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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FORTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 19 September 1966, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria)

1. Statement by the Chairman
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Election of Vice-Chairman
4. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly [a-d]

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: I have to apologize for the delay in beginning our meeting, but some procedural questions had to be decided before we could start.

May I first of all welcome the representatives to this meeting and express my satisfaction that it was possible, despite the changes which intervened in our previous schedule, to convene this Committee meeting before the beginning of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

May I also welcome the representatives of the specialized agencies and COSPAR, who take an active interest in the work of this Committee.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: In accordance with our usual practice, I invite the representatives of the specialized agencies and COSPAR who are present to take their seats as observers.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: As the members of the Committee know, our distinguished Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Haseganu, of Romania, has left the permanent mission of Romania to the United Nations to take up another appointment, thus leaving a vacancy in the Bureau of the Committee which we must now fill.

I should like to express, through the permanent mission of Romania to the United Nations, my sincere thanks to Ambassador Haseganu for the excellent services he has rendered to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and for the valuable assistance which he was always ready to give to the Chair.

I should now like to invite representatives to nominate a successor to Ambassador Haseganu.

Mr. BUENO (Brazil): It is a very special privilege for the Brazilian delegation to introduce the candidacy of Ambassador Georghe Diaconescu, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, for the Vice-Chairmanship of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Ambassador Diaconescu is a well-known jurist and an outstanding diplomat, and he has performed with success many important assignments during his public life. Before 1954, Ambassador Diaconescu occupied high posts in the Supreme Court and in the General Prosecuting Magistracy of Romania. Between 1954 and 1961, Ambassador Diaconescu was Minister for Justice, and from 1961 until his appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations, he served as Ambassador to Poland.

Moreover, Ambassador Diaconescu is well acquainted with the work of our Organization, and on different occasions he has served as a member of his country's delegation to the General Assembly. We are therefore convinced that Ambassador Diaconescu, with all his valuable experience in the fields of law and diplomacy, will be able successfully to perform the high duties we expect from the Vice-Chairman of our Committee.

Mr. EL-KONY (United Arab Republic): The delegation of the United Arab Republic welcomes the nomination of the representative of Romania, Ambassador Diaconescu, to the post of Vice-Chairman of our Committee. We are fully aware of his high qualifications. He occupied several important posts in the judiciary of his country, and he has served his country in many diplomatic capacities. He combines unique qualifications, legal as well as diplomatic. We are confident that the Committee will benefit from his wide experience, and it is with great pleasure that we second his nomination.

Mr. CSATORDAY (Hungary): I am particularly honoured to join my colleagues, the representatives of Brazil and the United Arab Republic, by seconding the nomination of His Excellency Professor Diaconescu, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the United Nations, to the post of Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

My delegation firmly believes that Ambassador Diaconescu is a most suitable candidate for the post of Vice-Chairman of this Committee. All of us who have been associated with this Committee for a lengthy period know very well that -- as you, Mr. Chairman, have just so eloquently stated -- Ambassador Diaconescu's distinguished predecessor, Professor Haseganu, had served us very efficiently in this post. My excellent colleague and friend, Ambassador Diaconescu, however, deserves this post in his own right, having been an outstanding diplomat and scholar. He has served his country in high posts such as judge, prosecutor, Minister for Justice and as Ambassador for the last twenty years. His active and leading participation in the public life of his country is invariably linked with his academic background, with his scholarly activities as Professor of Law.

It is a particular pleasure for my delegation and for me personally to support the candidature of Ambassador Diaconescu since he represents in the United Nations Socialist Romania, a sister nation with which the Hungarian People's Republic has cordial and brotherly relations, sharing not only common frontiers but also common goals and principles of domestic and foreign policy, sharing not only the historical lessons of the past centuries but also the benefits of co-operation and friendship in the present and for the future.

The CHAIRMAN: As there are no further nominations, I declare the representative of Romania, Ambassador Diaconescu, elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Mr. Diaconescu was elected Vice-Chairman.

Mr. DIACONESCU (Romania), Vice-Chairman, (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, I would ask you to allow me to convey to the representatives present in this room my deep thanks for the trust that they have placed in me by doing me the honour of electing me to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, a body which has the lofty mission of supporting and working out the norms of co-operation among States, in a sector of vast implications for the future of humanity, namely, the exploration of outer space and its use for the benefit of all mankind.

My gratitude is all the greater since I regard the honour paid me as a tribute to my country, Romania, and its contribution to peace and understanding among peoples, to the efforts and constant concern of the Romanian Government for the development and application of science to the needs of society, and as a tribute to the role that my country attaches to the broadening of international scientific co-operation for the benefit of progress and for the strengthening of world peace.

I should also like to express my warmest thanks to the representatives of Brazil, the United Arab Republic and Hungary for the recommendations that they have made to the Committee and for the words of praise that they have addressed to my country and to me.

Inasmuch as I am aware of the particular importance of the task before our Committee, and encouraged by the spirit of co-operation that has been characteristic of our work heretofore, I wish to assure the Committee of my full support and co-operation.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to congratulate Ambassador Diaconescu upon his unanimous election and to express my conviction that his distinguished record in the service of his country will be most valuable for the work of this Committee.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: Since the last session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was held in October 1965, we have witnessed a number of major events and technological achievements in the exploration of outer space.

The improved technique of launching man-made satellites in orbit around our planet and other celestial bodies and the exceptional degree of control over spacecraft in outer space has made it possible to unveil some of the mysteries which surround our nearby planets and to achieve the landing of man-made automatic devices on the moon.

In this connexion I should like to congratulate both the United States and the Soviet Union for the outstanding success which they have achieved in the exploration of outer space and in particular of the moon.

I should like to recall the historic soft landing on the lunar surface of automatic station Luna 9 and the remarkable technological feat achieved by Surveyor I which transmitted a total of over 10,000 photographs from the lunar surface back to earth. I should further like to mention the automatic stations Luna 10, Luna Orbiter and Luna 11, which became the first man-made satellites to orbit the moon and which are specifically designed to select suitable landing sites in anticipation of man's greatest adventure when he will leave the boundaries of this planet. I should also like to refer, without trying to give a complete list of all the major events, to the space stations Proton 2 and Proton 3 which have a scientific payload of many tons and the complex programme of the Gemini Project which is directly connected with manned flight into space, including both rendezvous techniques and extra-vehicular activities.

(The Chairman)

In this connexion I should like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the delegation of the United States upon the most recent success of the Gemini 11 space mission.

Finally, I wish to mention the technological satellite A-1 which was launched by France on 26 November 1965, by virtue of which France has become the third independent space Power.

The whole world, both large and small nations, follow development and progress in the exploration of outer space with increasing interest. While we are legitimately proud of these achievements, every one of us is also full of hope that the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's entry into outer space will serve the common interest of all nations and will be used for peaceful purposes only.

(The Chairman)

We must, therefore, endeavour to strengthen this hope through extensive international co-operation, and we must make sure that we adopt in time adequate solutions to the numerous political and legal aspects of the exploration of outer space.

I would therefore appeal to the members of the Committee, and in particular to the major space Powers, that this Committee should reassert and strengthen its role and strive, in a spirit of compromise, to achieve as wide an agreement as possible, in order to enable the Committee to carry out the mandate entrusted to it.

The members of the Committee have before them the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, contained in document A/AC.105/31; the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, contained in document A/AC.105/35; the report of the Working Group of the Whole, contained in document A/AC.105/34; as well as the reports submitted by the International Telecommunication Union (A/AC.105/L.24) and the World Meteorological Organization (A/AC.105/L.31).

As in previous years, the report of our Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which met in April of this year under the chairmanship of Dr. Martyn, contains a series of useful and broad-ranging recommendations on such subjects as the exchange of information, the encouragement of international programmes, international sounding rocket facilities and education and training. I shall not comment on these recommendations in detail, but merely say that they aim at continuing the work mapped out in earlier sessions by the Sub-Committee. The report contains, in addition, some new suggestions which point the way to new fields, as, for example, the recommendation that the Committee should establish a working group to examine the need, feasibility and implementation of a navigations services satellite system and the recommendation to initiate a study on the possibilities of international collaboration in space activities related to meteorology and mass communications with particular reference to the needs of developing countries.

The Committee will, I am sure, note with particular satisfaction the recommendation that continuing sponsorship should be accorded by the United Nations to the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station, on which a valuable report has been furnished by the Indian National Committee for Space Research (A/AC.105/L.30).

I should mention also the papers presented by the Secretariat and by the Ad Hoc Group of COSPAR on the question of education and training in the peaceful uses of outer space.

(The Chairman)

I am sure that the Committee will also wish to express its appreciation of the reports transmitted to us by the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization on the activities of the two agencies in the space field.

It is encouraging to note the steady progress that is being made by the ITU in its studies regarding telecommunications and the various peaceful uses of outer space as well as the advances that are being achieved by the various States members of the agency. The Committee will also study with interest the draft for a world weather watch for the period 1968-1971 that is to be submitted to the Fifth Congress of WMO for formal adoption in April 1967. As the report of WMO notes, the fifth congress of WMO "will have a unique opportunity to demonstrate its intention to follow up resolution 1963 (XVIII) of the General Assembly" and "take far-sighted decisions which will enable the meteorological community to make their maximum contribution to economic development and the well-being of mankind".

I now come to the Legal Sub-Committee. The Legal Sub-Committee has held its fifth session in two parts.

During the first part, which took place in Geneva between 12 July and 4 August of this year, a Working Group of the Whole agreed on nine articles for a proposed Treaty concerning the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, the Moon and other Celestial Bodies. These nine articles embody important legal principles such as:

The principle that the use and exploration of outer space and celestial bodies is free for all States, a freedom which shall, however, be exercised for the benefit and in the interest of all mankind;

The principle that the moon and other celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that the stationing of nuclear weapons in outer space is prohibited;

The principle that outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies may not be appropriated by any State;

The principle that international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, applies to outer space and celestial bodies;

(The Chairman)

The principle of assistance to and return of astronauts;

The principle that States are liable for damage caused to other States in the pursuit of space activities;

The principle that States are responsible for space activities carried out by non-governmental entities or by international organizations of which they are a member. As for the responsibility of international organizations themselves, a proposal is still before the Sub-Committee;

The principle, that in carrying out space activities States should avoid harmful contamination of the earth or interference with activities of other States; and, finally,

The principle, that States retain jurisdiction and control of objects launched by them, even while they are in outer space or on celestial bodies. However, a few, but important, questions could not be settled at that part of the session. They were referred to the second part which took place last week, here in New York. These problems are:

The problem under what conditions and in what form States carrying out activities on celestial bodies should have access to installations of other parties to the treaty established there;

The problem if, how, and to whom States engaged in space activities shall report on such activities;

The problem if and how States shall accord equal conditions to other parties to the treaty for tracking objects launched into outer space; and, finally,

The problem of the relationship between the proposed treaty and future agreements concerning the law of outer space.

To our great regret it was not possible to overcome certain difficulties concerning some of the remaining open questions during the resumed session of the Legal Sub-Committee which was concluded last Friday. I should, however, like to express my earnest hope that in the near future a resumption of the discussion will be possible and will lead to the adoption of the proposed treaty.

I should now like to say a few words in connexion with the report of the Working Group of the Whole which was established to examine the desirability, organization and objectives of an international conference or meeting to be held in 1967 on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.

(The Chairman)

The Working Group of the Whole held its first meeting in January 1966 and adopted a number of recommendations regarding the organization and objectives of an international conference on the peaceful uses of outer space to be held in the latter half of 1966.

The first report of the Working Group, contained in document A/AC.105/30, was endorsed by the main Committee at its forty-third meeting in April 1966. The report recommended that detailed proposals regarding the organization of the proposed conference should be prepared for the consideration of and approval by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, prior to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. It was agreed that further work has to be done on a number of questions, such as the preparation of estimates of the financial implications related to the conference and recommendations regarding the time and place of the conference and other matters.

The Working Group held its second session from 6 to 9 September 1966 and was able to agree on a number of recommendations regarding the draft agenda of the conference, the setting up of a panel of experts and the date of the conference.

Some questions, such as the final decision regarding the place of the conference, the participation in the conference, the composition of the panel of experts and the financial implications of the conference have, however, still to be settled, and it is to these questions that we must address ourselves in today's meeting.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to document A/AC.105/34 containing the second report of the Working Group to the main Committee, as well as to document A/AC.105/L.33, containing a statement of financial implications by the Secretary-General. The estimates, which range from \$225,850 to \$576,850, depending on the decision to be taken regarding the form and content of the published proceedings, are based on the assumption that the conference will be held at Headquarters or at the European Office in Geneva, for a period of twelve working days, in the first half of September 1967, prior to the twenty-second session of the General Assembly.

This analysis of the reports before us shows that the Committee has to deal with a number of important questions and I should therefore like to express the hope that we will, in the short time available, undertake all efforts in order to conclude our work as conscientiously and effectively as possible.

(The Chairman)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- (a) REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE AND RELATED MATTERS (A/AC.105/31)
- (b) REPORT OF THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE (A/AC.105/L.35)
- (c) REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE (A/AC.105/L.34)
- (d) REPORTS FURNISHED BY THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (A/AC.105/L.31 and L.24)

The CHAIRMAN: These four items have been grouped under one heading in the hope that it will facilitate our discussion.

There is no need for me to remind the Committee that, meeting as we do on the eve of the General Assembly, we have only a very limited amount of time at our disposal. In this situation, it seemed a more practical procedure to combine these subjects under a single item. This will permit representatives to comment on all the items, if they so desire, in one intervention, and will, I think, enable us to make the best use of the short time available to us.

(The Chairman)

Before we enter into the substantive questions before us I should like, if I may, to comment briefly on the form and the content of the report which we shall submit to the General Assembly.

It has been the usual practice of this Committee to include in our report to the General Assembly a section in which the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee were set out as recommendations of our Committee. To do so would, however, involve a rather lengthy drafting process and would require a debate on the various specific issues. An alternative solution would consist in endorsing the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee -- a solution which would allow us to save time and to ensure that the questions which were raised by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee are fully covered by the report to the General Assembly.

If this latter procedure is agreeable to the members of the Committee, for reasons which I have pointed out I would propose that our report to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly should simply record the Committee's endorsement of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's recommendations, which would be annexed verbatim to the Committee's report and would be transmitted to the General Assembly in that form.

We could, if there is no objection, follow the same procedure in regard to the report of the Legal Sub-Committee and the report of the Working Group of the Whole. It goes without saying that recommendations modifying or amplifying the recommendations of our subordinate bodies will of course be recorded in the report.

In connexion with the report of the Working Group, we will, as I have already pointed out in my statement, have to decide the remaining open questions so that we can submit a detailed report to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. If this suggestion is acceptable to the members of the Committee, I shall request our Rapporteur to prepare a skeleton draft report along these lines so that we can consider the text at our meeting this afternoon.

If there are no objections to this procedure, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

Mr. GOLDBERG (United States of America): I am delighted at the opportunity to address this Committee on the work which its membership has so ably performed over the past year and with respect to which you have reported so fully and so objectively, Mr. Chairman. This Committee has a remarkable history of achievement, not only during the last year but over the past several years, and its accomplishments are in great measure due to the skill which you have manifested, Mr. Chairman, in the conduct of the Committee's deliberations. Your fairness, your objectivity, your great dedication to this important work, are apparent and known to all members of the Committee.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to acknowledge with appreciation your statements with respect to my Government's activities in space. We thank you for your generous observations, and we associate ourselves fully with the congratulations you have extended to the Soviet Union on its remarkable achievements in space, and also to the delegation of France on its entry into the space area. Indeed, space is a demonstration, I think, of the great advantages to the international community of peaceful co-operation and peaceful competition. These great achievements can only result in benefits for all mankind.

I wish also at the outset to join in what has been said by several representatives in congratulating our new Vice-Chairman on his election. I have a particular pride in this because of the very similar backgrounds which we possess in the service of our respective countries.

Mr. Chairman, you have reported so well that I may now abbreviate what otherwise would have been more extensive remarks. There are, as you have said, four major areas to which the Committee has devoted its efforts over the past year: to scientific and technical aspects of outer space activity; to general international co-operation in space; to the organization of a space conference; and to the drafting of a treaty governing the activities of States in outer space and on the moon and on other celestial bodies.

Our Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, as you have mentioned, Mr. Chairman, has put before us a report which bears importantly, and in great and significant detail, on international co-operation in space. I should

like to say merely that the United States warmly supports the Sub-Committee's recommendations and hopes that this Committee will adopt all of them. One of the most important and forward-looking actions that we will accomplish in so doing is the creation of an Outer Space Committee working group to consider the need, feasibility, and implementation of a navigation-services satellite system. Such a working group might, I would hope, set the pattern for a major international space activity in the future.

Rather than repeat what you have said, Mr. Chairman, I might, I think, in the interest of promoting international co-operation -- which is the major obligation of members of this Committee -- report on my country's stewardship and its co-operative programmes in this area.

The past year brought particularly noteworthy developments in the practical application of co-operative space activity. Trans-Atlantic television broadcasts became routine by means of "Early Bird". In the field of satellite meteorology, two operational satellites based on Tiros technology flew successfully, as well as Nimbus II, an advanced satellite equipped with special sensors to map night-time cloud cover and cloud-top temperature.

These meteorological satellites, as you have mentioned, Mr. Chairman, illustrate the practical benefits that come as we learn to operate in space. The meteorological satellites now in operation provide widely disseminated weather information on a global basis, and their importance is obvious in the areas of shipping, agriculture and industry. Both the second operational meteorological satellite and Nimbus II carry the Automatic Picture Transmission System -- APT -- which permits local reception of daylight cloud cover on simple and inexpensive ground equipment. I had the opportunity myself to observe this when we were in Geneva for the Outer Space Legal Sub-Committee's activities, and indeed it is an impressive accomplishment of great practical value to all countries co-operating in this programme. There are almost fifty APT stations in twenty-nine countries outside the United States and stations are successfully operating in such countries as Argentina, Chile, Hungary, India, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, and Switzerland, as I have mentioned. A number of these stations, I might add, have been built

(Mr. Goldberg, United States)

locally, using locally available materials, on the basis of "do-it-yourself" instruction manuals we have disseminated. I believe the one in Switzerland was so made. It is actually a very simple device, as I witnessed it, and it produces, as I have said, enormous benefits and these benefits will increasingly be measured in terms of lives both saved and enriched. And here today I wish to reaffirm the invitation we extended at the outset of the APT programme to all countries to participate in this very worth-while co-operative activity.

We are proud, as well, of our information programme. Everyone knows of our successes -- and our failures. Currently, approximately 5,000 foreign visitors a year come to see our space programme in action, and some 18,000 have done so during the last eight years. We publish fully and openly the results of our investigations. On 13 July, only five weeks after Surveyor soft-landed on the surface of the moon and took the remarkable pictures to which you, Mr. Chairman, made reference, a package summarizing all of the data available was on the way to scientific and space officials throughout the world. A smaller distribution was made within a few days of the landing; and the same procedures are being followed with the Lunar Orbiter photographs.

Another measure of openness and co-operation, so indispensable to sharing in this area in a nation's space programme, is the opportunities it provides for the scientists and engineers of other countries to work and study at its university and research centres. Education and training opportunities have properly been a matter of great interest to this Committee and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and again I wish to report to you on the opportunities available in the United States. These are indicated by the fact that during the current year seventy-six Resident Research Associates from twenty-one countries are working at NASA centres; fifty-three NASA International Fellows from thirteen countries are studying at American universities; and thirty-six technical trainees from four countries are in the United States for training in various NASA co-operative projects. We again invite others to take advantage of these opportunities, and the door is open to all.

(Mr. Goldberg, United States)

We are proud to recall that late last year NASA successfully launched a French satellite to measure very low frequency radio emissions, and a second Canadian satellite, the first of four in a new series to conduct ionospheric studies. Other joint satellite projects are moving towards launchings this year and next year. These include the platform-launching of the second Italian San Marco satellite and NASA launchings of the third United Kingdom satellite, the first and second ESRO satellites, and the third Canadian satellite.

The second subject to be considered by this Sub-Committee, as you have commented, Mr. Chairman, concerns the efforts of a Working Group already in existence. It has presented this Committee with important recommendations for an international conference on the practical applications of international space co-operation. The United States would heartily welcome a conference of this nature, and we hope that the Committee will be able to tie up the remaining loose ends and make a formal, positive and final recommendation on this subject to the General Assembly, as you have just intimated, Mr. Chairman.

The third subject with which this Committee must deal is represented by the work of its Legal Sub-Committee. It involves the drafting of a treaty setting forth the standards which States will be required to follow in outer space and on celestial bodies.

Mr. Chairman, you have commented at length on this important development and have spared me the necessity to review what has been accomplished in this area. I think the importance of our effort is that it illustrates the opportunity we have to establish a regime of law in outer space before national interests develop and freeze positions. It is obvious, I think, to all of us on the Legal Sub-Committee, and certainly to this parent Committee, that this problem is immediate and current in the light of the rapid advances made to land a man on the moon. It has also been noted -- although it is sometimes overlooked in the public discussion on this subject -- that important advances can be made in arms control through the medium of this treaty.

(Mr. Goldberg, United States)

I cannot, therefore, stress too much the fact that the framework we are establishing permits States an opportunity to lift themselves out of and above current issues and interests and build a framework -- if only skeletal in form -- for the future pattern of man's activities. This framework, as I have said, would have as its primary structural elements the rule of law, the essential importance of international co-operation, the central role of the concept of openness, and the practicability of including arms-control measures as integral elements of evolving State relationships.

(Mr. Goldberg, United States)

We did very constructive work in Geneva -- which you reported, Mr. Chairman, and which I shall not repeat -- and we had some unresolved issues, which you also fairly and correctly summarized.

At the close of the Geneva negotiations, my delegation returned to the United States determined to review its own position and find the means of accommodating outstanding differences in a spirit of compromise and conciliation. We made no secret then, and we make no secret now, of our desire to conclude a treaty; we attached and we do attach great importance to such an act, and we said so. Our approach was succinctly expressed by President Johnson at Idaho Falls on 26 August when he said:

"I am confident that with good will the remaining issues could be quickly resolved."

We welcome with satisfaction the fact that although the formula of recess permitted this Committee to meet either before or during the General Assembly, the Soviet Union agreed, upon consultation with the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, to meet again on 12 September, last week. And we came prepared to do business.

At those meetings of last week, my delegation tabled proposals which we believe went far to meet the reservations expressed by the Soviet Union. In Geneva, the Soviet Union said that it could not accept a compulsory reporting obligation, nor one which required it to report exclusively to the Secretary-General. We hesitated in meeting these objections, because we very much had in mind the interest of the non-space Powers and those with more modest space programmes in full disclosure and publication of information. We wanted to be consistent with the provisions already agreed upon which declared outer space to be the province of all mankind and provided for international co-operation.

In the attempt to meet and reconcile all of these considerations -- those expressed by the non-space Powers and the new space Powers; those expressed by the Soviet Union; those which were a matter of conviction with us -- we tabled a modified proposal on 13 September whereby parties would take note of the desirability of the fullest exchange of information -- that was indicated in Geneva -- although they would be bound to submit reports only to the extent feasible and practicable. Further, our modified proposal provides the option of reporting either to the Secretary-General or directly to the parties to the treaty.

(Mr. Goldberg, United States)

This was a formula which was found to be acceptable to all the members of the Committee, on the provision we agreed upon in Geneva concerning information relating to the safety of astronauts.

During the Legal Sub-Committee's deliberations last week, the representative of the United Arab Republic introduced a proposal on this subject which would require that reports should in any event be made to the Secretary-General, and that the Secretary-General should immediately disseminate them. The United States accepted this proposal, as I stated last Friday.

The second outstanding issue which we considered to be of substance concerned access to installations and vehicles on celestial bodies. In Geneva, we were very glad to note that the Soviet Union accepted the principle of free and open access. It advanced considerations of courtesy and safety as requiring certain modifications in our proposal. We carefully analysed its suggestions in this regard and took them into account, as well as suggestions made by other delegations, notably the delegations of Japan and Italy.

On 13 September we submitted a modified draft which provides for advance notice and appropriate consultations in order to assure safety and to avoid interference with normal operations. We have in mind the establishment of close co-operative arrangements between representatives on the moon when a visit is proposed comparable to the effective and satisfactory procedures which have been worked out and which prevail in Antarctica. Our proposal does not in any respect contemplate a veto; indeed, no one has suggested a veto in our deliberations, and no one has suggested that the veto, under any guise, would be desirable.

I firmly believe that my delegation, following the Geneva meeting, took to heart the injunction of our distinguished Chairman, Professor Lachs, to review and reconsider outstanding issues. I believe our proposals show that we did our homework.

We had hoped that this would bring a treaty about and that we would be able to report one to the General Assembly following our meetings of 12-16 September. As you have said, Mr. Chairman, regretfully, this is not so. And this is not so I believe -- and I say this in terms of objective reporting and not in terms of reproach -- because the Soviet Union did not modify in any substantial manner

(Mr. Goldberg, United States)

its proposal on the right of a space Power to demand tracking facilities, despite the clear sentiment of the membership of this Committee, expressed in Geneva and reaffirmed here last week, in opposition to it. Indeed, as we heard the representative of the Soviet Union in his statements last week, the Soviet Union now appears to require the inclusion of this provision as a condition for agreement to a treaty, and insists that this provision is a test of the sincerity of members of the Sub-Committee.

I will not, in the interest of time, go into a detailed technical analysis of the Soviet proposal. I spoke on this question in our Sub-Committee meeting on 16 September. Others have tellingly analysed the deficiencies of the Soviet proposal, its essentially unequal nature, and its inconsistencies. I merely here record my sincere conviction that the Soviet proposal is unacceptable because it would be inconsistent with the broad principles of international co-operation and mutuality which are already agreed upon.

The Soviet proposal would discourage rather than promote co-operation in space activities; it would deter and not promote wide adherence to the outer space treaty -- which is one of the objectives of having a treaty formulated by this Committee. We must remember that in a treaty which contains important arms control measures, the importance of which we have all stressed, we should do everything possible to encourage all the Members of this great Organization to accede to it.

I would not wish to conclude this brief review of the work of the Legal Sub-Committee without paying tribute to its distinguished Chairman, Professor Lachs, who has been unfailing in his efforts to stimulate all members to do their best to reach agreement. His wise and impartial guidance deserves our tribute.

I would also not wish to conclude without expressing the hope and conviction that, just as we reconsidered our attitude after leaving Geneva, others would likewise do so in the interest of arriving at an agreement that this Assembly could propose as a treaty to the Members of the Organization.

(Mr. Goldberg, United States)

In summarizing the work of the Outer Space Committee in all its parts, I find that this has been a very active year for international co-operation in space, and a good year, but a great deal is left to be accomplished. We have a space conference to organize. We have a potentially great treaty to finish drafting. To accomplish these tasks, and particularly the latter, we must practise, as well as preach, co-operation. If we promptly finish what we have started, 1966 will indeed be an historic year.

Mr. FEDORENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Allow me first of all to congratulate most warmly the representative of socialist Romania, Ambassador Diaconescu, on the occasion of his election to the post of Vice-Chairman of our Committee. We are convinced that with his competence and his experience he will contribute to the successful discharge of the tasks confronting the Committee.

The Soviet delegation would also like to express its gratitude to the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Waldheim, whose high competence and spirit of co-operation is greatly appreciated by all of us. We should like to express our gratitude to him for his detailed study of the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee, as well as of the Working Group of the Whole of the Committee and of the organization of a world space conference to be held in 1967.

We are also grateful to the Chairman of the Committee for having at this meeting congratulated the Soviet Union on its new and remarkable achievements in the field of the exploration and use of outer space.

In the Soviet Union in recent times we have actively pursued the study of the upper atmosphere through earth satellites and sounding and meteorological rockets and also of the exploration of the deeper atmosphere, the moon and the planets through automatic interplanetary stations. A remarkable achievement in space was the soft landing on the moon on 3 February 1966 by an automatic station, Luna 9, which provided the first photographs of the lunar landscape obtained directly from the lunar surface. This remarkable achievement in the field of the exploration of outer space was made possible by the selfless work of Soviet scientists and engineers.

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

Thus a new era was opened in the study and conquest of space which brought much nearer the time when man will set foot on the surface of the moon. Through the photographs obtained by the Luna 9 station, our ideas on the properties of the surface of the moon were radically altered. Data obtained through the landing of this automatic station will be most valuable for the landing of manned space ships on the lunar surface.

Another achievement of Soviet space science was the launching in a near lunar orbit of the automatic stations Luna 10 and Luna 11. Information obtained from these stations enabled our scientists to obtain clearer information on the paths of meteors and on gamma rays on the lunar surface, the pull of the magnetic field of the moon, infra-red radiation on the lunar surface and radiation conditions.

Our scientists consider that the study of conditions on the surface of the moon and in direct proximity to it are at least as important as the solution of the technical problems encountered in facilitating the flight of man to the moon.

Experiments conducted with the automatic stations Venus 2 and Venus 3 have enabled us to solve many important new problems of principle concerning interplanetary flights and to obtain new scientific data on outer space.

The programme of study of outer space began in 1962 with satellites of the Cosmos series has also continued successfully, and it should be stated that we have obtained meteorological information through the satellite Cosmos 112 concerning the earth's cloud cover in daytime and nighttime, and also information concerning radiation in the earth's atmosphere. The measurements obtained with the assistance of the Cosmos 112 satellite have been put to good use by our operational weather service. It is well known that the World Meteorological Centre in Moscow has begun to transmit meteorological information obtained through these satellites, and this information is transmitted to other centres.

In conformity with the programme of perfecting the system of radio communication and television through artificial earth satellites, on 25 April of this year, the Soviet Union launched on a high elliptical orbit a new satellite called Lightning 1. On 18 May of this year, through equipment tested on Lightning 1, new earth observations were made, and for the first time we obtained television images of the earth. The pictures were taken from a height of 30,000 or 40,000 kilometres, and they were received in various areas of the Soviet Union.

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

Through the use of satellites of the Lightning 1 type, various experiments were conducted concerning television, telephone, telegraphic and photo transmission over extra long distances. Successful colour television experiments were carried out between Moscow and Paris on the basis of the SECAM system. There is no doubt that satellites of the Lightning type will serve as an excellent basis for the creation of international television communications, including a system for colour television.

In this past period, interesting experiments were carried out in space by various countries, including, of course, the United States of America, France, Italy, Japan and other countries.

The successes achieved in the field of the study and exploration of outer space form a new step towards the conquest of space and the unveiling of the secrets of the universe. As we move ahead, as mankind comes closer to solving problems related to the study and conquest of space, these problems will become more difficult. This makes more than ever necessary a united effort and genuine co-operation between all countries. The Soviet Union does co-operate successfully in the field of the exploration of space with the socialist countries, and also with India, the United Arab Republic and other countries. There is co-operation between the Academy of Science of the Soviet Union and NASA of the United States, in accordance with an agreement which was concluded in 1962.

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

We attach great importance to the agreement concluded between the Soviet Union and France on 30 June of this year concerning co-operation in the field of the study and exploration of outer space for peaceful uses. This agreement encompasses many questions of scientific and technical co-operation in space between the two countries, and indubitably it will prove to be most valuable and fruitful.

The Soviet Union takes an active part in the work of the United Nations Committee on outer space and its sub-committees concerning measures taken by the International Telecommunication Union, the World Meteorological Organization, COSPAR and other international organizations dealing with questions of outer space. An important role in the development of co-operation in the field of space exploration was played by a conference of a group of socialist countries in Moscow in November 1965, which laid down a programme of co-operation between socialist countries in the field of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

Allow me now to state the views of the Soviet delegation concerning the reports with which this Committee is seized. The recommendations presented by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, in document A/AC.105/31 of 2 May 1966, contain various constructive measures providing for the expansion of international scientific and technical co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space. It goes without saying that we support those recommendations.

It is well known that in January of this year, and also recently at the beginning of September there were meetings of the Working Group devoted to examining the possibility of organizing in 1967 an international conference on the exploration of the peaceful uses of outer space. The Soviet Union from the beginning came out in favour of having such an international conference on the tenth anniversary of the launching of the first artificial satellite of the earth in order to exchange experience and views obtained by scientists and technicians in the first decade of space exploration and to work out prospects for further work. At the same time, countries not yet engaged in space activities could in our view derive scientific and practical advantages which would enable them to accelerate the pace of their economic, scientific and technical development.

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

Despite the negative attitude originally adopted by some delegations, above all that of the United States, concerning the convening in 1967 of an international space conference, the Working Group was able to present recommendations concerning the agenda and other matters related to the organization and convening of the conference. The Soviet delegation has always been in favour of having all States desirous of doing so take part in this conference. The exploration and peaceful uses of outer space is a matter of interest for the whole of mankind and concerns all countries whether or not they are at present Members of the United Nations or specialized agencies.

In the field of the international scientific and technical co-operation of States in outer space, discrimination is intolerable. One of the important tasks of our Committee is to prepare a draft of wide international agreement on the legal principles governing the activities of States in the matter of exploration and uses of outer space.

It is well-known that the Soviet Union for many years has been constantly striving for the conclusion of an international agreement concerning the activities of States in the field of exploration and the peaceful uses of outer space. May I remind you that in 1958 the Soviet Government proposed the conclusion of an international agreement concerning co-operation in the field of exploration and the peaceful uses of outer space, and officially seized the United Nations of this problem. In 1962, at the first session of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Soviet Union submitted, as you will recall, a draft declaration on the main principles governing the activities of States in the field of exploration and the peaceful uses of outer space. We proposed that the States of the world sign that declaration and that it thus become an international agreement. It is highly regrettable that the Soviet proposals were not at that time supported by all the members of the Legal Sub-Committee. The representatives of certain countries, above all the United States, at the time adopted a negative attitude towards the very idea of working out an international agreement.

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

In this connexion, the eighteenth session of the General Assembly limited itself to adopting a Declaration on the main principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. And after the adoption of that Declaration the Soviet Union continued to work for the elaboration of an international agreement which would contain the principles of international law governing the activities of States in space and binding upon all States. At the first part of the third session of the Legal Sub-Committee in the spring of 1964 the Soviet delegation proposed starting work immediately on the elaboration of a wide international agreement on the principle governing the activities of States in outer space and celestial bodies. A similar proposal was made by the Soviet Union at the second part of the third session of the Legal Sub-Committee in the autumn of 1964 in New York, as well as at the fourth session of the Sub-Committee in the autumn of 1965, in New York. In addition, the Soviet Union often raised this question at sessions of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Yet, the delegation of the United States and some other delegations continued at the time to oppose the idea of concluding such a treaty. It was only this year that, to our great satisfaction, the Legal Sub-Committee was finally able to start working out a draft treaty. On 16 June of this year, developing and adding to its years-long initiative, the Soviet Union presented to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly a draft treaty on the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and the use of outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies. That proposal was another and new step towards the solution of important legal problems raised by the activities of States in the field of the exploration of space and celestial bodies.

The draft treaty submitted by the Soviet Union took into account the main principles governing the activities of States in the field of the exploration and use of outer space, as contained in the declaration and in resolution 1884 (XVIII) concerning the prohibition on the launching of atomic weapons into orbit. The Soviet draft treaty is based on knowledge and experience already obtained as a result of activities of States in space.

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

The most important factor of the Soviet draft treaty consists in that it is based on the fact that mankind as a whole is interested in progressing towards the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, and in a more equitable arrangement for international co-operation on a just, mutual and advantageous without any discrimination for political or other reasons.

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

It is well known that the United States of America, after the Soviet Union had presented its draft, also submitted its own draft treaty, document A/AC.105/32, of 17 June 1966, entitled "Draft Treaty Governing the Exploration of the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies". As is evident from the title of that document, the United States draft, in contradistinction to the Soviet draft, does not apply to outer space as a whole but deals merely with activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies.

The session of the Legal Sub-Committee in Geneva from 12 July to 4 August of this year showed that the Sub-Committee supported the broad position of principle contained in the Soviet draft. The Geneva session of the Legal Sub-Committee succeeded in agreeing on the text of nine articles of the draft treaty. We know that from the very beginning of the fifth session of the Legal Sub-Committee in New York, from 12 September to 16 September of this year, the Soviet delegation, taking into account the views expressed by members of the Sub-Committee in Geneva, submitted new compromise proposals involving several pending questions, including the granting to States parties to the treaty of equal conditions as regards the tracking of the flight of space objects. These proposals, however, thanks to the position of the United States delegation and the delegations of certain other countries, were not adopted. It is quite obvious that in opposing the principle of equal conditions in so important a matter as the tracking of space objects, and in advocating discrimination instead, the United States was not motivated for a desire for large-scale co-operation in outer space in the interests of the whole of mankind. This attitude, as became quite evident in the discussions in the Legal Sub-Committee, stems from its desire to infringe upon the legitimate interests of the Soviet Union and other countries.

The fact that the above considerations lie at the basis of the United States attitude towards the draft treaty can be seen in the statement of Ambassador Goldberg in our Committee today. The artificial nature of the arguments adduced by him needs no emphasizing and is obvious for all to see.

The Soviet proposal, obstinately opposed by the United States, is fully consonant with generally recognized principles of international law, and the Soviet Union is not in the least seeking to obtain any advantages that would

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

not accrue to other States parties to the treaty. We have always considered our activities in space and our scientific achievements as achievements and successes of the whole of mankind. We still remain ready to share with other States the results of those activities -- involving, it goes without saying, large-scale and important expenditures, but in doing so, we are entitled to expect a similar attitude towards the Soviet Union on the part of other States signing the treaty;

Thus, responsibility for new delays in the working-out of an international treaty concerning the legal principles governing the activities of States in outer space must, as before, be laid at the door of the United States of America and those supporting it, and the sooner an end is put to all attempts at pursuing policies of discrimination in the field of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space, the better it will be and the easier it will be to conclude quickly an agreement on the legal principles governing the activities of States in outer space. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, as has already been indicated, it has submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations a proposal for the conclusion of a broad international agreement on outer space and asked that this question be inscribed as an important item on the agenda of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. The Soviet delegation wishes to express its conviction that the twenty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly will take the political decisions that will make possible the elaboration of such a treaty on the basis of equal rights for all States parties and in a spirit of genuine international co-operation to the advantage and in the interest of the whole of mankind.

Mr. SEYDOUX (France) (interpretation from French): Once more, Mr. Chairman, our Committee meets under your able direction for the purpose of summing up the work of its various subdivisions. Your concern for efficiency, together with the rule on unanimity, respect for which you have wisely insisted upon, have resulted in reports and recommendations now before the Committee that it is, quite naturally, prepared to adopt. I would add that the nearness of the forthcoming twenty-first session of the General Assembly provides another reason for us to be brief in our comments. With your permission, mine will refer first to the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

As indicated in the statements of the French delegation during the fourth session of the Sub-Committee, my country attaches particular importance to the possibility of ensuring that international programmes afford to Powers not active in outer space, especially the developing countries, practical advantages similar to those gained by States already engaged in the exploration of space. I refer here to the most immediately accessible applications of space techniques in the fields of meteorology, the transmission of information, and navigation.

On this last point France would hope for the creation in the near future of a working group charged with the study of the scientific, technical, legal and financial problems arising from the creation of a navigation-satellite network. Such a group, which could meet starting next year, would study, in particular the delicate problem of the equitable distribution of responsibilities among the States charged with the orbiting of the satellites and the States benefiting directly from the undertaking.

My delegation also supports the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in respect of education and training. We intend to study carefully the proposals concerning training programmes for specialists in the developing countries, taking advantage of French experience in the field of training fellowships and advanced-training seminars.

With respect to the work achieved under the expert and dynamic direction of Professor Lachs by the Legal Sub-Committee, devoted to the preparation of a treaty governing the exploration and peaceful utilization of outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies, my delegation can but deplore both the absence of unanimous agreement on important issues and, above all, the fact that the

(Mr. Seydoux, France)

Sub-Committee was not able to complete its study of certain questions that were left somewhat on the sidelines at Geneva.

France, it is true, willingly subscribes to the broad principles adopted: the non-militarization of space, the prohibition of claims to sovereignty, and collaboration in the exploration of space. France remains convinced, also, that the Sub-Committee, in the course of its future work, will have to define far-sightedly and realistically certain terms and concepts.

(Mr. Seydoux, France)

I am thinking in particular of the risks of ambiguity between the principle of non-sovereignty -- which falls under public law -- and that of non-appropriation, flowing from private law. The formula of reference to international law and the United Nations Charter -- or, in another field, the concept of utilization of space and celestial bodies -- must also be clarified. Finally, the Sub-Committee must examine in a practical spirit the question of the role of international organizations dealing with space matters. Those organizations could indeed constitute an unprecedented method for enabling many States to have access one day to space undertakings. It is therefore impossible to impose obligations upon them without at the same time recognizing that they have certain rights.

Those various considerations lead my delegation to regard the treaty in preparation as an agreement relating to general principles, complementary special agreements ensuring, as a whole, effective application and unequivocal interpretation.

I come now to the report of the Working Group preparing the 1967 conference on outer space. On 12 April, my delegation spoke in favour of the first report of that Group (A/AC.105/30); we also welcome in a positive spirit document A/AC.105/L.34, circulated to us last week by the Secretariat. I believe that that report accurately reflects the discussions of the Working Group and the recommendations resulting therefrom.

With regard to the programme for the conference next year, we can only express our gratification at the maintenance of the idea of an introductory meeting, at which the achievements of the last ten years will be given their rightful place.

Of course, the remainder of the programme appears to us to be very full. But it can hardly be denied that the nine themes for discussion that have been chosen are of practical interest for the Powers not involved in outer space matters, and that consideration seems to us to be a decisive one.

The proposal -- which the Committee owes to the delegation of the United Arab Republic -- for the establishment of a group of experts to deal with the technical preparation of the conference has properly been accepted. Faithfully reflecting

(Mr. Seydoux, France)

the membership of this Committee, the group of experts will be able to submit to it proposals likely to be accepted without difficulty.

It seems to us an excellent idea that the experts that the Chairman will appoint should be able to have recourse to his arbitration, if needed, and that they should benefit from the co-operation of the Secretariat group on outer space affairs.

In that connexion I wish once again to pay a tribute to Mr. Abdel-Ghani and his colleagues, whose competence and devotion have been apparent on many occasions this year.

It is for our Committee to decide on the question of participation in the 1967 conference. My delegation greatly hopes that men of science and "non-specialists" will meet -- to use the terms of the January report -- as well as all the States Members of our Organization or of the specialized agencies. We believe it highly desirable that the latter, as well as the inter-governmental agencies dealing with outer space questions -- I am thinking in particular of the European organizations to which my country belongs -- should have the possibility of sending observers. That privilege should also be granted to COSPAR, as indeed the Working Group recommended in January.

I have reserved for the end of my statement the problem of the site of the conference and the expenditure involved. On the latter point, the Secretariat has on two occasions furnished us financial estimates. According to the most recent ones, and if a middle-ground solution is adopted for the publication of the Acts of the conference, the cost of next year's event will be slightly below \$350,000. A priori, that figure seems acceptable to us -- with the reservation, of course, that it should be examined more thoroughly by the appropriate bodies of our Organization.

In proposing a few days ago to the Working Group that the 1967 conference should be held in Paris, while you, Mr. Chairman, were making a similar offer as regards Vienna, my delegation wished to demonstrate the French Government's interest in international co-operation in the field of outer space. That interest is evidenced by the many undertakings in common with the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as with States less advanced in space technology.

(Mr. Seydoux, France)

My Government felt that Paris would not be undeserving of receiving in its midst the first conference on space organized at a truly international level. Nevertheless, the ties of friendship uniting my country to Austria and the gratitude which we all have for the successive Chairmen of this Committee, who have conducted its work with such efficiency and courtesy, have led my Government to withdraw the offer it made and to support most willingly the proposal of the delegation of Austria.

It goes without saying that my delegation adopts that position only with regard to this single proposal. We hope that a similar spirit of compromise will motivate delegations as a whole and will lead to a general agreement on the offer that your delegation, Mr. Chairman, has been good enough to make.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of France. Before adjourning this meeting of the Committee, I should like to thank him, on behalf of the delegation of Austria as well as of all the members of the Committee, for the spirit of co-operation that the French delegation has demonstrated in withdrawing the candidacy of Paris as the site of the space conference and in accepting the candidacy of Vienna.

We all appreciate -- and in saying that, I am sure I express the feelings of everyone in this Committee -- the generous attitude of the French Government and the French delegation to the United Nations, which has given a brilliant example of international co-operation and, above all, of the friendly co-operation within our Committee.

I should like to add my personal thanks to the French delegation and to the representative of France here for this friendly gesture.

(Continued in English)

I should also like to express my sincere thanks to the representative of the United States and the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the friendly words they found in connexion with the Chairman of this Committee.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.