, it is now agreed that no State may claim exclusive rights over zones and resources that are res communis omnium civium, and for that reason an international régime is necessary; but until such a régime has been fully implemented, machinery must be set up and operated. Here we agree with those delegations which are in favour of including celestial bodies within the scope of the treaty.

In connexion with subparagraph 6 (b) of the resolution I have referred to, the results achieved by Working Group II were very positive. Those delegations which in the past had reservations about the drafting of principles have now agreed that it is time to move forward, and to move forward on what might very well be the laying of the corner-stone of the future international instrument -- the principle of consent and participation -- and on that subject there was a very profitable exchange of views. We believe that as soon as a compromise agreement is reached on that principle we shall be very much nearer to the international instrument which has been proposed.

Concerning the Legal Sub-Committee's first consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing from outer space, our interpretation of the General Assembly's mandate requires the preparation of a draft international agreement. Mexico was a sponsor of the draft treaty submitted by Argentina and Brazil, which we think is a very sound basic text. The basic legal principles formulated must respect the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources and over their entire natural environment. They must also respect information obtained by such means about space technology.

There is no doubt that Working Group III has done a very good job. Not only have important topics been identified but also areas of agreement have been defined. It is time now to draft an international instrument.

(Mr. Lopez Bassols, Mexico)

Regarding the definition of outer space, the Committee heard a number of important speeches and it must carry out an exhaustive consideration of the subject in the near future.

The debate in the Committee on the co-ordination which should exist between the two Sub-Committees was of undoubted merit. Early agreement in the Legal Sub-Committee on the principles of remote sensing would make it possible for the other Sub-Committee to tackle practical organizational problems. It is the belief of our delegation that there must first be a clear picture of the rights and duties of the States interested in remote sensing activities. In our opinion, the elaboration of legal principles which would lead during the second stage, that of organizational agreements and the development and application of space technology, will continue to be of paramount importance.

(Mr. Lopez Bassols, Mexico)

The point has been very aptly made in this Committee that the law has tried to establish general guidelines before the whole field is completely swamped by technology. That has indeed been a challenge and an inspiration to jurists.

A Joint United Nations/UNESCO Regional Seminar on Satellite Broadcasting Systems for Education and Development was held in Mexico City from 2 to 11 September 1975. In offering Mexico as the venue my Government recognized the importance of that technology and its impact on the political, economic and social affairs of nations. In inaugurating the seminar, the Communications Minister of my country described our position as follows:

"We have now entered the stage of mature reflection, in which all related elements must be considered and organized so as to guarantee its efficiency, flexibility and ability to adapt to changing circumstances as time passes."

We hope that very soon the many recommendations of that seminar will be implemented.

Following resolution 1349 (XIII) the United Nations should have become a place to gather and disseminate information on space technology. It is essential that this mandate now be carried out. In this context my delegation welcomes the suggestions contained in paragraphs 47-49 of the report (A/10020). Also, under the auspices of the Organization, programmes for the application of space technology must be increased and strengthened, especially in developing countries.

We believe that the points made by the Chairman of the Committee in his opening statement last June concerning a future fuelled by energy from outer space -- the use of solar energy -- were very relevant. The Committee must very soon consider this new alternative because it might very well mean the development of a new form of international co-operation.

As regards a future international conference on space questions, we share the view that a working group at the thirteenth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should consider the desirability and objectives of such a conference. We believe that by that means a sounder foundation could be laid with the support of the States. We believe it is the developing countries which will benefit most from such a scientific exercise.

(Mr. Lopez Bassols, Mexico)

A formula must be found which will make it possible for our countries to share effectively in the benefits of this form of technology and to speed up their economic and social progress.

The delegation of Mexico has consistently made a legal contribution to the Committee ever since it was created, and today we again show our willingness to co-operate by sponsoring the draft resolution on the subjects before us.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Mexico for his complimentary words.

Mr. HOLLAI (Hungary): Mr. Chairman, may I first express to you the warm congratulations of my delegation on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. My delegation would like to assure you of our firm determination to contribute to the successful completion of the task of our Committee during this session. Allow me to congratulate also the other officers of the Committee: Baron von Wechmar of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mr. Mikanagu of Burundi as Vice-Chairmen and Mr. Arteaga Acosta of Venezuela as Rapporteur.

Before turning to some specific items contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/10020) I wish to make a few general comments concerning the positive impact of the present international situation on outer space activities.

We note with satisfaction that the positive changes in the international situation have greatly contributed to international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of and research on outer space. It must be pointed out that the relaxation of tension in our world, the growing confidence among States and the fact that détente has become the main trend in international affairs have made it possible to achieve important results in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

The successful realization of the Soyuz-Apollo space programme has, in our opinion, been a milestone in international co-operation. It can rightly be considered to have marked not only an extremely significant step from a



(Mr. Hollai, Hungary)

scientific and technical point of view but also an outstanding achievement on the road of peaceful co-operation among States from a political point of view.

Similarly, we consider the common research programme of the Soviet Union and India as an important step, which was marked by the launching of a satellite in April 1975.

The close co-operation of the socialist countries in outer space activities is a well-known fact and goes back a relatively long period. The Hungarian People's Republic carries out its space research activities under the INTERCOSMOS programme of the socialist countries and participates in the INTERSPUTNIK organization.

We are confident that international co-operation for the peaceful conquest of outer space will serve the interests not of the space Powers alone but also of the other States concerned, for the benefit of the common cause of all mankind.

The Hungarian delegation attaches great importance to the results achieved in the political, scientific and legal fields regarding international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. No one doubts that these achievements are also duly reflected in the well-known legal instruments worked out by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and I note that Hungary is a party to all of them. In this connexion it is my privilege to inform my colleagues that, as Permanent Representative of the Hungarian People's Republic to the United Nations recently signed, on behalf of my Government, the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

After my general comments, I should like to touch briefly upon some specific matters.

My delegation is pleased to note that the First Committee has before it a very concise report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was so excellently introduced by its Chairman, Mr. Peter Jankowitsch, the representative of Austria. We pay a tribute here also to the officers of the Committee, especially the Chairmen of the two Sub-Committees, Mr. Wyzner of Poland and Mr. Carver of Australia, to both of whom I wish to express the appreciation of my delegation.

(Mr. Hollai, Hungary)

As far as the work done by the Legal Sub-Committee is concerned, we believe that, although no new international instrument was concluded this year, the Legal Sub-Committee accomplished useful work. The Working Group on the draft treaty relating to the moon, which, I am happy to note, is being chaired by the Hungarian representative in the Legal Sub-Committee, has made considerable progress. We trust that the representatives in that Working Group, being aware of their responsibilities, will, after careful consideration, be able to reach agreement on the main outstanding issues relating to the legal status of the natural resources of the moon and the scope of the treaty. The Hungarian delegation, which has taken an active part in the Working Group, will do its best to help reach a solution in the near future with the aid of the time-tested method of consensus.

(Mr. Hollai, Hungary)

We are satisfied to observe that the Legal Sub-Committee has continued its work on the question of elaborating the principles to govern the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. We agree with the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the conclusion of an agreement in this field is desirable. In this regard my delegation wishes to stress again that the sovereignty and the concept of prior consent of the receiving State should be strictly observed in the elaboration of governing principles.

In the view of my delegation, further progress is desirable also in Working Group III on the item relating to the legal implications of earth resources surveying by remote sensing satellites. While appreciating the advance made by that Working Group in reaching agreement on five principles, we feel that in order to reach a consensus on other matters a very careful and detailed consideration is required of all proposals, especially the one jointly submitted by the Soviet Union and France.

My delegation notes with satisfaction the serious and responsible work done by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee this year, and we believe that further progress can be made at its thirteenth session. We think that the Secretariat of the United Nations would render valuable service to the work of the Sub-Committee -- as it has up to now -- by preparing four studies on various aspects of remote sensing in conformity with the recommendations of the Outer Space Committee in paragraph 32.

With regard to the question of a possible United Nations conference on space, the Hungarian delegation believes that the timing and the practical usefulness of such a conference, together with its financial implications, should be further considered very carefully.

I cannot end my statement without underlining the importance of exchange of information and the measures provided for it, as contained in paragraphs 46 to 49 of the report. My delegation is of the view that more assistance and information should be given to the developing countries for the practical application of space technology.

In conclusion, I should like to reiterate the Hungarian Government's readiness to support any efforts aimed at the peaceful uses of outer space, and

(Mr. Correia da Costa, Brazil)

We have witnessed in 1975 some of the most striking scientific and technological feats conducted in space. Our admiration goes not only to the genius of man which made these marvels possible, but also to the spirit of friendly co-operation between States which characterized the carrying out of several of these projects.

Of particular interest to us is the growing awareness by the international community of the innumerable potential benefits to be derived from the applications of space technology, an awareness that has spurred co-operation between major space Powers and developing countries in several important fields.

We have also noted during the year under review a reinforcement of the legitimate desire for the elaboration of well-defined frameworks for these activities. It is increasingly obvious that the economic and political implications of some of the newest and more promising space applications, such as direct television broadcasting by satellites or remote sensing from space of the earth's natural resources, are of such magnitude as to require agreements on the rights and duties of States in the conduct of these activities.

The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 only laid the cornerstone for the establishment of the rule of law in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space. It could not have legislated, at that time, on applications which were to be fully developed at a later date and which now come to bear on the legitimate rights and interests of sovereign States.

The untiring development of science and technology poses, in fact, a permanent challenge in terms of the well-needed parallel expansion of the rule of law.

We do not consider it desirable that the international community should shy away from defining clearly the rights and obligations of all States in the practical utilization of space applications, which engenders an interest that extends to all mankind, developed and developing countries alike. Some of those applications are particularly significant in the potential they have for lightening the burden of the less privileged States.

(Mr. Correia da Costa, Brazil)

In the current undesirable situation of laissez faire, space applications are governed mainly by those who at present control the technology. We have no doubt, however, that a balance should be struck between the interests, rights and needs of those who have not yet at their disposal all the means for full participation in these ventures, and the encouragement of those who took upon themselves the pioneer task of developing the exploration of outer space and the utilization of space applications.

(Mr. Correa da Costa, Brazil)

I do not have to dwell at length on the well-known importance we attach to the elaboration of a legal framework for remote sensing from space of the earth's natural resources. Resolution 3234 (XXIX) of the General Assembly referred to the consideration by the Legal Sub-Committee of a draft treaty on remote sensing of natural resources by means of space technology sponsored by Argentina and Brazil. During the year under review we have amply explained the provisions our proposal encompasses and stressed its scope and objectives. It is an effort to define clearly the rights and duties of sensing and sensed States alike, with particular reference to the interests and needs of developing countries.

Of foremost importance is the concept of the protection of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources and the establishment of binding legal parameters relating to the collection of, access to and distribution of remote sensing data pertaining to them.

In the course of the current year this proposal has met with expressions of approval from several developing countries and was given the additional sponsorship of Venezuela, Chile and Mexico during the fourteenth session of the Legal Sub-Committee. The number of proposals relating to the establishment of a legal framework for remote sensing submitted for consideration is thus now three, consisting of the earlier Soviet-French draft of principles, a draft treaty which I would like to call the "developing countries' draft" and finally the draft guidelines presented during the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee by the United States.

We are pleased to note that, in spite of the short time allotted to the consideration of the item in that Sub-Committee and procedural discussions which initially somewhat hampered its constructive work, that body was able to identify several common elements in the three draft international instruments submitted, as well as in the views of many Member States, thus opening the door to beginning the long overdue task of drafting concrete texts.

(Mr. Correa da Costa, Brazil)

The draft "omnibus" resolution which has been submitted to this Committee and of which my delegation is a co-sponsor confers on the Legal Sub-Committee the clear mandate, recommended by the Outer Space Committee, of proceeding to the drafting of principles in regard to those particular areas of the subject where common elements in the views of States are identified.

It entrusts the Legal Sub-Committee with the task also of continuing its detailed legal consideration of remote sensing of the earth with a view to identifying further elements of consensus.

It is my delegation's understanding that this long-awaited breakthrough towards the drafting of norms for the utilization of this space application -- a breakthrough made possible through extensive negotiations during the last session of the Committee -- should not be undermined by extraneous considerations. As the delegation that served as chairman of these negotiations put on record, the reference to organizational, economic and technical aspects in paragraph 23 (a) of the report of the Committee -- now reproduced in paragraph 4 (c) (i) of the draft resolution before us -- should not be interpreted in the sense that the Legal Sub-Committee must await completion of all work on those aspects by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee before it proceeds to the drafting of principles.

It is also my delegation's interpretation that the expression "drafting of principles" contained in paragraph 4 (c) (ii) of the "omnibus" draft resolution submitted to this Committee, refers to general legal norms to be elaborated and should not prejudice the nature of the legal instruments that will harbour them or imply that it will have a non-binding character.

My Government's position on this matter has always been clear: we are not interested in the confection of an instrument of a purely declaratory value which would refer only to some aspects of this space application. Our proposal strives to establish the previous definition of a legal framework focused on co-operation and development to guide and shape the well-needed organization of international activity in the field of remote sensing of the earth's resources by means of space technology.

(continued in Russian)

During the year that has passed since the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly there have been many events demonstrating that national and international activities in outer space continue. Nationally, proof of that is to be found in the success recently achieved by the two leading space Powers, as well as other States, in their continuing space programmes. Internationally, proof is to be found in the striking success achieved in putting into effect various bilateral and multilateral space programmes.

There is no doubt but that the docking and joint space flight of the Soviet Soyuz and the American Apollo space craft was the most convincing demonstration of the possibilities for international co-operation in space in the future. We feel that the handshake of the Soviet and American astronauts in orbit was more than a symbolic gesture; it meant more than merely a joint space experiment by the two States. The joint Soviet-American space flight was the specific result of international détente, as well as the embodiment of the fruitful policy of peaceful coexistence.

We are pleased to see the development and strengthening of space co-operation among the socialist countries, co-operation based on a comprehensive programme of socialist economic integration. The periodic launching of satellites in the Intercosmos series is the result of the work and co-operation of scientists in the socialist countries. So far as it is able to do so, the People's Republic of Bulgaria is contributing and will continue to contribute to the efforts of the socialist States in that regard.

Prompted by the wish to make the widest possible use of the achievements of space technology, on 28 April this year the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria concluded with the Government of the Soviet Union an agreement on scientific and technical co-operation and the development and use of aerospace methods for remote sensing of the earth.

(Mr. Todorov, Bulgaria)

Under this agreement, both Governments have undertaken the commitment:

"... to conduct joint experiments on the development and improvement of aerodynamic methods of remote sensing of the earth and technical means for processing and interpretation of the results obtained for their practical use in various areas of the national economy, for the survey of natural resources and for the monitoring of the environment."

This is the point of departure for a new form of Soviet-Bulgarian co-operation.

The Bulgarian delegation feels that we can well consider the activity of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as having been successful during the past year. Proof of this is the Committee's report, which accurately reflects the considerable work done by the Committee as well as by its subsidiary bodies. In our opinion, the Committee, under the able and competent guidance of Ambassador Jankowitsch, has really worked towards implementing General Assembly resolution 3234 (XXIX).

We should stress in particular that considerable progress was made towards the conclusion of a draft treaty relating to the moon. A positive result, we believe, is the preparation of a draft compromise text of two articles on the most complex issue of determining the legal status of natural resources on the moon. We are pleased that the text of articles X and X bis contains a number of aspects underlying the proposals put forward by the Bulgarian delegation in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.93.

We cannot fail to observe that the text of articles X and X bis contains a good many brackets, which will require serious effort in order to achieve final agreement on this text. By the same token, we cannot fail to point out that this text, being a sound basis for further consultations and talks on the question of the status of the natural resources on the moon, has brought the Committee closer to the final drafting of an agreement relating to the moon. What must be done now is to find a way to early completion of this work in the spirit of mutual co-operation and understanding.

(Mr. Todorov, Bulgaria)

Since the twenty seventh session of the General Assembly, the Bulgarian delegation has formed the opinion that the problem of regulating the activity of direct television broadcasting is one of the most crucial issues of international space law. This is why we welcome the fact that the Committee has done useful work on formulating the draft principles elaborated for the purpose of concluding an international agreement or agreements, as provided for by General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII), adopted on the initiative of the Soviet delegation.

In our opinion, an important concrete result is the conclusion of the first reading of the draft principles governing direct broadcasting and the preparation of a unified text. The document, which contains a fair number of alternatives and square brackets, proves that some complicated and hard work lies ahead before different views can be reconciled. In our opinion, however, what is most important is that there is a single document which will be a sound basis for further consultations and talks, as well as for drafting. We hope that the Committee will expeditiously continue to draft these principles for the purpose of concluding an international agreement or agreements.

We believe that we have to minimize the risk that one of the greatest scientific and technical achievements of our time may become a source of differences and friction. Actually, we have to do our best to place direct television broadcasting at the service of peace, security, co-operation and strengthening of trust among peoples.

The Committee has also laid the necessary groundwork for constructive and fruitful work on the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth by satellites. As can be seen from the Committee's report, there is now a considerable degree of agreement on various aspects of the legal regulation of the use of space technology for surveying the earth's resources. The rapprochement of the positions of most members of the Committee is such that we believe that it will be possible very soon to start drafting an international document on remote sensing of the earth's resources.

(Mr. Todorov, Bulgaria)

On the whole, the Bulgarian delegation believes that the Committee has quite appropriately recommended to its Legal Sub-Committee that it should continue to consider as priority items the following three questions: the draft treaty relating to the moon; the drafting of principles governing the use by States of direct broadcast satellites for the survey of earth's resources for the purpose of concluding an international agreement or agreements; and the legal study of the question of remote sensing of the earth from space, due account being taken of the various opinions of States, including proposals on the drafting of international documents and continuing the drafting of principles on those specific aspects of this question containing common elements in replies by States.

We continue to believe that the Committee has done considerable work on organizing international co-operation in the area of remote sensing of the earth. None the less, a good deal remains to be done in areas which continue to require thorough study. In our opinion, the Committee has quite properly recommended that the Secretariat continue considering the various organizational, technical and financial aspects of remote sensing of the earth by satellites.

We believe that further work on this problem will no doubt largely depend on the legal principles which will regulate remote sensing of earth's resources. Early streamlining of these principles will enable us more confidently to take up the practical implications of the organization of international co-operation in this promising area. Thus, we believe that exchanges and mutual co-operation between the two Sub-Committees of the Outer Space Committee are of the utmost importance. We believe that the Committee has already taken a determined step in this direction, having proposed to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee consideration of the possible scientific and technical criteria underlying the terms "natural resources of the earth" and "data on natural earth resources obtained by remote sensing".

We should also like to point out that we are pleased, as shown by the Committee's report, that it was possible to achieve further progress in implementing the United Nations programme on space applications.

(Mr. Todorov, Bulgaria)

As regards the question of a possible United Nations conference on outer space, we believe that a thorough study is necessary in order to clarify the possibilities in this area and to pinpoint the tasks, purposes and possible terms of reference for that conference. In other words, as the Committee itself recommends, the question of the advisability of convening an international conference should be thoroughly discussed, taking into account the various opinions and proposals of States.

In conclusion, we hope that at its present session the General Assembly will adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.712, which lays the necessary groundwork for the Committee and its bodies to continue their work in further developing international co-operation in the area of the peaceful uses of outer space for the good of all mankind.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Todorov, the representative of Bulgaria, for his kind remarks and congratulations to the other officers of the Committee and to myself. With the Committee's permission, I now call on the representative of the Philippines to introduce an amendment to the draft resolution already submitted.

Mr. YANGO (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, my delegation associates itself with the sentiments expressed by previous speakers to the effect that the leadership of the First Committee this year is in distinguished and very capable hands and will provide inspired guidance towards achieving constructive results. Our best wishes therefore go to you, Mr. Chairman, and to your esteemed colleagues, the other officers of the Committee.

My delegation has followed closely the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space ever since its establishment. In retrospect it can be said that the work accomplished by the Committee in all these years since it was formed can be rated as outstanding. We need only recall a number of international agreements that have resulted from the work of the Committee, 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, Return of Astronauts and the

(Mr. Yango, Philippines)

Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the Convention on International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

We are happy to note that the Committee is continuing its work in a most effective way on drafting a treaty relating to the moon, considering the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements, and considering also the subject of remote sensing from space of the natural resources and the natural environment of the earth, also with a view to preparing international instruments which could be agreed upon by the Members of the United Nations.

In briefly summarizing the work accomplished and being accomplished by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, my delegation wishes to express to the members of the Committee its most sincere appreciation of their untiring efforts, and particularly of the leadership of Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria as Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Wyzner of Poland as Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee and Mr. Carver of Australia as Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and of all the other officers of their respective groups. Mention must also be made of the support and co-operation extended to the Committee by the secretariat of the Outer Space Affairs Division.

My delegation has asked to speak this morning on the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.712, otherwise called the omnibus draft resolution, relating to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We agree generally with the various elements contained in the draft resolution. We believe it covers almost all the important points in connexion with the peaceful uses of outer space. However, we note that the draft resolution this year omits mention of the work being done by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) specifically on its tropical cyclone project. It is recalled that in the previous General Assembly resolutions 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 and 3234 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974, there are particular provisions in their respective operative paragraphs on the matter which reiterate the request of the General Assembly to WMO to pursue actively the implementation of its tropical cyclone project, especially the efforts being undertaken towards obtaining basic meteorological data and discovering ways and

(Mr. Yango, Philippines)

means to mitigate the harmful effects of tropical storms and to remove or minimize their destructive potential. It is also recalled that the General Assembly, during its twenty-seventh session, adopted unanimously resolution 2914 (XXVII) on the subject of minimizing the harmful effects of tropical storms, and this has been the basis of the submission of reports since then by the WMO in relation to its tropical cyclone project.

As the Committee may be aware, it was the Philippine initiative that resulted in the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 2914 (XXVII), and the importance that my delegation attaches to this resolution cannot be over-emphasized. The Philippines, as the Committee is also aware, suffers from the havoc and devastation of tropical storms, with an average of at least 20 storms annually. The yearly visitations of these storms or typhoons on my country not only cause destruction to roads, bridges, irrigation and flood-control systems and other infrastructures, properties and crops, but also result in the loss of many lives. Of course it is not only the Philippines that has a very vital interest in the tropical cyclone project of the WMO. Other countries in south-east and east Asia, the Caribbean, East Africa, the Indian Ocean and other parts of the world are also very much concerned with the progress of work being accomplished in the mitigation of the harmful effects of storms.

It is with these considerations in mind that my delegation has submitted, in document A/C.1/L.714, an amendment to the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.712. Between operative paragraphs 13 and 14, my delegation proposes the insertion of an additional operative paragraph which would read as follows:

"Reiterates its request to the World Meteorological Organization to pursue actively the implementation of its tropical cyclone project, while 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) of 9 November 1972, 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 and 3234 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974."



(Mr. Yango, Philippines)

I should like to request the Secretariat to issue a corrigendum to the amendment in document A/C.1/L.714, substituting the figure "12" for the figure "26" before the words "November 1974" in the last line of the paragraph indicating the date of resolution 3234 (XXIX).

In essence, this amendment is no more and no less than a reproduction of similar language found in the operative paragraphs of resolutions 2914 (XXVII), 3182 (XXVIII) and 3234 (XXIX).

I should like to draw the attention of the Committee to document A/AC.105/148, dated 11 March 1975, entitled "Progress Report (1974-1975) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on its Tropical Cyclone Project". This report is indeed very enlightening and useful to my delegation and to others concerned with the progress of work of the WMO on its tropical cyclone project. Particularly, this report mentions the need to intensify efforts in discovering ways and means of mitigating the harmful effects of tropical storms and states that a proposal for a WMO weather modification programme has been submitted for approval to the seventh World Meteorological Congress. The report also states that the programme will be "to stimulate improved objective means of evaluating the results of weather modification experiments and operations", and that it is planned that the typhoon moderation experiments would be a part of this programme. Now that the WMO has a specific programme for weather modification which includes typhoon moderation experiments, I venture to hope that this Committee will, more than ever, continue its interest in the mitigation of the harmful effects of storms deriving from the application of progress in science and technology in the peaceful uses of outer space. The weather modification programme of the WMO is squarely in consonance with the objectives of General Assembly resolution 2914 (XXVII). Further reports on this subject are necessary now that commendable initial progress has been achieved. The General Assembly more than ever should give signal importance to the fact that the peaceful uses of outer space in this particular field of meteorology is hopefully on the way to alleviating the sufferings and destruction visited upon countries periodically by tropical storms or typhoons.

(Mr. Yango, Philippines)

Before I conclude may I just add that we have heard the speakers in this debate state that application of space technology should be relevant to the economic and social development of developing countries. My delegation fully agrees with this statement.

Many aspects of space application are important but rather esoteric. The aspect pertaining to the mitigation of the harmful effects of tropical storms is, in a very real sense, down to earth, since it could affect the daily lives of millions of people, both in the developing and developed countries.

Giving recognition to the tropical cyclone project is also appropriate at this time of widespread food shortage in the developing world, aggravated by the severe effects of a world-wide economic crisis.

My delegation therefore commends our amendment for the favourable consideration of the sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.712 and of the members of our Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the Philippines for his kind remarks to me and the officers of the Committee. The Secretariat will take note of his amendments and request.

I should like to announce that Liberia has become a sponsor of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.712.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.