



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 9th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ORTNER (Austria)

CONTENTS

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

AGENDA ITEM 52: PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING
THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR TELEVISION BROADCASTING: REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued)

Italy
France
Egypt
Guinea
Indonesia
Japan
Madagascar
Mexico
Peru

* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be incorporated in a copy of the record and should be sent *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550.

Corrections will be issued shortly after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

(Mr. Vinci, Italy)

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 51: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
(continued) (A/33/212)

AGENDA ITEM 52: PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING
THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR TELEVISION BROADCASTING:
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/33/20)

1. Mr. VINCI (Italy) said that in 1958 there had been increased co-operation in outer space activities, and he congratulated the cosmonauts from the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Polish People's Republic and the German Democratic Republic and their colleagues from the Soviet Union on the successful completion of their joint space mission within the Intercosmos programme.

2. The achievements recorded since 1967, when the first artificial satellite had been launched into orbit around the earth, had increased Man's knowledge in the fields of meteorology, communications, navigation and earth resources studies. The new techniques had indisputable potential benefits for mankind and could contribute greatly to enhancing co-operation among nations.

3. His Government was seriously concerned with the safety of outer space activities and of all activities related to advanced technologies, and it considered particularly important the drafting of measures to prevent and reduce the danger of possible accidents, with special reference to nuclear-powered satellites. His Government accordingly supported the proposal to establish an ad hoc working group to be entrusted with the entire subject of safety in outer space. It looked forward to the results of the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on technical factors and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. In that connexion, his delegation appealed to all delegations, especially those of the United States of America and the Soviet Union, to pledge themselves to adopt appropriate protective measures.

4. Turning to developments in Italian space activities, he said that the successful launching of the Sirio satellite from Cape Kennedy in August 1977 had certainly been the most crucial accomplishment of the Italian space industry up to that time. Sirio, a spin-stabilized geostationary satellite designed for propagation and telecommunication experiments in the 12 and 18 GHz bands, had been designed and developed in Italy under the sponsorship of the National Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - CNR). The experiments had been conducted by the CNR Space Communication Centre and the results achieved so far had been most satisfactory. All the components of the Sirio satellite had functioned and continued to function at the highest degree of efficiency. Moreover, both the transmission of data by the satellite and their collection by the 12 ground stations connected with the Sirio programme were in successful operation. Preliminary analysis of the data received had been presented at various international scientific conferences.

/...

5. Italy was also participating in several research and application programmes undertaken by the European Space Agency (ESA) - which played a primary role both in making space technology available to the international community and in developing the technological capacities of the European space industry - and was collaborating with the United States, particularly in the San Marco Programme. Italy had thus acquired a great deal of experience in outer space activities and was one of the few countries which had a launching platform available for its use, thanks to the co-operation of NASA.

6. The Italian medium-term space plan, which was due to be approved by the Government in the near future, was designed to reinforce Italian systems and management capabilities in order to enable the space industry to respond to national requirements, to participate with greater influence in ESA programmes and, in general, to meet the growing demand expected in the 1980s. In order to clarify the priorities of the space programme, he reported that 50 per cent of the budget had been allotted to telecommunications, 30 per cent to basic and technological research and 20 per cent to space transport, earth observation and the ground segment. Basic research related chiefly to the planning and design of scientific experiments to be carried out on board satellites and Spacelab in the context of ESA programmes and in collaboration with NASA. The main goal of that part of the programme was to devise new technologies with a view to keeping the Italian space industry in the forefront of world activities in the field. With regard to applications, opportunities were being explored for the development and construction of an advanced telecommunication satellite at 20-30 GHz in order to enable Italy to consolidate the systems capacities acquired by Italian industry through the Sirio project. With regard to the space transport sector, the main trend was towards the development of space transport systems utilizing solid propulsion. The remote sensing programme was intended to promote the study of missions, of technologies and methodologies for processing data received and of pilot projects such as the prediction of hydrogeological phenomena.

7. Referring to the work accomplished by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he said that the Italian position was that the moon's resources should be available to any State and that once such resources had been transported to earth they should be shared equally by outer space powers and developing countries. The new treaty envisaged for the moon should be merely a supplement to the 1967 Treaty already in force. Thanks were due to the delegation of Austria for its carefully balanced text (A/32/20, annex II). It was his delegation's hope that that text would help to reduce whatever differences of opinion remained on the issue.

8. With regard to the draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, his delegation supported the conclusions contained in paragraph 54 of the report (A/33/20). It reiterated its position that the principle of free dissemination of information should be safeguarded, subject only to the limitations necessary in order to prevent possible abuses. His delegation's position on the question of the delimitation of outer space was described in document A/AC.105/C.2/7/Add.1. On the question of

/...

(Mr. Vinci, Italy)

geostationary orbits, his Government considered such orbits to be inseparable from the rest of outer space and believed they should be open to use by all States on an equal basis, in accordance with international law and the Outer Space Treaty of 1967.

9. The most challenging and promising aspect of space activities was the remote sensing of the earth by satellite. His delegation believed that restrictions should not be placed on the dissemination of data obtained by remote sensing and that the free flow of information was a prerequisite for peaceful co-operation and international understanding. A discriminatory policy with respect to the collection and dissemination of data would considerably reduce the benefits of remote sensing and be an obstacle to its progress. Remote sensing activities in no way threatened the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources because they did not imply the removal of those resources from the country, and there was no reason why the sensed State and the launching State should not co-operate. Attention should be focused primarily on the problem of access both to the primary data and to data analysed by the sensed States and by third States. In that connexion, his delegation noted with satisfaction the efforts of the Legal Sub-Committee to outline the principles to be applied.

10. On the subject of the co-operation provided by Italy in the framework of remote sensing operations, he said that the Italian ground receiving station for Landsat satellites, situated near Rome and entirely designed and equipped by the Italian firm Telespazio, was the focal point of a regional system covering the entire Mediterranean area, including a number of developing countries and a large part of Europe. The station's value and high technical capability had been confirmed recently through its successful detection and monitoring of marine pollution and its processing of the data. Telespazio and the European Space Agency had also reached an agreement on the acquisition, pre-processing and distribution of earth resources data. His Government hoped that all the countries in the geographical area concerned as well as other countries, would make greater use of its ground station facilities.

11. His Government supported the training activities of FAO and in 1978, as in the past, had participated in the third international training course held at Rome by FAO with the collaboration of UNESCO. His delegation was pleased to note that the Committee's report referred to the fruitful co-operation of FAO, UNESCO and the Italian Government in that field. It supported the conclusions of the report, which provided a worthy contribution to the continuing efforts in the peaceful uses of outer space. His delegation was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution which would shortly be placed before the Special Political Committee.

12. Mr. CARPIO-CASTILLO (Venezuela) said that the developing countries which did not yet possess the necessary means and technology to engage in space activities had to make their voices heard and to urge that such activities should be carried out rationally and for the benefit of all mankind. The Committee's work therefore merited the full support of the international community, particularly since its deliberations had made it possible to advance towards compromise arrangements which could not fail to promote the economic and social development of peoples.

13. Among the most important questions with which the Committee had dealt, pride of place had to go to remote sensing of the earth by satellite. In that connexion,

/...

(Mr. Carpio-Castillo, Venezuela)

the principle of sovereignty of States over their natural wealth and resources and their inalienable right to any data and information obtained by remote sensing of their territory had to be respected. The dissemination of such data to third States therefore required the prior consent of the sensed State, which should also receive the data, in particular when they related to its natural resources and strategic installations.

14. With regard to the use of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, it was his Government's view that a set of standards should be drafted - including the principles of prior consent and freedom of information - that would guarantee a proper balance between the sovereign rights of States. Moreover, it was essential that the natural resources of the moon should be declared part of the common heritage of mankind. On the question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, his delegation supported the investigation by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the technological aspects and the safety measures to be taken in that field.

15. His Government warmly supported the proposal to convene a second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be held not later than 1983. Lastly, it considered that the active participation of a larger number of developing countries in the work of the Committee would undoubtedly promote further progress in the exploration and utilization of outer space for the benefit of the international community.

16. Mr. MESHARRAFA (Egypt) said that although the Committee had played an important part in the efforts to develop an international legal system governing the use of outer space, the rapid development of new technology demanded that the international community should redouble its efforts if it was not to be outstripped by the growth of activities in that field. Unfortunately, progress was very slow. In the field of remote sensing, for example, differences of opinion persisted in the Legal Sub-Committee - and in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee - on the question of disseminating data obtained through remote sensing of the earth, and the very important problem of classifying those data was still unsolved. In that connexion, his delegation emphasized the need to secure the prior consent of the State sensed before available data were communicated to third countries, in accordance with the principle of the sovereignty of States over their territory and natural resources. Egypt attached great importance to remote sensing of the earth, a field which the international community had not exploited as it should, for the benefit in particular of third world countries, which had a crucial need to survey their natural resources, particularly water resources, to make forecasts of harvests, floods, and environmental pollution, and to develop their communications, all of which were activities requiring expenditure too heavy for those countries to undertake. The United Nations would therefore have to play a greater role in that field, and his delegation hoped that to that end the Outer Space Affairs Division would be enlarged and the United Nations Space Applications Programme expanded so that remote sensing activities could be planned for the benefit of all countries, including the developing countries. In that connexion, the programmes for training technicians in third world countries were particularly important.

/...

(Mr. Mesharrafa, Egypt)

17. In 1971 Egypt, in collaboration with universities in the United States, NASA and the Egyptian Academy for Scientific and Technical Research, had established a remote sensing centre with advanced equipment for photographing, analysing and classifying data. The centre was for the moment concentrating in its activities on Egypt, the Sudan and the Middle East. In 1976 the Arab countries had decided to expand its capacity and to make it a regional centre for the Arab countries. Moreover, ECA had recommended that it should be designated as one of the five regional centres in Africa responsible for training experts and for co-operation in remote sensing. Egypt considered that an integrated regional programme should be organized for the development of space technology also and that institutes should be set up in developing countries for that purpose which would support national space research and the production of artificial satellites for various purposes.

18. Document A/33/20 showed that the Legal Sub-Committee had made very little progress towards formulating principles governing the use of artificial earth satellites for direct broadcasting. That subject was an extremely intricate one, in which it was important to ensure balance among divergent interests. For example, small countries might find it difficult to preserve their individuality in the face of the increasingly pervasive influence of certain countries with very different cultural traditions. It was therefore essential that the members of the international community should set aside all political aims and make every effort to reach an agreement that would prevent the taking of unilateral measures while at the same time preserving freedom of information.

19. The Legal Sub-Committee had rightly given high priority to the question of the moon's natural resources. A solution to that vital problem might well facilitate agreement on other questions. In that connexion, the Austrian delegation was to be congratulated on having presented a proposal which seemed likely to facilitate consensus, and it was to be hoped that the Sub-Committee would be able to agree on a final text at the following session.

20. His delegation also hoped that the two Sub-Committees would continue their work on the question of the geostationary orbit. It reaffirmed its own position that the orbit was an integral part of outer space and that all the provisions of the 1967 Treaty on the Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, applied to it. In that connexion, a recent incident involving a satellite carrying radioactive substances raised the problem of the effects which the crash of a geostationary satellite might have on the territory of third countries, particularly developing countries, which were in no way prepared for dealing with accidents of that kind. Egypt was therefore planning to start a programme to train specialized teams for such emergencies.

21. His delegation welcomed the creation of a Working Group of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to study the technical aspects and security measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in space. The very fact that an agreement had been reached on that point, and the initiatives taken by the space Powers to inform other States in case of accident and to assure the return to earth of a satellite in distress, were both encouraging factors allowing the hope that the

/...

(Mr. Mesharrafa, Egypt)

Sub-Committee would succeed in resolving this important problem in the general interest. The convening of a second United Nations Conference on Outer Space was a timely proposal; such a conference would make it possible not only to assess the progress accomplished by then, but also to define the framework for a policy of co-operation covering the technical and legal aspects of the peaceful use of outer space, and would, moreover, give many countries the opportunity to enrich their knowledge in fields relatively new to them.

22. His delegation wanted to call the attention of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the fact that the intensification of military activities in outer space - where the super-Powers had passed from surveillance activities to the launching of strategic devices, such as the so-called "killer" satellites - gravely compromised the peaceful uses of outer space, which was no longer safe from the arms race. It was therefore important, on the one hand, to proceed with a revision 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, on the other hand, to apply pressure on the two super-Powers to begin negotiations on arms reduction in outer space and to respect the fundamental principle of the freedom of outer space.

23. Mr. BOYADJIEV (Bulgaria) declared that the 20 years which had elapsed since the launching of the first Sputnik within the programme of the International Geophysical Year, had demonstrated the ability of the members of the international community to make concerted efforts in the field of space so as to conquer new peaks of knowledge in the interest of the whole of mankind.

24. The year 1978 had been especially eventful for space technology: the creation of the first transport system composed of three space ships (Soyuz-26, Soyuz-27, the orbital space station Salyut-6), the successful experiments in automatic docking within the framework of the Salyut-Soyuz system, the new record of space flight duration set by the two Soviet cosmonauts, and the progress accomplished in supplying orbital stations and spaceships from the earth, in gathering the data from remote sensing, and in enhancing the security of space flights and the productivity of space stations.

25. The year 1978 had also seen a new stage in the co-operation of States in the peaceful exploration of outer space; flights undertaken by international crews, comprising cosmonauts from the USSR and Czechoslovakia, and later from Poland and the German Democratic Republic, had multiplied. The Intercosmos programme, started in 1967, illustrated in a particularly gratifying way the continuous deepening and strengthening of outer space co-operation among socialist countries. Beyond its purely technical and economic goals, the Intercosmos programme aimed to extend the horizons of international space co-operation. An intergovernmental agreement to that end had been signed in 1976; thanks to another agreement, signed in that same year, cosmonauts of three socialist countries had been launched into space in 1978, while representatives from five others - Bulgaria, Cuba, Hungary, Mongolia and Romania - were undergoing training at the Yuri Gagarin Centre, near Moscow.

/...

(Mr. Boyadjiev, Bulgaria)

26. For its part, his country had undertaken, in honour of the 1300th anniversary of the creation of the Bulgarian State, a series of space experiments: a new satellite in the Intercosmos series, named "Bulgaria 1300" and carrying scientific equipment manufactured for the most part in Bulgaria, would be placed in orbit in the near future. Under a programme of bilateral co-operation, his country was co-operating most successfully with Cuba in the field of the application of remote sensing methods, with India in the study of certain processes in the equatorial ionosphere, as well as with Greece, the German Democratic Republic, the United States and other countries.

27. Concerning the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/33/20), it should be stated at the outset that the Committee as well as its subsidiary bodies had accomplished important work, under the enlightened direction of their respective chairmen. The Rapporteur of the Committee should also be congratulated for the clarity of his statement.

28. At the same time much remained to be done. Proceeding from the principle that the best approach to space research and exploration was that of broad international co-operation, based on a respect for the interests and sovereignty of all States, his delegation considered that the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting should be guided by such universally recognized principles of international law as the respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. In that connexion, the conclusions reached at the 1977 World Administrative Radio Conference, to the effect that all direct television broadcasting via satellite presupposed the explicit agreement of the receiving country, could facilitate the Legal Sub-Committee's work. His country regretted that its efforts and those of other delegations to reconcile differences of opinion on that issue had not always met with an adequate response.

29. The Legal Sub-Committee's work on the draft treaty relating to the moon and other celestial bodies had brought delegations close to a final agreement. The Austrian delegations's proposal could serve as a basis for reaching a consensus.

30. His country paid close attention to the question of the remote sensing of the earth by satellite. It considered that the two fundamental criteria for defining the legal framework of that activity were, on the one hand, the inalienable sovereignty of States over their natural resources and, on the other, the freedom of outer space; those two criteria had been reaffirmed in the Convention on the transfer and use of data of the remote sensing of the earth from outer space, signed in Moscow on 19 May 1978 by eight socialist countries and open to all interested States. His delegation was of the opinion that the spatial resolution could constitute the basic technical parameter for uniform classification of data obtained by remote sensing of the earth which, in turn, would make it feasible to work out a proper international legal settlement.

31. During the current session, the General Assembly had to decide on the convening of a new United Nations conference on outer space. His delegation

/...

(Mr. Boyadjiev, Bulgaria)

supported the relevant recommendations contained in paragraph 75 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Providing the conference was prepared in the appropriate manner and conducted in a spirit of goodwill, it could make a useful contribution towards solving current problems and could give new impetus to the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes. The new conference should discuss not only matters relating to the practical application of space science and technology but also important theoretical and methodological questions.

32. He expressed the hope that, after the Special Political Committee had examined those important questions for the first time, it would adopt a resolution ensuring the necessary political and organizational conditions so that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies would be able to pursue their work. His delegation would actively support all constructive initiatives to develop and foster international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space in the interest of all countries and peoples, in the interest of peace and progress.

33. Mr. SURYOKUSUMO (Indonesia) said that the past year had been rich in spectacular feats. For example, there had been the double docking carried out by the Polish-Soviet space team, the joint manned space flight of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic, and the experiments conducted by the American Voyager spacecraft.

34. His country was co-operating actively with various countries. It had recently made available to Malaysia and the Philippines its communication satellite system, the Palapa II, and had organized a training course for telecommunication officials from ASEAN member countries. Domestically, his country was making growing use of satellite communication technology. At present there were 40 ground receiving stations, and plans for the next 10 years envisaged a second generation Palapa system which would provide 24 channels. With only limited advanced technological equipment, his country was conducting experiments in various fields: remote sensing of earth resources, marine pollution, fishery research, development planning, environmental monitoring and solar energy.

35. Regarding the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and in particular the draft treaty relating to the moon which should be extended to cover all other celestial bodies, his delegation wanted to reaffirm its commitment to three fundamental principles: that the moon was the common heritage of mankind, that its resources must not be appropriated by any State and that an international régime should be established for the equitable distribution of such resources. The Austrian draft text might constitute a basis for further negotiations, and he said he hoped that agreement on a final text would be reached at the forthcoming session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

36. His delegation was especially interested in the formulation of principles governing direct broadcast satellites. In view of the importance of that technology for national development and international co-operation, satellite broadcasts

/...

(Mr. Suryokusumo, Indonesia)

to a State other than the broadcasting State should be based on appropriate agreements between the latter and receiving States in order to ensure respect for the sovereign rights of States in the interest of maintaining peace and friendship among nations.

37. Remote sensing had a significant role to play in the economic and social advancement of the developing countries. Therefore, the rights of every nation over its natural resources should be ensured by recognizing the fundamental principle that remote sensing activities should be conducted without prejudging the rights of the sensed States, particularly in the dissemination of information and data.

38. Among the other issues to be discussed by the Legal Sub-Committee, mention should be made of the definition and delimitation of outer space, including the geostationary orbit. The growing number of spacecraft and of States involved in space-related activities called for greater international co-operation, and the United Nations could play an enhanced role as the focal point for such co-operation. The use of nuclear power sources in space, considering the dangers it involved, raised a problem that could be solved only by international technical co-operation.

39. As for the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, his delegation considered that more precise meanings should be given to such terms as "primary data" and "analysed information" for remote sensing purposes. Meanwhile, the interests of the sensed States should be protected, the developing countries should be provided with adequate training facilities in all aspects of remote sensing and the specialized agencies should make greater use of remote sensing data in their programmes for the developing countries. His delegation supported the establishment of a panel of experts to co-ordinate national and international activities in that field. The panel could help to optimize the benefits of remote sensing by preparing recommendations on that subject. His delegation was pleased to note that agreement had been reached on the question of convening a second United Nations conference on outer space. Space technology had indeed made rapid progress since the Vienna Conference in 1968. However, it was regrettable that the United Nations had not been able to expand its efforts in that field, primarily because of a shortage of funds. If an increase in funds for the programme under the regular budget proved unlikely, voluntary contributions could perhaps be considered.

40. His delegation noted the growing interest of the international community in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which should be reflected in an increase in the Committee's membership. Another possibility would be to allow countries that expressed interest in a specific issue to participate in the work of the Committee and its Sub-Committees on an ad hoc basis.

41. Mr. JACKSON (Australia) expressed the hope that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would never be called upon to discuss any uses of outer space other than peaceful ones. After congratulating the Committee and the two Sub-Committees on the work done during the past year, he reaffirmed his delegation's support for the convening of a second United Nations conference on the exploration

/...

(Mr. Jackson, Australia)

and peaceful uses of outer space. His country had chaired an informal working group, established during the twenty-first session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to give more detailed consideration to the views and recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the question of convening such a conference. His delegation noted with satisfaction that that Committee had endorsed the views and recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and of the informal working group on the convening of a second conference and on its preparation.

42. Australia had taken a close interest in the question of remote sensing of earth resources by satellite, as attested by its decision to establish a LANDSAT station in its territory, and it would like to see remote sensing activities co-ordinated. Remote sensing for scientific purposes was compatible with the provisions of the 1967 outer space treaty and his Government favoured a policy of the most open dissemination of primary data consistent with the need to safeguard the legitimate interests of the sensed State.

43. As far as safety factors relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space were concerned, he said that his delegation had been one of those at the most recent meeting of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee which had proposed the establishment of an ad hoc working group of the Sub-Committee to consider the whole question. Australia was pleased to note that the Committee had agreed at its twenty-first session to establish such a working group.

44. With regard to the draft treaty on the moon and other celestial bodies, his delegation hoped that developments at the most recent meeting of the Legal Sub-Committee and the meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would lead to the completion of the definitive text of that treaty which had been so long awaited.

45. Like many other delegations, his delegation was disappointed at the lack of progress on the issue of direct broadcasting by satellite and hoped that more encouraging results could be achieved in 1979. His delegation was a sponsor of the draft resolution which would be introduced by Austria.

46. Miss OLIVEROS (Argentina) praised the clear and comprehensive statement made by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space when introducing the report of the Committee, in whose work Argentina had been actively participating since its establishment in 1957.

47. In Argentina the Chemical CELPA (Self-propelled Rocket Experimental and Launching Centre) rocket-launching base at La Rioja was carrying on research under national and international programmes. At the CELPA base on the Atlantic coast, which had had the valuable collaboration of the United Nations, weekly launchings of sounding rockets took place for the purpose of measuring wind profiles and temperatures in the layer situated at an altitude of 20 to 60 km. The information obtained was disseminated in scientific circles by GTS (Global Telecommunications System) for analysis of the circulation of the middle and higher layers of the

/...

(Miss Oliveros, Argentina)

stratosphere. Argentine officials and technicians had attained a high level of competence in the field of space telecommunications. In that connexion she wished to draw attention to the success of the recent experiment in the use of telecommunication satellites carried out during the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries which had just been held at Buenos Aires. That experiment had shown that modern telecommunication techniques would unquestionably be of very great interest for future United Nations conferences and other forms of multilateral contacts between Governments. Her delegation wished to express its thanks to Mr. Lewandowski, Under-Secretary-General for Conferences and Special Assignments, for the success of that experiment.

48. With regard to training activities, she said that an international seminar on remote sensors would take place from 6 to 23 November 1979 at the San Miguel Space Centre (Province of Buenos Aires). That seminar, which would be organized by the Argentine Commission on Space Research and the United Nations, would train nationals of Latin American countries in applications of remote sensing to the study of non-agricultural natural resources. Argentina, which had organized similar seminars in 1976 and 1977, reiterated its proposal submitted at Vienna at the Committee's twentieth session and at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly for the establishment in Argentina of a regional remote sensing centre for the training of persons who were specialists in various disciplines in the application of space techniques to prospecting for natural resources.

49. With regard to the legal aspects of space questions, the Legal Sub-Committee should be recommended to attach high priority first of all to the preparation of a draft treaty on the moon, which her delegation hoped it could prepare at its eighteenth session, taking fully into account the interests of the developing countries: it was imperative that the principle of the common heritage of mankind should be reflected in the legal provisions concerning exploration and use of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies and that principle should be enunciated in the text of the treaty rather than being the subject of an optional protocol. Also, the notion of use should be defined more precisely. The draft convention on principles governing the use of satellites for direct television broadcasting should likewise have priority and should include clauses safeguarding the sovereignty of States. The idea of freedom of information should not be allowed to eclipse the principles of respect for the sovereignty of States and of non-interference in their internal affairs. The draft principles governing remote sensing of the earth by satellite should also be given priority; it was essential in that connexion that there should be co-operation and consultations between the State observed and the observing State with regard to any activity concerning natural resources. The principle of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources and their right to dispose freely of information concerning them must also be respected.

50. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should concern itself in particular at its next session with the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space.

/...

(Miss Oliveros, Argentina)

51. Her delegation felt that it was imperative to convene a second United Nations Conference on Outer Space, which should take place not later than 1982, and that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee was the body which should make the preparations for it.

52. Mr. ABDUL BAKI (Iraq) said it was imperative to ensure the widest possible international dissemination of scientific innovations through international institutions so that those advances could not be placed at the service of special interests. Also, any space activity affecting the sovereignty of States required the conclusion of reciprocal agreements. Accordingly, the use of satellites for direct television broadcasting and for remote sensing, as also the dissemination of the information thus obtained, should be subject to prior approval by the States concerned; otherwise science would become another cause of international confrontation. There was no conflict between the principle of State sovereignty and the conduct of scientific research, which would be all the more beneficial if it was undertaken within the framework of international co-operation, as was the case in the United Nations, or through international and bilateral conventions. With regard to the treaty concerning the moon and other celestial bodies, his delegation expressed satisfaction at the progress made and reaffirmed that the resources of celestial bodies were the heritage of mankind. Iraq would welcome the convening of a second United Nations conference on space questions and supported the recommendations made on that subject by the Committee, in whose work it actively participated. It was ready to co-operate with all States in that important sphere.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.