



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIZA-ESCALANTE (Costa Rica)

later: Mr. ORTNER (Austria)

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Chairman
Japan
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(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 51: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
(continued):

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/33/20);
(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/33/212)

AGENDA ITEM 52: 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 (continued)

1. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that item 51 was of equal interest to the space Powers and the developing countries; the latter saw in that new dimension of science and technology the opportunity to profit from elements which would contribute to speeding up their development, thus reducing the wide gap between richer and poorer countries. Promising prospects were opening up in outer space with regard to telecommunications, meteorology, education, the conservation of the environment, the prevention of natural catastrophes and even space monitoring of arms limitation agreements. The international community should act as comprehensively and rapidly as possible to accelerate scientific discoveries and technological applications of peaceful uses of outer space, which belonged to all and should not be allowed to become the scene of armed conflict among a few countries.

2. Encouraging progress had been made in the space field over the past 12 months from the scientific, technological and legal points of view. Above all, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees had placed particular emphasis on international co-operation, with increasing participation by the developing countries, including the equatorial countries. There had been multinational co-operation with Czechoslovakia, Poland and the German Democratic Republic in the Soviet Union's Intercosmos programme, and the United States had co-operated in its space shuttle programme with various countries, including those of INTELSAT, to which Ecuador belonged. Many developing countries were preparing to take advantage of the space transfer facilities, which could apparently also retrieve waste material from outer space.

3. Ecuador strongly believed that, in outer space as on earth, man's conduct should be governed by principles incorporated into international law. A treaty should be drawn up to cover all eventualities, and his delegation had therefore joined the sponsors of the draft resolution to be submitted to the Committee, which, inter alia, invited States not yet parties to the treaties governing the peaceful uses of outer space to consider ratifying or acceding to them. Many changes had occurred since the drafting of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and the Treaty must therefore be adapted to present conditions. For example, it was now essential to define and delimit outer space if the Treaty was to have a practical scope. Some countries which were at present active in outer space saw no legal or technical need for such a definition, but other countries felt the need for regulations in order to limit the use of outer

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space to peaceful purposes and exclude the military aspects which had appeared with the use of satellites - hunter satellites, for example. There must be a special régime for the use of the geostationary orbit to prevent it from being saturated with satellites. Safety precautions must also be devised for the use of nuclear power. Finally, the Treaty must contain guarantees that outer space was used for the benefit of the whole international community instead of becoming a zone in which some countries were exploited by others.

4. For those reasons, his delegation, like those of other equatorial countries, had for a number of years been emphasizing its right to sovereignty over the segments of the geostationary orbit corresponding to their national boundaries. That orbit was a limited natural resource with its own physical characteristics and technical attributes and could not therefore be used exclusively by the countries capable of placing satellites in it. Not only the equatorial countries but all developing countries should be guaranteed a share of the benefits from that limited natural resource. He was therefore pleased that the Outer Space Committee and the two Sub-Committees had dealt with various aspects of the geostationary orbit and had recommended that it should be further considered at their respective sessions and that the Secretariat should update its study of the matter (A/AC.105/203).

5. The equatorial States which had endorsed the Bogotá Declaration in 1976 had no objection to free transit of satellites over their territories outside the geostationary orbit but maintained that the placing of a space object in the segment of the orbit which corresponded to the territory of an equatorial State should be previously authorized by that State and its operation governed by the latter's national laws. The occupation of a national segment of the orbit by a foreign satellite gave the satellite-owning State no rights whatsoever. Those principles were fully in line with General Assembly resolution 2692 (XXV).

6. In the matter of remote sensing, Ecuador had always maintained the right of the sensed State to be consulted before the sensing was undertaken and before the results were communicated to third parties. Moreover, no economic or political conditions should be imposed on the sensed State by the sensing State concerning the immediate, free use of the results of that sensing and the identification of its resources. The collection and dissemination of data considered to be of world-wide interest should be undertaken by the competent United Nations body, and regional and local data should be collected for general dissemination, with the authorization of the States concerned. The new studies requested of the Secretariat would certainly assist progress in that important matter from which the developing countries hoped to obtain support for their communications, planning, resource identification, environmental conservation and meteorological forecasts. They were grateful to the countries which immediately shared the results of their observations but wished to participate also in the operational process in order to train their own staff. Those views had been supported by the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

7. With regard to the convening of a United Nations conference on outer space, his delegation considered that the name of the 1968 Conference should be retained, with particular emphasis on the word "peaceful". It also considered that legal aspects should be discussed in addition to the scientific and technical aspects of outer space operations in order that there might be greater participation by the developing countries.

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(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

8. The United Nations should play a constantly growing role in all those aspects of the subject, both as a forum of discussion which would contribute to the development and codification of international law and as a centre for the collection and free dissemination of remote sensing data authorized by the Governments of the sensed States.

9. While appreciating the progress made by the Outer Space Committee and the technological achievements of the space Powers, his delegation emphasized the need to increase the facilities of the United Nations programme on space applications, particularly its training and educational services.

10. Mr. ŠIGUT (Czechoslovakia) said that his Government attached great importance to the question of the exploration of outer space and applied the principle of broad international co-operation in the utilization and exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes, since it regarded such co-operation as a continuation of the struggle for peace and peaceful co-operation among States with different social systems.

11. In 1978, for the first time in history, international crews had worked in space. The successful flights by international crews were the result of the close and brotherly ties uniting the socialist countries and of the selfless assistance given by the Soviet Union to its closest friends. They also bore witness to the strength and advantages of the socialist social structure. His Government would always be proud of the fact that a Czechoslovak citizen, Vladimir Remek, had been the first man in space from a country other than the two space Powers. He had participated in the flight of the Soviet spacecraft Soyuz-28 and had made a contribution to the space exploration programme of the socialist States. Czechoslovak scientists, in co-operation with their Soviet colleagues, had prepared for the flight several scientific experiments in the fields of biology, space medicine, space technology and astronomy. In the light of the results obtained, it could be stated that the progress achieved in manned flights in the Intercosmos programme provided further prospects for the pursuit of scientific experiments in space.

12. The opportunities offered to Czechoslovak scientists by the Soviet Union under an intergovernmental agreement signed by the States members of Intercosmos in Moscow on 13 July 1976 enabled Czechoslovak researchers to make use of modern methods of space research in the fields of astronomy, geophysics, experimental physics, meteorology and medicine.

13. Czechoslovakia had increased its contribution to the peaceful exploration of outer space by participating in the preparation of a number of experiments for the Intercosmos-17 satellite, in which use had been made of hardware manufactured in his country for the purpose of determining the exact co-ordinates of satellites by means of laser beams. His country's physicians had taken part in the preparations for an experiment on the biological satellite Cosmos-936, and physicists concerned with the question of cosmic radiation had prepared several devices for the USSR satellite Prognoz-6.

(Mr. Šigut, Czechoslovakia)

14. The flight by Vladimir Remek on board Soyuz-28 had been proof of the role played by Czechoslovakia in space exploration activities carried out by socialist States under the Intercosmos programme. It had also confirmed the important place occupied by socialist Czechoslovakia in the exploration and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes at the international level.

15. From the standpoint of the development of international space flight, 1978 had been noteworthy not only because of the flights by international crews but also because they had been accompanied by other equally significant experiments. For example, for the first time in the history of space flight, a space shuttle had been used to carry supplies to an orbital station. In addition to the ongoing experiments and the use of outer space under the Intercosmos programme, other States had also continued work under their own programmes, thus making the past year an exceptionally successful and remarkable one.

16. His delegation considered that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had done useful work during its twenty-first session. However, it should be noted that the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Legal Sub-Committee, had not made a significant contribution to the solution of the problems under study.

17. For a number of years, the Legal Sub-Committee had failed to make progress on a key issue - an agreement on the moon - despite the fact that many members had made efforts to arrive at a generally acceptable compromise text on the very important question of the natural resources of the moon. In his delegation's opinion, the Austrian draft, which took account of all observations of a fundamental nature made in the Legal Sub-Committee with a view to achieving a compromise, should be regarded as creating a framework within which agreement could be reached.

18. His delegation welcomed the progress made in the elaboration of draft principles governing the use of satellites for direct television broadcasting. However, it was concerned at the fact that the most recent session of the Legal Sub-Committee, unlike previous sessions, had failed to progress in its work, a situation which might have negative effects on the questions under consideration for some time to come. It was of the opinion that direct television broadcasting by means of satellites should not be undertaken against the interests of the receiving States. As in any other State activity in the field of international relations, such broadcasting should be conducted in accordance with the fundamental principles of international law, namely respect for State sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs, and should promote the development of peaceful and friendly co-operation between States in keeping with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

19. The Legal Sub-Committee had also failed to make progress on the question of a legal régime to govern remote sensing of the earth. The solution of a majority of the difficult questions connected with the preparation of a document on such a régime hinged on the achievement of a generally acceptable and speedy solution to the fundamental problem, namely the need to respect the sovereignty of States in

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(Mr. Šigut, Czechoslovakia)

carrying out remote sensing activities. His Government considered that a balanced solution to the various problems was to be found in the relevant proposals submitted by the USSR in the two Sub-Committees, which provided for dividing the information obtained by remote sensing into two basic categories: information of a general nature and information relating to the economic, military and security interests of States. His delegation was guided in that regard by the principle of respect for the right of every State to dispose of its natural resources in the interests of its economic and social development and with a view to achieving mutually beneficial international co-operation. In his opinion, the balanced Soviet proposals would help to meet the concerns both of those States which had the necessary space technology and of those which were not in a position to chart their own territory and were therefore unable to use all their natural resources.

20. In that connexion, his delegation supported the idea of establishing under the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space a group of experts on remote sensing from outer space. Such a group, which would submit direct to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee or the plenary Committee information and recommendations on questions relating to remote sensing, could greatly help to strengthen the co-ordinating role of the United Nations in that important field.

21. His delegation welcomed the progress made with regard to the delimitation of outer space and considered that further progress in that regard would have a positive effect on the solution of other problems within the competence of the Legal Sub-Committee. It believed that in examining those questions the members of the Committee should have given particular attention to the rational use of the geostationary orbit for the benefit of all States concerned rather than to discussions on whether or not the orbit formed an integral part of outer space.

22. Referring to the convening of a United Nations conference on outer space, he stressed the need for careful preparation and precise formulation of the tasks to be assigned to the conference.

23. With regard to the question of extraterrestrial civilizations, his delegation recommended that States on whose territory experiments had been and were continuing to be carried out with a view to establishing contacts with extraterrestrial civilizations should deposit them with the United Nations for future use. The same should apply to States which sent messages to extraterrestrial civilizations or from whose territory rockets bearing such messages were launched to other planets or to interstellar space. At a later stage, consideration should be given to the question of regulations to be observed in the transmission of such messages and to the proclamation of principles underlining their peaceful nature.

24. His delegation stressed the important role played by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees with regard to regulation of the scientific, technical and legal activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space. It was convinced that broad international co-operation in the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes was one of the most promising

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(Mr. Šigut, Czechoslovakia)

areas in international relations and would help to develop friendship among peoples. It had therefore become a co-sponsor of the draft resolution now before the Special Political Committee and recommended that it should be adopted by consensus.

25. Mr. KATO (Japan) congratulated Czechoslovakia, Poland and the German Democratic Republic on their cosmonauts' successful entry into outer space on board a Soviet spacecraft.

26. The current year marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of his country's Space Activities Commission, which had formulated and published guidelines for Japan's efforts in space development over the next 15 years. Japan was determined to continue its efforts to develop its own technology for the peaceful uses of outer space. The Space Science Exposition now being held in Tokyo would make a major contribution to promoting understanding among the Japanese people of the importance of man's exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

27. The incident involving the nuclear-reactor-equipped Soviet satellite Cosmos-954, which had fallen in Canada in January 1978, was a matter of great concern to all people, particularly those in densely populated areas. The incident had impressed upon the Japanese people and Government the importance of taking concrete measures, on the basis of international co-operation, to ensure the safety of satellites equipped with nuclear power sources. One measure could be an appropriate arrangement for emergency notification by launching States to States concerned if a space object with nuclear power sources on board was malfunctioning with a risk of re-entry of radio-active materials to the earth. His delegation had therefore co-operated with the Canadian and other delegations at the most recent sessions of the two Sub-Committees in working out formulas to deal with that serious problem. The proposals in question had been supported by a number of other delegations, and it was gratifying to note that the Outer Space Committee had decided to request the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to consider the matter at its next session and to create a working group of experts with instructions to meet during the session and report to the Sub-Committee. The Committee had also recommended that the Legal Sub-Committee should include in its agenda an item entitled "Other matters". His delegation sincerely hoped that the working group would undertake an in-depth examination of the safety and technical aspects relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

28. Despite the intensive consultations held by the Legal Sub-Committee with a view to obtaining a compromise text acceptable to all delegations on the remaining key issue in the draft principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting, that of "consultations and agreements between States", no agreement had been reached owing to a lack of consensus on reconciling the principle of the sovereignty of States with that of freedom of information. His delegation was prepared to participate positively in the elaboration of such principles at the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee but was convinced that, in order to conduct international direct television broadcasting by satellites, full consultations should be held between broadcasting and receiving States, or their duly authorized broadcasting entities, bearing in mind the principles provisionally agreed upon. In so far as spillover occurred within the limits established under the relevant instruments of the International Telecommunication Union, it should be excluded from the scope of the consultations referred to in the proposed draft principle.

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(Mr. Kato, Japan)

29. With respect to the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from outer space, his delegation still found it difficult to accept the extension of permanent sovereignty of States over natural resources to cover all information relating to such resources and hoped that the question would be resolved in an appropriate way that was acceptable to all, so that the smooth application of that new space technology would not be hampered. It endorsed the recommendation of the Outer Space Committee that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue to give detailed consideration to that matter on a priority basis at its next session. His delegation supported the establishment of a panel of experts on remote sensing to conduct necessary studies relating to the question.

30. Since the Legal Sub-Committee had not had time at its last session to consider the consolidated text of the tentative draft treaty relating to the moon and other celestial bodies prepared by the Austrian delegation, he hoped that further efforts would be made at its next session to reach a consensus which would lead to the adoption of the draft treaty as the fifth international agreement drafted by the Outer Space Committee.

31. His delegation commended the work of the United Nations expert on space applications in implementing the programme approved by the General Assembly, and it endorsed the programme proposed by the expert for 1979. The Government of Japan was hosting the United Nations/World Meteorological Organization training workshop on meteorological satellite data interpretation, analysis and use from 23 October to 3 November 1978.

32. His delegation was pleased at the Outer Space Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should decide upon the convening of a second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and that the Assembly should designate the Committee as the preparatory body for the Conference.

33. Mr. DASHTSEREN (Mongolia) said that although the question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space was being discussed for the first time in the Committee, it was not new to the United Nations and had been examined by the General Assembly at its thirteenth session. Since then, it had remained on the agenda of the General Assembly. Much had been achieved both in the exploration of outer space and in the codification of international instruments governing activities in space.

34. The achievements of science and technology were now being applied in such fields as communications, navigation, meteorology and remote sensing of the earth. Space exploration had thus yielded extremely tangible results which affected the everyday life of mankind.

35. His delegation had noted with great satisfaction that space had actually become an arena for broad international co-operation involving an increasing number of States. The two space Powers, the Soviet Union and the United States of America, continued to make a major contribution to the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

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(Mr. Dashtseren, Mongolia)

36. Since the previous session of the General Assembly, the world had once again witnessed remarkable achievements by the Soviet Union in that field. Soviet scientists and planners had designed the orbital station Salyut-6, the Soyuz spacecraft and the Progress shuttle.

37. The manned complex Salyut-6, Soyuz and Progress had enabled citizens of Czechoslovakia, Poland and the German Democratic Republic to take part in joint space experiments. The successfully completed joint flights of cosmonauts from those countries and the experiments carried out by them in space bore witness to the striking contribution to the peaceful uses of outer space being made by the socialist countries participating in the Intercosmos programme.

38. As a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, his delegation attached great importance to international co-operation, and as a participant in the Intercosmos programme his country was successfully co-operating with other socialist countries. He was pleased to state that the day was approaching when a citizen of Mongolia would also participate in a space flight.

39. His Government continued to give special attention to new and promising developments such as remote sensing of the earth from outer space. It had already informed the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the plenary Committee at the previous session that Mongolia and the USSR had reached agreement on joint activities in the field of remote sensing. He was pleased to inform members that the joint activities begun in that field were proceeding successfully and were enabling his country to make a detailed examination of its natural resources.

40. With regard to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, his delegation welcomed the major efforts being made by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in connexion with the exploration of outer space and the means of regulating such exploration, and it supported the Committee's recommendations and decisions. His delegation welcomed the progress made by the Legal Sub-Committee in the elaboration of draft principles governing remote sensing. In spite of the fact that the draft principles formulated at the previous session of the Legal Sub-Committee were within square brackets, they undoubtedly represented a positive achievement.

41. In that connexion, his delegation wished to state that the remote sensing activities of States should be based on the principle of respect for the full and permanent sovereignty of all States and peoples over their wealth and natural resources. He hoped that the Legal Sub-Committee, which had successfully elaborated a number of international agreements designed to govern the activities of States in outer space, would be able to solve the remaining problems connected with the formulation of the draft agreement on the moon and the principles governing direct television broadcasting.

42. In conclusion, he hoped that the proposed United Nations Conference on outer space would promote the dissemination and use of the achievements of space science and technology for the benefit of all mankind.

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43. Mr. MOREIRA GARCIA (Brazil) said that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was an example of how international co-operation could work if the incentives existed and the right perspectives were adopted, rising above unavoidable political differences by means of a constructive dialogue.

44. His delegation was happy to note that in paragraph 19 of its report the Committee welcomed the intention of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to devote more time to the item on remote sensing of the earth by satellites at its future sessions. The question of remote sensing was one of the most important matters with which the Committee and its subsidiary bodies had to deal. On the question of a proposed United Nations panel of experts, his delegation would like to reaffirm its position that the process of rendering technically compatible the various systems of collecting, storing and disseminating data obtained by remote sensing could not be dissociated from the establishment of a legal régime to regulate activities in that field. It was not acceptable that the United Nations should seek to find means to facilitate the dissemination of information obtained by satellite before the legal basis which would govern the dissemination had been clearly defined.

45. His delegation also noted in the report a very constructive proposal to the effect that the agenda of the parent Committee should be drawn up in an analytical way, spelling out the items before the Committee instead of simply listing the reports of the Sub-Committees as had been the practice. His delegation wished to place on record its support for that approach.

46. Another question that gave his delegation some concern was the practice of assigning priorities to items to be considered by the two Sub-Committees. Originally, and most properly, priority consideration had been asked for one or two items. But now the agenda was practically made up of priority items - and that resulted in no priority at all for the items that should really be taken up by the Sub-Committees in view of the development and refinement of space technology in those fields and also of the need not to have the use and exploration of outer space precede the international regulation of those activities. The Committee should therefore exercise caution when assigning priorities.

47. Paragraph 34 of the report of the Committee stressed the need for co-ordination between the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee when dealing with the question of remote sensing. Such co-ordination in the past had been positive, and it would be wise for the Committee to ask for continuing collaboration between the two subsidiary bodies.

48. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had received from the Secretariat a paper on the physical characteristics and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit. Since his delegation had supported the initiative to have the question debated by the Committee, it welcomed the clear, concise paper that had been submitted. It supported the decision of the Committee to have the paper updated and supplemented as necessary. On the question of the geostationary orbit,

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(Mr. Moreira Garcia, Brazil)

his delegation hoped that the international community would accept the need for regulation, through an internationally agreed legal instrument, of the use of geostationary orbits, since they constituted a sui generis resource whose use was restricted by technical constraints to a limited number of objects.

49. Turning to the work on a draft treaty on the moon and other celestial bodies, his delegation wished once again to express its appreciation to the Austrian delegation for its efforts in drafting the working paper that was annexed to the report. It wished, however, to call the attention of members of the Special Political Committee to paragraph 61 of the report, where mention was made of other proposals before the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. His delegation hoped that, in future discussions on that subject by the Legal Sub-Committee, all proposals that might facilitate the reaching of a consensus would be considered.

50. His delegation commended the Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee for their work on the question of convening a second United Nations conference on outer space. It was willing to extend its full support to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the preparation of the second conference.

51. The Committee had also examined the question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. His delegation was of the opinion that there was a pressing need to regulate their use and that the absence of internationally agreed safeguards for the use of nuclear power sources in space weakened the international safeguards now in force for the use of nuclear power sources on earth. The proposed group of experts should be encouraged to report swiftly to the Committee with a view to completing the work on the subject as soon as possible.

52. On the question of direct television broadcasting by satellites, his delegation expressed its hope that the Committee would be able to make further progress in drafting the principles, since the question was one in which progress in technology was well ahead of progress in the definition of a legal régime. His delegation strongly held that the legal and technical aspects of the use and exploration of space must be kept abreast of each other.

53. While commenting the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for its work, his delegation wished to stress its hope that the Committee's role as a focal point for the international community in questions related to outer space would be strengthened. It was in that spirit that Brazil had decided to join in sponsoring the draft resolution on outer space which would soon be introduced.

54. Mr. MOGHADERI (Iran) stressed the need to maintain a satisfactory rate of progress in developing principles to govern space exploration, which was a rapidly advancing field of scientific activity. During 1978 the world had witnessed the entry of Czechoslovakia into manned space activity when one of its citizens had accompanied a Soviet cosmonaut on the launch and flight of a Soyuz space vehicle. The United States had made final preparations for initiating the space shuttle.

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(Mr. Moghtaderi, Iran)

endurance records had been established by the Soviet cosmonauts aboard the Salyut-6 space station. The use of satellite technology in all fields of practical endeavour was growing daily. Concurrently, the responsibility of the international community to develop generally acceptable principles to govern the peaceful uses of space technology was increasing. The four treaties which the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had prepared for the purpose of addressing certain aspects of space activity provided a foundation for its efforts to finalize the draft principles for the treaty relating to the moon, those governing direct television broadcasting from satellites and those dealing with the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from outer space. In each case, States would be required to consider, in addition to their sovereign rights as independent States, the manner in which the interests of international activities could be accommodated without sacrificing State sovereignty.

55. Members must therefore work diligently to find acceptable principles regarding the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon, the information to be provided on missions to the moon, and the question of the scope of the relevant treaty. The Legal Sub-Committee had proceeded in a most distinguished manner in thoroughly assessing the various alternative draft principles relating to those issues. It was to be hoped that its valuable efforts would continue until the draft treaty was complete.

56. With regard to the question of the preparation of principles governing direct television broadcasting from artificial earth satellites, his delegation took note of the narrowing of differences in the texts of alternate draft principles relating to "consultation and agreements between States".

57. Remote sensing of the earth by satellites continued to be a primary concern of both the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Current pre-operational and experimental activities, however, continued to increase in quantity and variety, indicating a need for concerted efforts to resolve the questions of classification and dissemination of data obtained by remote sensing.

58. Recent progress made by the United States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other States and agencies made it evident that there was a need to involve all States in educational, training and technical assistance activities for the collection, analysis and use of remote sensing data. The efforts of various organizations to ensure participation by developing countries in such efforts augured well for the eventual conclusion of data-sharing agreements which would promote the advancement of those countries.

59. The opportunities for co-ordination of activities in outer space were growing. In addition, the desirability of achieving technical compatibility in equipment, radio frequencies and data analysis made it advisable for an international body, such as the United Nations, to serve those needs. That, together with the desirability of allowing increased participation by other Member States in the activities of the United Nations in outer space matters, seemed to

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(Mr. Moghtaderi, Iran)

suggest the value of a United Nations conference on outer space. His delegation urged further consideration of that matter.

60. His delegation was pleased to announce that it would join in sponsoring the draft resolution on the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that was soon to be introduced.

61. Finally, his delegation welcomed the addition of 10 new Member States to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

62. Mr. TUBMAN (Liberia) said his Government believed that outer space should be preserved as an arena for peaceful international co-operation rather than for conflict and that the benefits of space technology should be made available to all mankind. Those objectives had been well served by many activities of the United Nations in general and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in particular. In the view of his delegation, the time might now be propitious for concrete steps to be taken so that all nations, particularly developing countries, might have access to current and projected developments in that important field.

63. Liberia, together with many other countries represented in the Special Political Committee, had become aware of a new initiative, namely, the World Space Centre/Space Freeport. A Liberian scientist, along with distinguished scientific representatives of other developing countries, had joined the American astronaut, Dr. Philip Chapman, in sitting on the Advisory Board of the World Space Centre.

64. The Centre was a non-profit international institution which was being incorporated in Vienna. One of the first projects to be undertaken by it would be the establishment of a remote sensing training centre. An objective of the new centre would be to train personnel from interested countries - at no cost to such countries - in the basics and interpretation of remote sensing data from satellites.

65. To begin with, the Centre would operate at the University of California in Santa Barbara. It would offer a curriculum starting at a level appropriate to people without a specific background in remote sensing and leading up to the most advanced techniques in the interpretation of photographs and other data. He understood that other such centres were contemplated and would be located in the developing world. The developing countries which would send their personnel to the University of California would be able to use such personnel upon completion of their training to establish training programmes in their respective countries.

66. An interesting component of the project was the proposal for the establishment of a free trade zone in an interested developing country. It was his understanding that a wide variety of activities relating to the peaceful uses of outer space would be undertaken and that people would be trained in the techniques and industrialization processes relevant to space technology. Some of the revenues generated by the free trade zone would be used to support those activities. Most important of all, the facility would be open to any and all nations interested in obtaining and sharing the benefits of space technology.

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(Mr. Tubman, Liberia)

67. His country looked with favour on concepts of that kind. It believed that a free-trade-zone mechanism of the type he had described could be a means of generating funds to provide impetus for research, training and other activities aimed at bringing the benefits of outer space to all nations, regardless of their stage of technical or economic development.

68. His delegation hoped that the United Nations would in some way become involved with the World Space Centre, which had invited such involvement and had much to offer to Member States. If it was considered appropriate, his delegation urged very strongly that the Centre should be invited to appoint to its Advisory Council a representative of the United Nations Centre for Natural Resources in order to assist in the development of an appropriate curriculum.

69. Mr. KHLESTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was making an important contribution to international co-operation in that field and was helping to ensure that achievements in outer space were utilized exclusively for the benefit of mankind. Further success in that area would depend on the level of international co-operation and on the effectiveness of the work of the Committee, which was the main international forum for discussing such matters. The experience gained by the United Nations showed convincingly that the more effective international co-operation in outer space was, the more beneficial it would be to all States. The value of that co-operation had been apparent at the very beginning of the space era, when the first Soviet artificial earth satellite had been launched under the programme for the International Geophysical Year, in which scientific establishments of 66 countries had taken part.

70. The launching of rockets and satellites not only facilitated scientific research in previously inaccessible areas of the outer atmosphere but also made it possible to solve many practical problems. Operational satellites were already providing tangible benefits to the economies of many countries. In the Soviet Union, for example, an outer-space meteorological system had been operating for 11 years and the system of space radio communications based on the Molniya satellites had entered into operation as early as 1965. As a result, the Soviet Union had reliable radio links with the most distant regions of the country and was able to obtain the global meteorological information necessary for sea and air navigation. The Soviet satellites of the Cosmos series were playing a significant role in investigation of the earth and the outer atmosphere and were being used to study natural resources and carry out astrophysical research.

71. At the same time, the practical value of manned space expeditions was increasing. While in 1976 the work of the crew of Soyuz-22 in photographing the earth's surface had been largely experimental, the crew of the Salyut-6 station had taken 90 per cent of their photographs for purely practical purposes and only 10 per cent for experimental purposes. The practical significance of space technology could be seen, for example, from the fact that over the last two years the number of users of outer space information at research institutes, design organizations and construction bureaux in the Soviet Union had more than doubled.

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72. The Soviet Union also advocated broad and effective international co-operation in the sphere of remote sensing of the earth from outer space. On 19 May 1978, representatives of Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union had signed a Convention on the transfer and use of data of the remote sensing of the earth from outer space, and any State which supported the purposes and principles of that Convention could become a signatory to it. Mutually advantageous co-operation in remote sensing of the earth was being developed with the Mongolian People's Republic, Morocco and Angola, and, with the agreement of the Governments of those developing countries, Soviet remote sensing satellites had taken photographs of their territories which had subsequently been made available to the Governments in view of their practical economic value. The basic purpose of the Convention was to ensure co-operation among States in utilizing the results of remote sensing of the earth, and the basic principle was respect for the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources and over information concerning those resources. Thus, the Convention provided that remote sensing data with a spatial resolution of over 50 metres which could be used to obtain information on natural resources, and also that information itself, could be disseminated only with the consent of the State to whose territory the data and information related.

73. July 1978 had witnessed an unprecedented event - the creation of a long-term orbit system consisting of the Salyut-6 station, the Soyuz spaceships and the transport ship Progress. The station was a heavy multipurpose space device, and its equipment could either function automatically or be operated by the cosmonauts. The Salyut-6 station was still at work, and the Soviet cosmonauts on board had been working in outer space for over 120 days, thus setting a phenomenal record for time spent by man in outer space. Since the initiation of the Intercosmos programme in 1967, the scientific and production collectives of Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, and the Soviet Union had been co-operating extensively in the design and construction of various types of scientific instruments and on-board systems for spacecraft which had been used in the Intercosmos series of satellites and on geophysical rockets launched in the Soviet Union under the national programme; those instruments and systems had provided much valuable information on the most varied branches of scientific knowledge which was regularly reported at scientific forums. The Intercosmos programme was designed both to solve fundamental scientific problems and to utilize the most up-to-date technical means of obtaining practical economic results. With the further expansion of co-operation on the programme and the design of new and increasingly complex scientific experiments and projects, cosmonauts and research workers from the States participating in the Intercosmos programme had begun to take part in experiments on Soviet spaceships and stations. A further major achievement had been made under the Intercosmos programme in 1978 with the launching of spaceships with international crews on board representing Czechoslovakia, Poland and the German Democratic Republic. Such launchings were becoming a regular occurrence and could make a major contribution to the development of broad international co-operation in various aspects of the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes. During the next few years, nationals of all the socialist countries participating in the Intercosmos programme would take part in flights on Soviet ships and orbital stations.

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74. The work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees in 1978 had, on the whole, been successful. The Soviet Union had taken an active part in that work and was prepared to continue to do so.

75. With regard to the important question of remote sensing of the earth from outer space, which was under consideration by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the scientifically based formulation of technical criteria for remote sensing data and international legal regulation of their dissemination were of great significance. His delegation believed that an appropriate international legal régime should be worked out on the basis of an agreed classification of remote-sensing data. It believed that the fundamental parameter which would form the basis of that classification should be the spatial resolution of photographs. The work being done by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in comparing the imagery capability of different types of space systems and the possible practical uses of data with different degrees of spatial resolution was therefore extremely useful. His delegation did not oppose the utilization of outer space data with high degrees of spatial resolution for practical and scientific purposes but believed that, since information on the defence and economic interests of States could be obtained from such data, their dissemination should be adequately regulated. The Soviet Union continued to believe that co-ordination of the activities of States in remote sensing of the earth should be carried out under the auspices of the United Nations, and in that regard the efforts of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to work out an organizational infrastructure within the United Nations were very useful.

76. The Soviet Union supported the idea of convening a second United Nations conference on outer space. It was clear that careful and thorough preparatory work was needed, and his delegation hoped that the General Assembly would approve the recommendations of the Committee concerning the convening of the conference.

77. The Soviet Union was actively participating in the United Nations programme on space applications; in October 1977, an international training seminar for remote sensing applications had been held in Baku.

78. With regard to the use of nuclear power sources in space, he recalled that his delegation had circulated information at the twenty-first session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space describing in detail the effective security measures which were applied in the Soviet Union when spacecraft with nuclear-powered apparatus on board were launched. His delegation supported the Committee's recommendation that the subject should be included in the agenda of the sixteenth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

79. With regard to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, his delegation believed that, if there was goodwill on the part of all States members of the Sub-Committee, the draft treaty relating to the moon could be successfully completed in the near future. A constructive effort was needed to complete the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, and the Soviet Union, as always, was prepared to co-operate. It supported the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue to consider the elaboration of those draft principles as a matter of priority. His delegation also hoped that the General Assembly would approve the Committee's recommendation concerning the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from outer space and that the draft principles on remote sensing of the earth from outer space would soon be finalized.

80. It was clearly necessary to solve the problem of the delimitation of the atmosphere and outer space. The Soviet Union believed that the process of reaching agreement on that question should consist of several stages. As a first step, agreement could be reached to the effect that the areas of the atmosphere more than 100-110 kilometres above sea-level would be regarded as constituting outer space; that would make it possible to agree on what area of the atmosphere was subject to the operation of international space law. At the same time, the right of space vehicles to fly over the territories of other States and, at lower altitudes, to leave orbit and return to earth and their own territories would have to be ensured. That did not mean that the height of 100-110 kilometres above sea-level would automatically be taken as the upper limit of the atmosphere; the question of the régime for the atmosphere below that height would have to be the subject of further negotiations until final agreement was reached on the delimitation between the atmosphere and outer space, and that agreement should take the form of a treaty. His delegation hoped that the General Assembly would approve the recommendation that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue to consider that question at its next session.

81. Attempts to extend national sovereignty to certain areas of outer space and certain segments of geostationary orbits were contrary to the usual practice of States and to generally recognized international legal principles according to which outer space was free for all States to use and not subject to appropriation. If one State proclaimed its sovereign right over certain sections of outer space with a view to annexing or appropriating them, then obviously any State, particularly those active in outer space, would feel justified in making similar claims. References to practical or technical difficulties connected with the use of outer space could not serve to justify claims to sections of space, since such problems were being considered in the appropriate international bodies.

82. His delegation was convinced that the work of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly would contribute to a speedy solution of the problems facing the international community in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.