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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE

PROVISIONAL AGENDA, WITH ANNOTATIONS,
FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

To be convened at United Nations Headquarters
on Monday, 1 July 1974, at 3 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Statement by the Chairman
3. General debate
4. Consideration of:
 - (a) Report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/133)
 - (b) Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/131)
 - (c) Report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites (A/AC.105/127)
5. Other matters
6. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

Annotations

Item 4 (a) Report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/L33)

(i) Draft convention on registration of objects launched into space for the exploration or use of outer space

The Legal Sub-Committee adopted the text of the draft convention on registration of objects launched into space for the exploration or use of outer space, and has submitted it for approval by the Committee. The text is contained in paragraph 24 of the Sub-Committee's report. A decision on whether or not to delete the fifth preambular paragraph in the text of the draft convention will have to be taken by the Committee before submitting the draft convention to the General Assembly.

(ii) Draft treaty relating to the moon

On the draft treaty relating to the moon, the Sub-Committee was unable to finalize the text in view of lack of agreement on the main outstanding issues relating to the legal status of natural resources of the moon and the scope of the treaty. The Sub-Committee considered that it should continue work on the draft treaty at its next session as a matter of priority (paras. 17 and 18).

(iii) General principles governing direct broadcast satellites

The Sub-Committee began consideration of principles relating to direct broadcast satellites and established a working group, which in the course of its work formulated the texts of five principles. Parts of each of those texts on which agreement had yet to be reached were enclosed in square brackets (para. 30). Having regard to the degree of consensus already achieved and the amount of work yet to be done in the elaboration of principles in the field of direct broadcasting by means of satellites in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII), the Sub-Committee was of the opinion that it should continue this work as a priority item at its next session (para. 32).

(iv) Matters relating to remote sensing satellites surveys of earth resources

The Sub-Committee also began consideration of matters relating to the activities carried out through remote sensing satellite surveys of earth resources, with a general exchange of views. However, in view of the organization of its work as reflected in paragraph 6 of its report, the Sub-Committee did not have time to formulate a response to the request of the Working Group for its views on the legal implications of remote sensing, as recommended by the General Assembly in resolution 3182 (XXVIII), and was unable to give full consideration to the various proposals before it under this item. The Sub-Committee, therefore, considered that at its next session it should continue work on this question as a priority item on its agenda (para. 36).

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v) Other matters

A. Agenda item 6 of the Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee, because of lack of time, was not able to consider item 6 in its agenda (matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities). However, some delegations recorded their views on this item in the general exchange of views (para. 37).

B. Venue for future meetings of the Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee also considered the question regarding the venue for its future meetings and its views are summarized in paragraph 11 of the report. The Sub-Committee felt that it is appropriate for the Committee, when establishing the 1975 time-table of the meetings, to take into account a report on the financial implications submitted by the Secretariat on this matter, which is reproduced as annex V to the Sub-Committee's report.

Item 4 (b) Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/L31)

(i) Remote sensing

After considering the final report of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites (A/AC.105/L25), the Sub-Committee came to the conclusion (i) that work in the area of remote sensing of the earth by satellites, which had been initiated by the Working Group, should be carried on, in a manner to be decided upon by the Committee; (ii) that while the legal aspects of remote sensing would be considered by the Legal Sub-Committee at its May 1974 session, further study of organizational and financial matters should progress together with consideration of the legal aspects of remote sensing; (iii) that accordingly, the Committee might wish to review the situation and to formulate instructions to its subsidiary bodies concerning their future work in the field of remote sensing, taking into account the results so far achieved in all those bodies (para. 14).

The Sub-Committee also felt that in regard to those aspects of remote sensing falling within its responsibilities, certain useful preparations by way of studies could be undertaken, and it recommended to the Committee in this connexion that the Secretary-General be requested to undertake such studies as specified in paragraph 14 of its report (*ibid.*).

(ii) Review of the United Nations programme on space applications

A. 1975 programme

In regard to the United Nations programme on space applications for 1975, the Sub-Committee decided to approve the substance of the programme as proposed by the Expert on space applications in his report (A/AC.105/L26) on the understanding

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that he would seek all possible ways to conduct the programme within the same financial limitations as the 1974 programme approved by the Sub-Committee at its previous session, namely \$87,000 (para. 29).

B. Future planning of the United Nations programme on space applications

The Sub-Committee considered a suggestion for holding a United Nations conference on space applications within the next few years, but, due primarily to lack of essential information, decided to consider the suggestion again at its twelfth session with a view to making recommendations to the Committee on the need, purpose, timing, location, organization and cost of any such conference. It asked the Secretary-General, in this connexion, to obtain the views of Member States thereon and to report those views to it by December 1974 (paras. 31 and 32).

C. Questionnaire on the needs of developing countries for assistance in the field of practical applications of space technology

Noting that space applications represent an important source of benefits, which should be made available to all countries, particularly the developing countries, the Sub-Committee recommended to the Committee that the Secretary-General be requested to prepare a comprehensive report covering the areas of interest, priorities and specific types of assistance needed and sought by Member States, especially the developing countries, in the field of applications of space technology for development, with a view to considering the formulation of a United Nations programme on space applications for the benefit of Member States. The Sub-Committee felt that in preparing that report, the Secretary-General should obtain the views of Member States through an appropriate questionnaire, as well as consultations with interested agencies. The Sub-Committee had before it in this connexion a draft questionnaire prepared by some of its members, but did not have the time to consider it in detail. It consequently agreed to invite interested members to meet prior to the session of the Committee to undertake the preparation of a draft questionnaire for consideration by the Committee* (paras. 38 and 39).

(iii) Review of the role of the Sub-Committee and its future work

In reviewing its future role, the Sub-Committee recommended that at its twelfth session, priority be given to the following items:

- (1) Questions relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellites;
- (2) Consideration and review of the United Nations programme on space applications;

* The Secretariat will make available a conference room for this informal meeting at 9.30 a.m. on 1 July 1974, and will circulate a note thereon to members of the Committee.

- (3) Possible United Nations conference on space applications;
- (4) Review of the future role and work of the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee also recommended that its twelfth session be held in April/May 1975 (paras. 58-64).

Item 4 (c) Report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites
(A/AC.105/127)

In keeping with the task entrusted to it by General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII), paragraph 3, the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, at its fifth session, concentrated on the consideration and discussion of principles on the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII), with a view to making specific recommendations for the work of the Legal Sub-Committee in this field. The results of the consideration of the Working Group relating to draft principles governing direct television broadcasting by satellites is contained in section IV, B, of the Working Group's report. The report of the Working Group was submitted for consideration by the Legal Sub-Committee. (For details of deliberations in the Legal Sub-Committee, see annotation on agenda item 4 (a).)

The Working Group also considered the role of international organizations and technical and economic considerations in the field of direct broadcasting satellites and its views on these matters are recorded in sections II and III of its report.

The Working Group, noting the usefulness of studies undertaken within the United Nations system in the field of direct broadcast satellites considered, nevertheless, that there was a need for further studies relating to the contribution of direct broadcast satellites to social and economic development. The Committee may, therefore, wish to take action on this recommendation (para. 15).