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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Monday, 19 September 1966, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. WALDHEIM

(Austria)

1. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly [a-d] (continued)
2. Closing of the session

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(Mr. Hope, United Kingdom)

Sir, may I trespass on your time a moment to turn now to a subject on which such progress has been made that it seems to my delegation that we are almost at the end of our labours, and speak for a second of the report of the Working Group on the arrangements for an international conference on the peaceful uses of outer space.

My delegation was pleased at the progress made by the Working Group during its recent discussions here on the arrangements for the conference, which are described in its report issued as document A/AC.105/34 of 16 September. It is especially encouraging that, under your wise and patient guidance, the Working Group was able to agree upon a detailed draft agenda for the conference which followed closely the aims determined at our meetings earlier this year, and set out again in paragraph 3, sub-paragraph 2, of the Working Group's current report.

My delegation welcomes the emphasis which will now be placed at the conference on the value, for all Member States of our Organization, of a share in the practical benefits to be derived from space research and exploration, and on international co-operation in space activities. It is our earnest hope that the conference will provide an important opportunity for all Member States to learn about these practical benefits and to consider how they can be applied to their own problems.

There was also, I believe, during the proceedings of the Working Group, a general recognition that, in the light of the well-known financial circumstances of the United Nations, the cost of the conference should be the minimum needed to ensure the achievement of its aims and the effective conduct of its proceedings. This recognition was illustrated by the agreement within the Working Group that the proceedings of the conference should, as far as possible, be conducted in consecutive sessions. As a result of the Working Group's deliberations, the Secretariat has produced revised estimates for the cost of the conference, and they are contained in document A/AC.105/L.33 of 16 September.

It is evident from these revised estimates that we should now be able to hold down the cost to a figure near \$300,000, as was suggested by several members of the Working Group. I admit that much will depend on our choice of one of the three alternatives proposed by the Secretariat in the paper for the printing and publication of the records of the conference. I would hope, however, that in selecting

(Mr. Hope, United Kingdom)

one of these alternatives, all of us will have in mind the generally shared desire of our Working Group for the utmost economy. This, therefore, is one unresolved piece of business on which we should, if possible, soon come to a conclusion.

What is then left to be done, apart from this? In effect, there are few other questions. We have the composition of the proposed panel of experts, and I hope that the private soundings of this afternoon have resolved differences on this question. Then, again, there is the question of place. We have had generous offers. They have come from the Governments of France and of Austria. Now, however, the suggestion of Paris has been withdrawn in a spirit, if I may say so, of great conciliation and co-operation. Finally, we must decide on the question of invitations to the conference. It seems to me that the suggestion put forward this morning, with eloquence, by the representative of France on this point has much to recommend it, and this suggestion my delegation welcomes.

Mr. DENORME (Belgium) (interpretation from French): May I first of all express my delegation's warm congratulations to Ambassador Diaconescu, who has just been unanimously elected to serve as Vice-Chairman of our Committee. I am convinced that the Permanent Representative of Romania will continue the tradition of great competence so brilliantly illustrated by his predecessor, and I should like to assure him of my loyal co-operation.

Sir, you have read out an impressive list of space achievements in recent times, stressing at the same time that your list was not exhaustive. My delegation would like to congratulate the United States and the Soviet Union on their remarkable exploits in the exploration of space, and we are happy also to include France in this tribute, a country which also has become a space Power.

I now come to the specific item on our agenda which concerns the report of our Committee to the General Assembly. My delegation considers that we should endorse the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which, among other very useful recommendations, has suggested that a working group should be set up to consider the possibility of establishing a world-wide navigation satellite network.

We also studied with interest the reports of the WMO and the ITU. With respect to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, my delegation is gratified to note the progress made in the elaboration of a general treaty on the exploration and use of outer space, the moon, and other celestial bodies.

The concrete results that have been achieved, despite various obstacles, testify to the common will displayed from the very outset of the session at Geneva. On the majority of points examined in relation to the general treaty, my delegation believes that we have clearly defined our position. With respect to the new proposals submitted to us at the resumed session in New York, we should emphasize that the working papers submitted by the United States delegation display a spirit of conciliation and an obvious desire for compromise.

It is all the more regrettable that in connexion with the problem of tracking, the Soviet Union was not in a position to submit to the Legal Sub-Committee a formula that could meet the legitimate concerns of States directly concerned.

My delegation attaches considerable importance to the speedy elaboration, under the aegis of the United Nations, of a general treaty spelling out rules of positive law which should govern the exploration and use of outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies. Sharing the concern of those who are trying to bring under the rule of law the ever more varied and numerous activities being undertaken by man in space, my delegation expresses the hope that the work undertaken can rapidly reach a conclusion in order to make it possible to work out a firm legal document duly taking account of the various rights and interests involved. For that matter, the Belgian delegation holds that the pursuit of negotiations on particular agreements is necessary to spell out the precise meaning of the provisions to be included in the general treaty now proposed for consideration. And this observation applies particularly with respect to the conclusion of a separate treaty on responsibility for damages resulting from the launching of space objects.

Finally, the Committee has to look at the Working Group's recommendations on the draft agenda, and a few other questions concerning the organization of an international conference on space in 1967. We participated in the discussions in the Working Group and would like to associate ourselves with the conclusions reached by it. We consider that the draft agenda is very heavy but

we feel that the conference will none the less have a central theme, which is space technology placed at the service of mankind. We support the proposal of the United Arab Republic to appoint a limited group of experts to select the papers on the basis of merit, to the extent that they are in accord with the objectives of the Conference.

Three important questions were referred back to this Committee for decision. The first concerns the cost of the conference. The Working Group proposed fixing a budgetary ceiling on the basis of the estimates to be communicated by the Secretariat. After consideration of the financial implications prepared by the Secretary-General, it would appear that this ceiling could be fixed at approximately \$300,000.

The second decision concerns the venue of the Conference. As it is to be held on the eve of the twenty-second session of the General Assembly, it would seem more practical to hold the conference in New York. The Belgian Government, however, would have no objection to its being convened in Europe, and we would thank the French and Austrian Governments most warmly for their generous offers, and express our satisfaction at the agreement reached between them. We should be very pleased to accept Vienna as the site of the conference.

Lastly, the question of participation deserves consideration. It would appear logical that, at an international conference held under the aegis of the United Nations, the countries Members of this Organization and of its specialized agencies should be invited to participate. The Committee also has to endorse the recommendations that the specialized agencies concerned and COSPAR should be invited to participate as observers. My delegation considers that the inter-governmental agencies which have competence in the peaceful uses of outer space, as enumerated in Chapters I, II and III of document A/AC.105/L.29, should also be given this privilege.

(Mr. Denorme, Belgium)

Before concluding, I should wish, on behalf of my delegation, to pay a tribute to you, Mr. Chairman, for the competence and devotion with which you have discharged your lofty task, to our distinguished Rapporteur, and also to the staff of the Secretariat, whose valuable co-operation has always been available to us.

Mr. DIACONESCU (Romania) (interpretation from French): While congratulating the pioneers of space on the achievements of the last year, achievements described by the countries concerned in this Committee, we would like to wish them further success in their noble efforts. For us, every step in the conquest of space is a new step towards consolidation of peace. Peace is the only reasonable alternative, the only possible conclusion that can be drawn from implications of space research.

That is why Romania views the work of this Committee with special importance, particularly as concerns the legal aspects of its work and the drafting of a treaty that would govern the exploration of space. The report of the Legal Sub-Committee on its fifth session shows us the stage that has been reached in this field.

We consider that the articles on which agreement has been reached go to the very substance of the aim of the treaty which is being elaborated, in that they set forth the general principles and formulate the legal rights as well as the obligations of the parties in the conduct of their activities.

We feel that the spirit of the draft treaty faithfully reflects the general acceptance of the aim of space activities "for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, whatever the stage of their economic or scientific development; they concern mankind as a whole". The principle is proclaimed of the exploration and free utilization of space by all States, without any distinction, in conditions of equality.

We consider that to protect the interests of all countries and to eliminate sources of conflict, the activities of States in space must be regulated by binding juridical norms. That is why Romania was one of the first countries to pronounce itself in favour of the inclusion of these principles in a treaty and to proclaim its adherence to them.

(Mr. Diaconescu, Romania)

We cannot but express our satisfaction at the contribution which the treaty, in its entirety, and certain of its clauses in particular, bring to the creation of an atmosphere of security and to the realization of disarmament -- that is, the undertaking by States not to put in orbit around the earth any object carrying nuclear weapons or any other kind of weapons of mass destruction, not to install such arms on celestial bodies and not to place such weapons in space in any other manner.

The Romanian Government strives, in an active manner, to strengthen peace and, by concrete proposals, to deploy efforts for the establishment of an atmosphere of peace, confidence and co-operation among States. That is why this important clause and the obligation to use the moon and the other celestial bodies exclusively for peaceful objectives -- these two elements having positive influence on the disarmament process -- enjoy the most heartfelt support of the peace-loving peoples.

(Mr. Diaconescu, Romania)

There are some aspects on which no agreement has yet been possible, and these must be dealt with because of their importance in all fields of space activities, and the provisions must be drafted in such a manner as to obtain general support. So far as we are concerned, we shall spare no effort to see to it that the draft treaty is finalized as soon as possible.

The constructive spirit which has dominated the work of the Committee on the articles which have been accepted allows us to be optimistic.

So far as the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is concerned (document A/AC.105/31), we wish to stress that last year the Sub-Committee showed great efficiency. The International Telecommunications Union and the World Meteorological Organization must be congratulated for their activities in the field of communications and of space meteorology respectively.

The Romanian delegation would like to see our report to the General Assembly reflect this appreciation, which I am sure is generally shared.

Without insisting too much on the various aspects of this question, I would like to deal more in detail with a problem which is described in the reports, space activity and the co-operation of States in that activity, and I have in mind the convening of a world space conference.

The second report of the Working Group, contained in document A/AC 105/34, marks a decisive step towards the preparation of the conference. The contents of this report is the result of a spirit of co-operation and of the efforts of all the members of the Group. Romania is in favour of the idea of the convening of this conference, and is conscious of the contribution which can be made to the objectives of this Organization. It would inscribe in the history of the United Nations a positive example of fostering the use of all advances of science and technology in the interests of all mankind.

The report submitted suggests a harmonious fusion of scientific and practical factors, and this method would be a guarantee of success.

Our Committee must pronounce itself also upon another aspect which, in our view, is fundamental if one wishes to understand space activities; that is, the international aspect of these activities. The acceptance of this truth leads us to the natural conclusion that there should be a universal character to the arrangements established for this conference, and participation in the conference must be open to all interested States without restriction. Discrimination engendered by political motives could only darken the climate of confidence which has inspired our decisions up to now.

(Mr. Diaconescu, Romania)

In Romania, space activities have continued to develop, and the achievements of our country have been reported to the Secretary-General and are to be found in document A/AC.105/L.26. I do not wish to repeat them. The Socialist Republic of Romania struggles so that these activities will be successful in a sector which is of great importance for the future.

Those are the questions which I wished to underline in my intervention.

Mr. YAMAZAKI (Japan): Let me first of all congratulate the representative of Romania, Ambassador Diaconescu, on his unanimous election to the Vice-Chairmanship of this important Committee. We are indeed confident that he will contribute greatly to our work, as did his distinguished predecessor, Ambassador Haseganu.

In your statement this morning, Mr. Chairman, you referred once again to the remarkable achievements in the exploration of outer space during the period since we last met here. My delegation would like to join you in congratulating those space Powers which have accomplished such outstanding successes in this field. These remarkable successes, however, certainly lead us to believe that greater efforts should be made to ensure closer international co-operation in the exploration of outer space and, in particular, in the field of law in outer space, in order to try to narrow the gap between the tremendous technical and technological progress made by individual Governments and the work we are charged with accomplishing in this Organization.

As one of such efforts, the Legal Sub-Committee met in Geneva last July to draw up a draft treaty governing the exploration and use of outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies. We have been able to reach agreement on many important points, and among these the Japanese delegation attaches special importance to the peaceful use clause and the non-appropriation clause. It is regrettable, therefore, that despite the strenuous efforts exerted by all the members of the Legal Sub-Committee, the progress we had all expected and ardently hoped for on the occasion of the resumed session at these Headquarters has not been possible, and that there still remains a great deal to be dealt with for the successful conclusion of this treaty.

My delegation remains hopeful, however, that through continued devotion to the spirit of international co-operation agreement will be reached on the entire



(Mr. Yamazaki, Japan)

provisions of the proposed treaty in the near future, so that the régime of law in outer space can be established.

We are gratified to note that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee has accomplished some positive progress this year, particularly in the fields of navigation, satellite systems, education and training in outer space, exchange of information and so on. The recommendations contained in its report on these subjects seem to us to be pertinent and quite acceptable.

Japan maintains a positive interest in navigation satellite systems, and we would very much like to participate in the working group which it is proposed should be established for this purpose and to contribute to its work.

We are also particularly glad to note that the Working Group of the Whole on the international conference to be held in 1967 has made tangible progress in a limited time this year, as is shown in the two reports before us. My delegation, as we have repeatedly stated on several occasions in the past, has a positive attitude in this regard and looks forward to seeing the successful holding of the conference, since we believe that this might provide an excellent occasion for achieving closer international co-operation in the exploration of outer space.

We are particularly grateful to the delegation of Austria, which has generously offered Vienna for the site of the proposed conference. Our thanks go also to the delegation of France, which had previously offered a site, but which withdrew it in the spirit of international co-operation.

I should like to add a few points in this connexion. First, we sincerely wish that the panel of experts for the preparation and organization of the proposed conference will start its work as soon as possible and carry out its tasks smoothly and rapidly, since the time available before the conference becomes shorter and shorter. Secondly, there is the question of participation, the only remaining difficulty for which this Committee should find an early solution. My delegation holds the view that all the States Members of this Organization and its specialized agencies, as well as of the regional and semi-official organizations and associations interested in the exploration of outer space, should be invited, in accordance with the precedents thus far followed in such international gatherings held under the auspices of the United Nations.

Mr. McKECWN (Australia): The delegation of Australia would like to join the other delegations in extending our warm congratulations to Ambassador Diaconescu on his unanimous election as Vice-Chairman of this Committee. We know that he will serve this Committee in that office with the same distinction as his esteemed predecessor.

As the statements that have already been made in this Committee have borne testimony, indeed as I think will be obvious to all of us around this table, 1966 has been an active year in space technology with new and exciting developments in many fields. Progress in the political, sociological and legal applications of space techniques, unfortunately, continue to lag behind. It is, however, a matter of some encouragement in this respect that 1966 has been a particularly active year in the work of this Committee. There have been important meetings of the Legal and of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committees as well as of the Working Group as a Whole.

The position of the Australian delegation on the issues which face the Legal Sub-Committee have already been spelt out in detail in the records of that body. Perhaps it is sufficient to say here that the delegation of Australia is disappointed that the Legal Sub-Committee was unable to bring to fruition the very useful and promising work which it initiated at Geneva. We believe that, given a spirit of conciliation and the will to achieve results from all sides, the difficulties which at present obstruct agreement should disappear. It is our hope that proposals which have proved unacceptable to a large number of delegations from many different parts of the world will not continue to obstruct progress. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee has carried forward the useful work which it has been doing in furthering international co-operation in scientific and technical aspects -- and we heartily support its recommendations, not least, those relating to the setting up of a working group to consider further the important question of navigational satellites and also its recommendations in relation to education and training.

(Mr. McKeown, Australia)

The Working Group of the Whole has also held two most useful series of meetings and succeeded in reaching agreement on many matters relating to the organization of an international conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. We hope that the outstanding points will be speedily resolved. One of those points relates to the cost of the conference, and my delegation is pleased to see that the revised statement of financial implications, which has been circulated by the Secretary-General, has succeeded in significantly reducing the original estimates. While a decision will have to be taken on the various alternatives presented by the Secretariat for the cost of printing the proceedings of the Conference, my delegation believes that a satisfactory compromise on this question should enable the cost to the United Nations to be kept within acceptable limits, which might be something of the order of \$300,000.

The views of my delegation on the question of participation in the international space conference were set out in the Working Group and we adhere to the positions we mentioned there. In this connexion, my delegation wishes to associate itself with what was said this morning by the Ambassador of France. In our view it is entirely appropriate that a conference organized under the auspices of the United Nations should be open to States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies. It also seems appropriate that we should invite those specialized agencies and inter-governmental organizations mentioned in chapters I, II and III of document A/AC.105/L.29 as being competent international bodies relating to the peaceful uses of outer space to attend as observers. The Working Group has also recommended that COSPAR should be invited to attend as an observer, and we endorse that recommendation.

We have noted the very useful reports of the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Union, and we thank those organizations for their continuing co-operation and interest in the work of this Committee. We also extend our appreciation to the outer space group in the Secretariat for the very useful documentation which it has prepared for the information and guidance of members of this Committee throughout the year.

Mr. Chairman, we also thank you once again for presiding with such tact and patience over the work of our Committee. We hope that the report which we will approve under your guidance will lead to a continuing and expanding level of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. MISHRA (India): May I join other delegations in extending our very warm congratulations to the Permanent Representative of Romania on his unanimous election as Vice-Chairman of our Committee. He can rest assured of our full co-operation at all times in the discharge of his duties.

Despite the note of pessimism on which the Legal Sub-Committee ended its work at the end of last week, my delegation does not feel that nothing has been accomplished. The area of disagreement must be so narrow now that we hope that it will be possible soon, perhaps before the end of the year, to reach complete agreement on the text of a draft treaty on the moon and other celestial bodies.

My delegation is particularly grateful that no attempt, at least no serious attempt, was made in the Legal Sub-Committee to relegate to the background the question of the draft conventions on assistance to astronauts and on liability for damages. In fact, if I may say so, there was a general feeling that it was in the interest of all that the Legal Sub-Committee should not lag far behind on the question of the two conventions. In particular, there was a feeling that the conclusion of a draft treaty on the moon and other celestial bodies should not prejudice in any way the conclusion of the draft convention on assistance to astronauts and on liability for damages. Therefore, we hopefully take note of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee.

The report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is before us. My delegation is particularly grateful for the recommendation in paragraph 30 thereof. In that paragraph the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee:

"Recommends that continuing sponsorship be accorded by the United Nations, as described in General Assembly resolution 2130 (XX), to TERLS as an international facility for the purpose of co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space." (A/AC.105/31, p. 7)

Judging from various remarks here today on the subject, we feel that the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee will be endorsed, and we thank the members of the Committee in advance for this kindness.

(Mr. Mishra, India)

Finally, we note with great pleasure the report of the Working Group of the Whole in regard to an international conference on space exploration in 1967. As the delegation of a country which has taken only the very first, initial steps in space exploration, we are happy that the conference will be held in a cordial atmosphere and for the benefit of developing countries.

Like other delegations here, we are also grateful to the delegation of France, whose gesture this morning -- if I may say so, a very generous gesture -- has now made it possible for us to arrive at an amicable settlement on the question of the venue of the conference. We hope that the conference, Mr. Chairman, will be held in your country. We think that this is a very amicable solution to the problem that was faced by the Working Group of the Whole just over a week ago.

In conclusion, my delegation joins other delegations in paying tribute, Mr. Chairman, to your tactful, purposeful and wise leadership of this Committee. Without your guidance, I can say without fear of any contradiction, it would not have been possible to arrive at satisfactory arrangements in the Working Group of the Whole.

Mr. YANKOV (Bulgaria) (interpretation from French): May I first of all, speaking on behalf of the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, extend our most sincere congratulations to the Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Diaconescu, on his election, and may I wish him great success in the performance of his duties.

May I also be permitted to express our feelings of appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for the outstanding fashion in which you have conducted the work of our Committee.

The Bulgarian delegation would like at the outset to express its profound satisfaction at the progress achieved by the Working Group in its job of preparing for the conference during the last session of the Group. Thanks to the efforts of the Working Group, a draft agenda for the conference was worked out that reflects the various aspects of the objectives of the conference. The Bulgarian delegation believes that this draft can serve as a suitable basis for constructive discussions. This draft in fact does offer a possibility for drawing up a balance-sheet of achievements resulting from outer-space research in the various fields and for drawing practical advantages therefrom.

The Working Group also arrived at agreement on the question of the creation of a group of experts to deal with the practical organization of the conference and, in particular, its technical aspects -- the screening of working documents, the reports to be submitted, etc.

This group of experts, for the purpose of creating conditions favourable to the progress of the conference, should take care to ensure that the conference is organized in such a way that it allows sufficient time for successive plenary discussions and for discussions by sections and groups.

At the last two sessions of the Working Group, the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria was among those expressing the opinion that the conference should be held in Europe. We can now note with satisfaction that this point of view was shared by the majority of delegations. We are sure that the Committee will be unanimous in its decision as to the place and date of the conference.



(Mr. Yankov, Bulgaria)

My delegation also wishes to associate itself with the words of appreciation spoken with regard to the truly generous gesture of the French delegation which, very sincerely and frankly speaking, did away with certain difficulties of choice on our part -- and the Bulgarian delegation was among those that found it very difficult to choose between Paris and Vienna. It seems to us that, thanks to this friendly gesture of the French delegation, there now remain no difficulties facing the Committee in finding a definitive solution to this problem.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the Austrian Government which is kindly acting as host to the international conference and thus contributing to its success.

With respect to the question of participation in the conference, the Working Group did not at its last session come to a final decision. We must, however, emphasize that it would not be wise to put off a solution of this question. The preparations for the conference would suffer thereby.

The Bulgarian delegation wishes to emphasize once again its position, already defined on several occasions before the Working Group and during the previous sessions of the Committee itself, namely that the conference, which will be dealing with matters that concern the whole world, even the universe, should itself be universal in character. It should be genuinely universal, for it will be dealing with problems affecting the vital interests of all countries without distinction as to their international status within one international institution or another. We are certain that the Committee will take the necessary decisions for endorsing at once the recommendations of the Working Group and for then expediting the preparations for the organization of the conference that should be held very shortly thereafter.

We are likewise convinced that the conference will achieve considerable success by bringing about the participation of all countries of the world in the peaceful utilization of outer space, with the benefits resulting from this.

The Legal Sub-Committee had, for its part, a very important task to carry out. During the last ten years of the space age mankind has witnessed remarkable conquests in the field of the investigation and exploration of space. As in other fields of human activity, scientific progress and practical technical results

(Mr. Yankov, Bulgaria)

here also are far ahead of the international legal rules regulating the situation. At the very beginning of the space age one of the space Powers, the Soviet Union, suggested the working-out of the fundamental principles for regulating the activities of States in the exploration and peaceful utilization of outer space. In 1962 the Soviet Union proposed a draft declaration on the principles that should govern activities of States in the field of the exploration and peaceful utilization of outer space.

(Mr. Yankov, Bulgaria)

At the present time we have before us two draft treaties: that of the Soviet Union and that of the United States. During the first part of the Legal Sub-Committee's session considerable results were obtained in the elaboration of the draft treaties under study. Preliminary texts on nine points were prepared. Those results are a very encouraging point of departure.

Nevertheless, problems remain that have not been settled in a very satisfactory way. Among these there is the principle that States signing the treaty should, on a footing of equality, offer facilities for the tracking of space objects to any other signatory State engaging in space activities. That principle was discussed very thoroughly in the Legal Sub-Committee. The delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria had occasion to express its position on this subject and we would not wish to go back over that ground now. We would merely emphasize the vast importance of this principle as a juridical expression of co-operation and mutual assistance among space and non-space countries and as real evidence of the contribution that each country could make to the progress of mankind in the conquest of space. This problem should be solved in a satisfactory way, because, in my delegation's opinion, that would help considerably to overcome the other difficulties on the path of an agreement on the peaceful uses of outer space.

Without any doubt the work done by the Legal Sub-Committee constitutes a very important success, which should not be under-estimated. There are still, however, some problems, to which I have referred. As things now stand, and in particular with regard to the conclusion of treaties on the peaceful uses of outer space, we must silence the fears concerning the future of the work of the Sub-Committee and tackle the problems, even the most difficult ones, with more realism and optimism. We should not allow the difficulties to prevail and to cast a shadow on future possibilities. On the contrary, we must hope to lead our work to a successful conclusion; we must hope that we shall soon be able to congratulate ourselves on the conclusion of such a treaty.

The CHAIRMAN: It appears that no other representative wishes to speak in the general debate. Before calling on the representative of the World Meteorological Organization, I wish to welcome, on behalf of the Committee, the representative of COSPAR, Dr. Richard Porter.

I now call on the representative of the World Meteorological Organization.

Mr. NAGLE (World Meteorological Organization): On behalf of Mr. D.A. Davies, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, I am privileged to report to this Committee on the activities of the Organization during the past year in the Committee's area of interest.

Representatives will recall that the World Meteorological Organization prepared a "First Report on the Advancement of Atmospheric Sciences and Their Application in the Light of Developments in Outer Space" in 1962, in response to resolution 1721 (XVI) adopted by the General Assembly at its sixteenth session. This first report discussed the demonstrated utility of artificial earth-orbiting satellites for weather observation on a global basis and introduced the World Weather Watch concept, which envisaged the planning and implementation of a new co-operative World Weather System designed to make the fullest possible use of space science and other developing technologies in the advancement of atmospheric science and the provision of improved weather services to the citizens of all nations.

This approach was endorsed by the Fourth Congress of the Organization in 1963, and since that time a major effort has been made by the Organization in the planning of an initial World Weather Watch System, for implementation in 1968-1971, and in the development and improvement of techniques which can be employed in the system. In its second, third and fourth reports, covering the period 1963-1965, the Organization has reported on its initial studies of the general characteristics of the three components of the World Weather Watch -- namely, (a) the Global Observation System, which involves an expansion and improvement of the conventional weather observation system and its integration with newer observing systems such as satellites; (b) the Global Telecommunication System, which will be required to collect and disseminate, on a global basis, both the observational data and the processed material derived from them; and (c) the Global Data Processing System, involving the selection of World and Regional Meteorological Centres and the formulation of their functions and responsibilities. It will be recalled that the three World Meteorological Centres designated were Washington, Moscow and Melbourne.

These reports also outlined progress in regard to the further development of meteorological satellites and the utilization of satellite data, the planning of meteorological research and the education and training of meteorological personnel.

The activities of the Organization during the past year are summarized in its fifth report, issued in August 1966 and placed before the Committee today. These activities have focused on the finalization of a specific World Weather Watch Plan for 1968-1971, for presentation to the Fifth Congress of WMO in April 1967. Detailed programmes for the global observing, telecommunication and data processing systems have been developed for approval by the Fifth Congress and implementation in 1968-1971. A Voluntary Implementation Programme is proposed to effect this implementation. The programme puts the main emphasis on national responsibility for implementation of the facilities required on the national territory, but envisages the possibility, in appropriate cases, of assistance being secured through the United Nations Development Programme, through a bilateral arrangement with another country or from a Voluntary Implementation Fund, comprised of financial contributions or contributions in equipment or services offered by members of WMO. Implementation of World Weather Watch facilities outside national territories -- for example, in outer space, on the high seas, and so forth -- will be effected through the voluntary co-operation of interested countries.

The World Weather Watch Plan for 1968-1971 also calls for vigorous programmes of research on the general circulation as an essential ingredient of the World Weather Watch, since maximum benefit can be derived from the World Weather Watch only with improved understanding of the atmospheric processes. To the same end the suggestion has been advanced that 1972 should be proclaimed as a world meteorological period for intensive co-operative global observation and research in meteorology, in the form of a Global Atmospheric Research Programme.

Considerable emphasis is placed also upon the necessity for intensified programmes of education and training for meteorological personnel. The Organization itself has already substantially increased its activity in this area. In 1965, 951 persons received meteorological training under the United Nations Development Programme, and 40 per cent of the funds allocated to WMO-sponsored projects under the United Nations Development Programme were expended on training. Regional Meteorological Training Centres have been established at Nairobi, Lagos and Kinshasa, and chairs of meteorology at University College, Nairobi, and Lovanium University, Kinshasa.

A world conference on meteorological education and training, open to all members of WMO, is being organized to convene in Leningrad in June 1967. This will be the first such conference ever to be held, and its results will undoubtedly have great significance for the meteorological services of all countries.

The World Weather Watch Plan anticipates further progress in the development of the meteorological satellite and in the possible use of telecommunications satellites for the interrogation of unmanned surface-observing stations and free-floating constant level balloons equipped with meteorological measuring apparatus. The data secured by this interrogation will then be retransmitted to ground-receiving stations. The first international tests of the performance of the constant level balloon as an observing device were initiated in the Southern Hemisphere in April 1966, as a United States-New Zealand project, with WMO support and the co-operation of a number of other countries.

A new phase in satellite meteorology began with the launch in February 1966, of the first of the truly operational satellites, ESSA I. Earlier satellites were primarily intended for operational and research purposes, but the ESSA series of satellites will provide daily global coverage for routine operational purposes. ESSA II is equipped with automatic picture transmission which enables ground stations "overflow" by the satellite to receive its picture transmissions directly with relatively simple receiving equipment. There are already 150 such ground-receiving stations in more than thirty countries.

At the present time the WMO is engaged in a number of cost studies to assist the Fifth Congress in its review of the World Weather Watch Plan. With the same object, it is also publishing a set of about ten World Weather Watch Planning Reports, which will give details of the principal studies made in the course of development of the plan.

The issue of these studies and reports will complete the heavy planning task assumed by the organization at the Fourth Congress in 1963. It will be for the Fifth Congress to pass upon the plans submitted to it. In view of the strong endorsement of the World Weather Watch concept and associated developments given in resolution 1963 of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly, it is anticipated that Member States will be generally sympathetic to the proposals.

(Mr. Nagle, WMO)

Approval by the Fifth Congress of the World Weather Watch Plan for 1968-71 and the associated projects will constitute a landmark in the history of international meteorology, through the implied acceptance by all States of the necessity for truly global planning in the further development of the atmospheric sciences and their applications.

The WMO recognizes that the World Weather Watch concept had its origin in the development of space science and in the impetus which this gave to the adoption of a global view of weather problems. As we now approach the final phase in our preparation of what we hope will be the world's first "Four Year Plan for Meteorology" we would like, Mr. Chairman, to express to you and to the other representatives to this session, our keen appreciation of the interest which this Committee has shown in the advancement of atmospheric sciences and of the support and encouragement which it has given to WMO efforts in this area.

In conclusion, may I add that the WMO will learn with interest of the Committee's decision to recommend the convening in 1967 of a conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, and it will welcome the provision in the draft programme for the discussion of satellite meteorology and associated matters.

The Committee may be assured that the WMO will be glad to co-operate fully in achieving the objectives of this conference.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of WMO for his interesting report.

This concludes the general debate. We now have to adopt the report of our Committee to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. In accordance with the procedural decisions we have taken this morning, we have to endorse the reports of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the Legal Sub-Committee and of the Working Group of the Whole. In addition, we will have to decide the remaining open questions which arise mainly in connexion with the Working Group's report regarding the proposed international conference. If there are no additional proposals or suggestions regarding the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, I take it that the Committee wishes to endorse this

(The Chairman)

report, which will go to the General Assembly as an annex to the report of this Committee.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the report of the Legal Sub-Committee. May I suggest that we proceed in the same way as we did with the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. If there are no new proposals related to this subject, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to endorse the report of the Legal Sub-Committee.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: With regard to the report of the Working Group of the Whole, we will have to take a decision on a number of questions which are still open. These questions concern the composition of the panel of experts to discharge certain necessary tasks in connexion with the preparation and conduct of the conference, organizational aspects of the conference, financial implications of the conference, the place of the conference and, finally, the question of participation in this international conference.

The first question we have to decide is the composition of the panel of experts. May I inform the members of the Committee that, after consultations with the representatives of the Committee, the Chair would like to make the following proposal for the composition of the panel; I shall read out the names in alphabetical order: Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Italy, Japan, Romania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic and the United States. The Chair proposes these countries as members of the panel of experts. May I draw the attention of the Committee to paragraph 8 of the report (A/AC.105/34) which states in the last paragraph of sub-paragraph (iii):

"The panel shall function in co-operation with the Secretariat in consultation with, and under the guidance of, the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space."

May I add that the Working Group had also recommended that this panel should resume its work as soon as possible. Are there any comments on this proposal?

Mr. HOPE (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, I warmly support the proposal that you have just made. I have just one question to ask. I presume that under the rules of document ST/SGB/107/Rev.3, paragraph 3, which are the rules governing payment of travel expenses and subsistence allowances in respect of members of organs or subsidiary organs of the United Nations, that neither travel nor subsistence expenses shall be paid in respect of this panel by the United Nations and that the cost will fall on Member States.

The CHAIRMAN: I am most grateful to the representative of the United Kingdom for raising this question. May I say that the Secretary of the Outer Space Committee, Mr. Abdel-Ghani, has it in mind to make a statement when we come to the financial implications of the conference and on that occasion he will also answer this question.

Mr. HOPE (United Kingdom): I apologize for being premature.

Mr. TELLO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): Like the representative of the United Kingdom, I have no objection, Mr. Chairman, to the list of experts that you have just read out. I should merely like to ask you, in connexion with the suggestion that I ventured to make relating to the agenda, which is item 7 of this document, whether you propose to take this up at the end, or could you tell us when you want us to consider the suggestion that I made on behalf of my delegation?

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to state that the Chair intends to raise this question when the Rapporteur of the Committee presents the report at the end of our deliberations. Before he does so I shall raise this question and ask the Committee whether it agrees to insert this paragraph in the report.

As there are no further comments on this question, I suggest that we now consider the next question, namely the organizational aspects of the conference.

Mr. FRUTKIN (United States of America): I would simply remind the Committee that my delegation made a proposal for the officers of the conference. We are prepared to proceed on that basis or to defer this question, if delegations prefer, to the General Assembly.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no further comments, I would suggest that we refer this question to the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The next question relates to the financial implications. I invite the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Abdel-Ghani, to make a statement on that question.

Mr. ABDEL-GHANI (Secretary): The statement of financial implications, contained in document A/AC.105/L.33, is based on the assumption that the outer space conference will be held in September 1967 prior to the twenty-second session of the General Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters or at the United Nations European office in Geneva. If the conference is held in Geneva, there will be, as mentioned in the footnote on page 1 of that document, an additional cost of \$6,400.

However, I should like to bring to the attention of the Committee the following, with regard to convening the conference in Geneva. The Secretariat received a cable from the European office in Geneva last Friday stating that, in view of the fact that Geneva will service the Trade Conference most likely to be held in August-September 1967, it is impossible to have another conference in Geneva during the same period.



(Mr. Abdel-Ghani, Secretary)

Should the Committee decide to accept an invitation to convene the conference in another place, the host country would be informed by the Secretariat of the additional expenses which are to be borne by the inviting country, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2116. I shall read out the relevant provision of this resolution:

"In other cases meetings may be held away from the established headquarters or authorized meeting place of any body when a Government issuing an invitation for a meeting to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly and indirectly involved;"

The Secretariat estimates, on the basis of information at present available, that the additional cost would be between \$20,000 and \$25,000. This figure relates to the additional costs that would be incurred under the heading of direct conference services. It assumes that the inviting Government would provide all the physical facilities required. The costs for the preparation of the conference and for the editing and printing of the proceedings would remain substantially the same regardless of the site chosen.

The financial implications approximately estimated are based on the various organizational arrangements agreed upon at the last session of the Working Group. It is thus less than the estimation made on the bases of the so-called model conference which the Secretariat used for the purpose of making financial estimates and administrative arrangements.

The financial estimates now presented to the Committee range from a little more than \$225,000 to a little less than \$577,000, with a third alternative in between of approximately \$325,000, depending on the form and content of the publications of the conference. The original estimates for the model conference ranged from about \$478,000 to about \$828,000, with a third alternative of about \$628,000. Thus, there was a substantial reduction in the financial estimates, as the Secretariat already indicated in the meetings of the Working Group.

(Mr. Abdel-Ghani, Secretary)

With respect to the point raised by the representative of the United Kingdom concerning the advisory panel, the statement of financial implications does not include provision for the advisory panel of experts. This is based on the assumption that the advisory panel of experts is a governmental body in the sense that the Governments which will have representatives on the panel will take care of the travelling expenses of the experts that they select. The advisory panel will meet at least once, and this will be as soon as possible after the matter is decided by the General Assembly. However, expenses for Secretariat services for the advisory panel will depend on the time and place of the meeting, as well as on the kind of services required, for example interpretation services. Therefore, if the advisory panel meets at a time and in a place where interpretation services can be provided from the regular United Nations staff, there will be no additional expense, but if it meets at a time and in a place where the regular staff is not available, then additional monies will have to be provided to service the advisory panel.

The CHAIRMAN: Unless any representative wishes to comment on the report just made by the Secretary of the Committee, I would suggest that we proceed with our agenda and that we deal now with the question of place, which is interconnected with the question of the financial implications.

Mr. FRUTKIN (United States of America): As I recall the recommendation of the Working Group of the Whole, it was that this Committee should establish a ceiling on expenses based upon the report which has now been given us so helpfully by the Secretary; and I would suggest that we consider the precise figure which is to be recommended now to the General Assembly to govern the expenses of the conference.

We have heard suggested already today by the representatives of France and of Canada, I believe, that ceilings in the neighbourhood of \$300,000-\$350,000 be established.

It will be recalled that my delegation suggested in the Working Group that a ceiling of \$300,000 should be adequate. I think the report which has now been provided us by the Secretariat bears this suggestion out.

The sum of \$225,000 is proposed as one alternative. Having examined the component figures of that estimate, my delegation would consider that that sum could be further reduced without difficulty, since there are functions listed which, we believe, would not in fact be required.

In any case, allowing for such further reductions, and allowing for the possibility of Alternative II for the printing of the proceedings, we still come up with a figure of \$300,000 as adequate for the total cost of the conference. I should like to hear from representatives their views on this matter with a view to establishing an appropriate ceiling of this order of magnitude.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have heard the statement of the representative of the United States, but I should first of all like to ask where we find ourselves. If I understand correctly, we are now talking about the site for the conference, and the representative of the United States said absolutely nothing in that respect. If I understood the Chair correctly, we were now to discuss the question of the site.

Let us talk about the site and deal with this matter which was presented to us. Let us decide it; then, if we are able to, let us take up the question presented by the representative of the United States.

I think you were quite right, Mr. Chairman, in raising this question and stating that we must now take a decision on the site for the holding of the conference. We must take a final decision.

At present, as far as I understand it, there is unanimous opinion here that we should heed the invitation which was tendered by the Government of Austria. After hearing the statement of the representative of France this morning, there is only one place where the conference can be held. But, before delving into the jungle of figures and financial facts mentioned here, I should like to see the Committee decide the matter of the conference first, after which we will be able to deal with the matter raised by the representative of the United States.

Mr. HOPE (United Kingdom): I listened with great interest to the suggestion made by my colleague from the Soviet Union, but I also recall a statement that you yourself made, Mr. Chairman, only a few minutes ago when you were discussing the outstanding items which were still before this Committee; and I listed here those outstanding items in the order in which you suggested them. The first was the question of the panel; the second was the question of organization; the third was the question of finances; the fourth was the question of place; and the fifth was the question of participation. I heard no dissent from that order of business. It is an order of business that attracts itself to me, and I should be grateful if we could proceed on the basis of your own ruling.

The CHAIRMAN: As I said, I think the two questions are interconnected, and I believe it should not cause too much difficulty if we dealt with the two problems now. I would suggest that we discuss these two interconnected matters, because it is quite evident that the place at which the conference will take place plays an important role in the decision on the financial implications. I am therefore open to suggestions in this direction.

Mr. EL ARABY (United Arab Republic): As I have just pointed out, my delegation welcomes the gracious invitation extended by the Austrian Government, and we sincerely wish that the generous offer could be unanimously accepted by the members of the Committee.

Mr. ARORA (India): My delegation is already on record as favouring the holding of the proposed conference in Vienna. Therefore, my delegation has the great honour and pleasure of seconding the proposal made by the representative of the United Arab Republic that our Committee take advantage of the generous offer of the Government of Austria and recommend to the General Assembly that the proposed conference on outer space be held in Vienna.

Mr. QUIJANO (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): Pursuant to your suggestion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to speak on both matters under discussion: financial implications and site.

As far as the latter matter is concerned, we favour the proposal made by the representative of the United Arab Republic, which we support with enthusiasm and which is supported by the majority of delegations here. The Government of Austria has made a generous offer and my delegation welcomes it most warmly. We hope that this Committee and the Assembly will accept it.

As far as the financial implications are concerned, the delegation of the United States has just made an interesting suggestion that a ceiling be decided upon for the conference. This is an interesting proposal, since it should give the General Assembly a criterion enabling it to take a decision during its twenty-first session.

The suggestion that the ceiling be \$300,000 seems excellent to me. My delegation could accept the minimum proposal, Alternative I, in the report of the Secretary-General, and we could accept the figure of \$225,000 for the conference. But, since our decision here is not final, and since this is only a maximum, I see no inconvenience in accepting the figure of \$300,000 as a maximum, with the last word on the details and the eventual savings to be left to the administrative and budgetary organs of the General Assembly.

(Mr. Quijano, Argentina)

That is why, after having supported the proposal that Vienna be chosen as the site for the conference, my delegation also accepts that a maximum ceiling of \$300,000 be decided upon for the conference. It goes without saying that this figure can be reduced after the various factors and elements have been examined by administrative and budgetary organs of the General Assembly.

The CHAIRMAN: May I give a very short resumé of the situation. The representative of the United States has suggested a ceiling for the International Space Conference of \$300,000. This suggestion was supported by the representative of Argentina as the maximum ceiling. This is point one in the order which I have read out the items we have to discuss and to decide upon.

The next question is the question of the place. In this case the representative of the United Arab Republic has suggested Vienna as the site of the conference, and he was supported by the representatives of India and Argentina.

These are the two proposals which are before the Committee and I would like to ask whether there are further comments on these two questions: the ceiling and the place of the conference.

Mr. FRUTKIN (United States of America): I should feel very bad if delegations were to assume that I had deliberately departed from the agenda which had been put before us. It was my intention to address myself to the report given by Mr. Abdel-Ghani, and I raised my hand to that purpose. The Chairman had meanwhile called the next item.

I should like to say that I have no hesitation whatever in addressing myself also to the question of site as well as finances. Indeed, may I say that in a sense I regret the generous gesture of the delegation of France in withdrawing Paris, since this deprives us of the pleasure of debating the respective attractions of Paris and Vienna. But since they are both extremely attractive cities, I shall do my very best to relate now the question of site and the question of finances.

(Mr. Frutkin, United States)

I take it from the report of Mr. Abdel-Ghani that it would in fact be cheaper for the United Nations to meet in Vienna than to meet in Geneva, since the extra costs involved in meeting away from the Headquarters of the United Nations would be met by the host State. In that case, and deferring to the obvious wishes of representatives that the meeting be in Europe, my delegation is most happy to support the proposition that the conference be held in Vienna.

Having said that, I hope we may proceed to the question of finances again, and there I would like to support the statement of the representative of Argentina and the statement of the representative of France that we should establish a ceiling of the order of \$300,000 to \$350,000. I take note of the fact that the minimum estimate of the Secretariat is \$225,000. I would therefore suggest that a ceiling of \$300,000 should be adequate to meet the requirements of an effective conference.

Mr. FIORIO (Italy): As a close neighbour of the proposing State of the site in Europe, I wish to state that my delegation supports the proposition made by the representative of Argentina to choose the European site of Vienna for the conference and to establish a limit of \$300,000 as maximum expenses for it.

Mr. HOPE (United Kingdom): I too would like to join my voice to those who have extolled the virtues of Vienna and would also be happy to go along with the consensus of this Committee were it to be decided that Vienna should be the chosen site for our conference.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Now, after additional statements were made by the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom, I have a clearer idea as to the place where we now find ourselves. I am happy at seeing the representatives of these two countries, the United States and the United Kingdom, finally coming out unambiguously in favour of convening the conference in Vienna.

As far as the position of the Soviet delegation is concerned, the fact that I stated a few minutes ago that this was the first question to be settled shows that, even before these last two statements, the delegation of the Soviet Union had

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

already quite clearly and unambiguously stated its views, after the statement of the representative of France this morning, in favour of the conference being held in Europe and more especially in Vienna. It is with satisfaction and gratitude that we take note of the kind invitation of the Austrian Government to hold this conference in Vienna.

As far as the ceiling for expenditures pertaining to the conference is concerned, there is, I think, a certain lack of competence in this matter. It seems to me that it would be premature and difficult to adopt a clear-cut decision and say that we should stop at \$300,000 whatever happens. I would like the Preparatory Committee which is to deal with the question to examine the matter with the participation of financial experts, to scrutinize the necessary expenditures which this conference would entail, at the level at which we wish to see it under the aegis of the United Nations. Therefore, I think that a hard and fast decision now, a kind of Procrustean bed into which we shall have to go to sleep, seems to me to present difficulties. It may be that I am not very competent in financial matters, and I am quite prepared to hearken to any pertinent criticism of what I am saying at present; but be that as it may, it seems to me that we should nonetheless say that the ceiling could be somewhere between \$300,000 and \$350,000. And a little later, in better knowledge of the facts, we might determine the exact ceiling for these expenditures. Because if we decided to spend \$300,000 instead of \$325,000 or \$250,000, we might find ourselves in a situation which, in advance, would give rise to difficulties and inconveniences that might not be justified by savings that would be effected if we adopted a ceiling of \$300,000. But as a compromise, I would suggest that we say now that the Committee is of the view that expenditures for this conference should be between \$300,000 and \$350,000. The final decision on this matter could be taken after we hear the views of the panel of experts; or if this is not suitable, after some consultations which we might hold during our work at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, before the question comes up in the Political Committee, which will have to adopt all of our recommendations.

Mr. BOTA (Romania): My delegation has already expressed its preference for the conference to be held in Europe, and in view of the good friendly relations existing between Romania and Austria, I am most happy to state that the Romanian delegation is in favour of this Conference being held in Vienna.

Mr. FRUTKIN (United States of America): I am pleased to see that the views of the representative of the Soviet Union are so close to those of my delegation with regard to the establishment of a ceiling for expenditures somewhere between \$300,000 and \$350,000. Therefore, I would suggest that the Committee's conclusion be that a ceiling be established between those two figures through a process of consultation between the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

The CHAIRMAN: The members of the Committee have heard the proposal put forward by the representatives of the Soviet Union and of the United States. If there is no objection against such a procedure, namely, that a ceiling be set for the conference between \$300,000 and \$350,000, I shall take it that this is accepted by the Committee. Under those circumstances, consultations would take place within the next few weeks to decide on the exact amount needed for a conference, in other words, to decide on the exact ceiling. If I hear no further comments, I will assume the Committee accepts this proposal.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: With regard to the place of the conference, the members have heard the suggestions made by a number of delegations that it be held in Vienna. Does any member wish to comment on these suggestions? May I, therefore, assume that the Committee accepts the proposal that the conference be held in Vienna?

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: May I, before turning to the next question, speak as the representative of Austria and express to the members of the Committee my sincere thanks and my gratitude for their having accepted the proposal of the Austrian Government that the international space conference be convened in Vienna. The members of the Committee can be assured that the Austrian Government will do its utmost to make this conference a success, and I wish to express, in the name of my Government, our sincere thanks to all the representatives who have demonstrated this sign of confidence in my Government.

The next item to be dealt with is the question of participation in the international conference. So far, this question has not been dealt with by the Working Group, and I therefore assume that some delegations would like to express their views on that subject.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Need I refer in detail to the well known position of the Soviet Government and to its view that in this conference all States of the world wishing to do so are entitled to participate, and should participate? In the statement made this morning by the representative of the Soviet Union, the importance of such a decision was stressed, as well as the intolerable character of any discrimination in this field of international co-operation in the peaceful uses and exploration of outer space.

If we are serious in speaking here of international co-operation, if this is not just propaganda or politics, and if we really consider that the exploration and the peaceful uses of outer space should be carried out in the interests of mankind as a whole, it goes without saying that this precludes any attempt at establishing discrimination and at preventing any State wishing to do so from taking part in the work of this conference.

But the policy of discrimination based on certain well known political criteria, the policy directed against certain States which, for completely illegal reasons, have been prevented from taking part in international conference, could neither be a precedent nor a norm to guide us in solving this problem. On the contrary, in a field such as international co-operation in outer space, there should, above all, be a situation free of any discrimination and



(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

restriction. An end should be put to what has been happening on this earth. Therefore, we should take a decision that the international conference to be convened in Vienna next year will benefit from the participation of all States of the world wishing to take part, without any discrimination whatever.

The CHAIRMAN: The members of the Committee have heard the statement which has just been made by the representative of the Soviet Union concerning participation in the conference. Are there any further comments? May I recall that in our general debate a number of differing views were expressed on that question, so I wonder whether we should not refer this matter for further decision to the General Assembly, if no other member of the Committee wishes to speak now.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I do not quite understand you, Mr. Chairman. I do not understand what you are talking about. We have made a proposal, and nobody opposed it at the meeting of the Committee, and this might be an excellent augury. It may be that the black shadows which were hovering in these corridors when the Working Group met have all disappeared, and despite some murky weather outside, there may be a spirit of co-operation and understanding in this room.

With all due respect to your position and the way in which you direct our work, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that it is not for you to make such a proposal. Since nobody objected officially and publicly at the meeting of this Committee, as can be seen from the silence which greeted our proposal, I should like to interpret this silence as meaning consent, in accordance with the very old saying.

Mr. FIORIO (Italy): I am afraid that the shadows -- I do not know which colour, whether dark or grey or purple -- that the representative of the Soviet Union is talking about are still here, because as far as my delegation is concerned just a few hours ago the Italian delegation went on record saying that participation in the conference ought to be limited to States Members of the United Nations and to United Nations specialized agencies and inter-governmental bodies, as listed in document A/AC.105/L.29.

I think that there is an additional argument in favour of this position which has been stated as a natural consequence of the fact that all these organizations have already been active in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, whereas we really do not know anything about the organizations and States which have not co-operated in it.

The additional argument is that a few minutes ago we established a ceiling for expenses. Of course, the expenses vary very much, according to the number of participants. And we really do not know how many participants there are outside the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Therefore, we increased the number of participants, of whom many might not be interested at all, but still the expenses will go up. Therefore, opening up the conference on a global basis would not increase the utility of the conference very much, but it could probably increase the expenses substantially, and would not accomplish practically what we have it in mind to do, namely, to expound, explain and put forward to all the people who are interested in hearing of it the practical benefit from space research for the convenience of the daily living of everyone.

Accordingly, I wish to reiterate the position of my delegation as it was stated earlier this afternoon.

Mr. DELEAU (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation already stated its views this morning concerning participation in the conference. Since this is a conference organized by the United Nations and under the aegis

(Mr. Deleau, France)

of the United Nations, we consider that it should be open to participation by States Members of the United Nations or its specialized agencies. In our understanding, the latter, namely, the specialized agencies within the United Nations family, as well as the inter-governmental organizations in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space and COSPAR, should be invited to send observers.

Mr. TURNER (Canada): My delegation fully shares the views which have just been expressed by the representative of France and believes that if it was not timely before, it is timely now to support your proposal, Mr. Chairman. Clearly, there are differing views on this question, as we all know, and as virtually all of us have made clear, in the circumstances where we try to proceed without resorting to a vote, there would seem to be no alternative but to support your proposal and to thank you for it.

Mr. DENORME (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The Belgian delegation did not speak before now, and it is only because it made a statement this afternoon concerning participation in this international space conference in 1967. But it seems necessary to repeat our position. If we wish this international conference to be held under the aegis and auspices of the United Nations, it should be open to Member States of this Organization and its specialized agencies. The latter -- that is the specialized agencies -- and the competent inter-governmental organizations and COSPAR could be invited to send observers. That is the position of my delegation.

Mr. HOPE (United Kingdom): I have listened carefully to this debate and I would not like my Soviet colleague to think that I was emerging as an emanation which was either black or murky, that I was lacking in understanding or indeed in co-operation. But I must, I think, at this stage associate myself with that which has been said by several delegations here, notably by the delegations of France, Italy, Belgium and Canada. Our position on participation is a clear one. We support the formulation put forward by the representative of France and other representatives. We hope that this formulation will prove

(Mr. Hope, United Kingdom)

satisfactory to all members of the Committee so that it will be possible to make suitable recommendations to the General Assembly. But in view of the fact that there still seems to be a lack of agreement in a Committee which operates, I am glad to say most successfully, by consensus, I would at this stage like to join my voice too, to those who have supported your recommendations, Mr. Chairman, that the matter should be referred to the General Assembly.

Mr. McKEOWN (Australia): The views of my delegation on this question have not changed since we outlined them to the Committee a little over an hour ago. We therefore wish to join our voice to those views expressed already by the representatives of France, Canada, Belgium and the United Kingdom, and join in urging you, Sir, that the recommendation you put to the Committee should be accepted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has heard the comments and suggestions made by the representative of the Soviet Union that all States should be invited to this conference and the suggestion made by a number of delegations to limit the invitation to States Members of the Organization and to members of the specialized agencies.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Of course, I cannot congratulate my colleagues who objected to the very clear proposal we made to put an end to discrimination and cold-war policies, at least as far as space problems are concerned. On the other hand, of course, we are not surprised at seeing that one delegation after another hastened to confirm the position which the Western Powers, headed by the United States of America, have systematically imposed upon the United Nations despite the fact that every year in the United Nations the number of countries which opposed discrimination even in earthly matters grows.

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

We are convinced that if our Committee were to refer this matter to the General Assembly under such conditions, the result would be that when the matter comes up for discussion in the First Committee of the General Assembly, the sound and healthy forces in this Organization would have occasion to state their views concerning the harm done to the cause of international co-operation, particularly co-operation in outer space, by such arch-reactionary and conservative positions. However, under the present circumstances, since we can take decisions only by consensus, the delegation of the Soviet Union sees no other possibility, unfortunately, but transmission of this problem of participation in the Conference to the General Assembly, along with the report of our Committee. We of course reserve our right, relying on the support of the progressive forces and delegations in the Assembly, to defend our position. We continue to believe that after these actions based on political considerations that prevented us from achieving success in the drafting of a treaty, we cannot congratulate our colleagues tonight on having taken a step that will further the cause of international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful utilization of outer space. Having said this, I repeat that, thanks to the situation obtaining here, there is nothing that we can do except to ask the General Assembly to seize itself of the problem.

Mr. BOTA (Romania): While agreeing to refer the matter to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, I would like to state, for the sake of the record, that because of the reasons we have set forth this afternoon, and also in the Working Group of the Whole, the Romanian delegation is in favour of a large participation in the Conference and we think that all States interested should have a chance to participate in the Conference.

The CHAIRMAN: As the Committee knows, we are working on a consensus basis. As there are divergent opinions with regard to this question, I do not see any possibility of settling the matter at today's meeting and I would like to suggest that it be referred to the General Assembly, as was suggested in the intervention of the representative of the Soviet Union. It is understood, of course, that the report of our Committee to the General Assembly will contain the statements made by representatives today on this subject.

(The Chairman)

Before calling on the Rapporteur to present the report, I would like to draw the attention of the Committee to the proposal made by the representative of Mexico to include his suggested addition in the report of our Committee, in the second report of the Working Group of the Whole, A/AC.105/34. I would suggest, if it meets with the wishes of the Committee, the insertion of the Mexican suggestion after the words "Programmes, results and opportunities" in paragraph VIII on page 4 of the report just mentioned.

May I ask the representative of Mexico whether this procedure is acceptable to him.

Mr. TELLO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that it would be better at the end of paragraph VIII.

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of Mexico suggests then, that his addition be added at the end of paragraph VIII. May I therefore read out the paragraph as it would then stand:

"Programmes, results and opportunities. The role of international organizations concerned with problems of outer space. Examination of the desirability of establishing within the United Nations Secretariat a permanent centre for information and consultation."

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): With all due respect to the reasons that motivated the delegation of Mexico in submitting this proposal, I would like to say that at this late hour it would be rather complicated and difficult for my delegation to adopt any such proposals modifying the agenda of the forthcoming conference.

It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that when you were just talking to the Secretary of the Committee you spoke so loud that I heard your suggestion. I fully concur in it. You greatly facilitated my task if my eavesdropping was successful, despite the earphone that was in the way.

The fact is that our scientists and experts devoted great attention to the task of presenting a more or less balanced drafting of the agenda to be submitted to the international conference. It would be difficult at present to understand

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

why, at the last minute and without weighing the pros and cons of the addition suggested by the Mexican delegation, we should alter or add to the text already adopted by the Working Group.

Secondly, I should like to draw the attention of the representative of Mexico to the text of paragraph VIII already adopted in document A/AC.105/34, which allows any delegation to raise any matter that it thinks should be discussed at the conference. It mentions, for instance, "Programmes, results and opportunities. The role of international organizations concerned with problems of outer space." But if we went further and advocated -- even in the name of the Soviet delegation, which does not quite know at this time what this idea might lead to -- the idea of creating a centre for information and consultation on space matters in the United Nations Secretariat, we might find that we have signed a blank check.

The text of this proposal is difficult, for the time being, to understand in all its ramifications, and this is why, for our part, we cannot at present lend our support to such a formulation, though I repeat that any delegation, under paragraph VIII of the agenda of the international conference -- and this is a broad text -- can raise any question it wishes. But this is up to the delegations wishing to raise such matters.

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

I would not wish my agreement to this principle to be construed as meaning that we are prepared at this time to subscribe to the necessity of creating within the United Nations Secretariat a centre the nature, character and programme of which are absolutely unknown to us at present. It is very difficult at the very last moments of our work to clarify all these matters and obtain all the necessary instructions.

I think that that is the position of many other delegations, and not only of mine. Be that as it may, for the reasons that I have just given I am, unfortunately, not able to support the Mexican proposal.

Mr. TELLO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): In order to throw some light on this matter, I should like to say the following.

First, the suggestion I have made on behalf of my delegation appears in document A/AC.105/L.26/Add.1, a note sent by my Government on 19 August 1966.

Secondly, I have ventured to submit the suggestion today because paragraph 7 of document A/AC.105/34 refers to a draft agenda. It is evident, therefore, that the agenda has not yet been adopted; it is still in draft form and can be amended.

Thirdly, we are not proposing that something new should be created within the United Nations. Rather, we are proposing that the desirability of doing so should be considered -- that is, the desirability of establishing an information and consultation centre that would help to disseminate information obtained from the exploration of outer space. We propose that this idea should be examined in the appropriate forum, that such a forum should consider the desirability of setting up this centre.

Mr. EL ARABY (United Arab Republic): If I remember correctly, the phrase "The role of international organizations concerned with problems of outer space" was inserted in the report of the Working Group of the Whole on the proposal of my Government. During the session in Geneva of the Legal Sub-Committee, the delegation of the United Arab Republic proposed a draft resolution providing that members of this Committee should discuss and study methods for strengthening

(Mr. El Araby, United Arab  
Republic)

the outer space group and making it more effective in the dissemination of information on outer space. I am sorry that I do not have before me now the document that we proposed in Geneva, but we had in mind the same idea as that expressed by the representative of Mexico.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that it would be rather difficult to decide this question now. It is clear from the debate that we have had on the subject that there are different views. I therefore do not feel that we shall be able to settle the matter at this meeting, at this late hour, much as I appreciate the suggestion made by the representative of Mexico and more or less supported by the representative of the United Arab Republic. I would therefore suggest that the proposal of the representative of Mexico should be referred to the General Assembly for further discussion. I would ask the representative of Mexico to understand the situation in which we now find ourselves. I think that in the interests of the cause he has in mind it would be better to give representatives more time to study the proposal and to discuss it further in the General Assembly.

If it is acceptable to the representative of Mexico and to other representatives here, I would suggest that the matter be referred to the General Assembly for further consideration.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Rapporteur to present the Committee's draft report.

Mr. de CARVALHO SILOS (Brazil), Rapporteur: All representatives have before them the draft report on the work of our Committee. As has been the case in the past, this draft report is a very clear document, aimed at reflecting in a very objective way the tasks performed. However, as Rapporteur I am in the hands of the Committee and shall welcome any remarks representatives may wish to make on the draft report.

(Mr. de Carvalho Silos, Brazil)

I should now like to refer to the changes that should be made in the draft report in accordance with our discussion today.

In conformity with our decision, the following new paragraph should be included in the report:

"The Committee decided to establish a ceiling of between \$300,000 and \$350,000 for the expenses of the proposed conference."

That paragraph will, of course, be inserted at the appropriate place.

In the light of the discussion that has taken place today, paragraph 15 of the draft report should read as follows:

"The Committee decided to postpone until the twenty-first session of the General Assembly the decision on the question of the participation in the proposed conference."

I suggest that the statement on the financial implications of the proposed conference which was read out by the Committee Secretary should be annexed to our report, if there is no objection.

I should now like to mention a very minor drafting change. In paragraph 12 of the draft report the words "The annexes to" should be deleted. Paragraph 12 would then read as follows:

"The report of the Legal Sub-Committee is reproduced in annex III of this report."



Mr. FRUTKIN (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that I was not able to attract your attention on the point previously referred to by the Rapporteur with regard to attaching the statement of financial implications. If this is to be done -- and my delegation has no objection -- then a correction should be made on page 2 of that statement of financial implications, that is, in paragraph 3 (h) of the second line. It says there:

"Participants will be requested to submit abstracts... in any of the four conference languages."

May I point out that there is an apparent error here in that the agreement and recommendation of the Working Group would require that this sentence should read: "in all of the four conference languages". This has some implications for cost.

The CHAIRMAN: As there is no objection to this proposal, may I ask the Rapporteur to make the necessary correction.

Mr. de CARVALHO SILOS (Brazil), Rapporteur: It shall be done.

In accordance with the decision of the Committee, paragraph 14 of our report should read as follows:

"The Committee decided that an international conference on the exploration and use of outer space be held in Vienna".

My last point is this: in accordance with the announcement of the Chairman relating to the panel of experts, the following new paragraph shall appear in the report:

"Following consultations with the members of the Committee, the Chairman announced that the panel of experts would be composed of the following countries".

Then the list of countries enumerated by the Chairman will be given.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Rapporteur for the presentation of the report. Are there any comments on the suggestions or amendments submitted by the Rapporteur?

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It seems to me that in the report we are now discussing, as far as the convening of the conference in 1967 is concerned, we omitted that date. If that is so, it is an important element. If it is not so, I apologize in advance for this concern.

Mr. de CARVALHO SILOS (Brazil), Rapporteur: In reply to the representative of the Soviet Union, I would point out that the date of the conference is mentioned in the report of the Working Group.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to add to what was just said by the Rapporteur that it is contained in the first paragraph of the report of the Working Group, that is, document A/AC.105/L.33.

Since we are forwarding this report to the General Assembly, it should be noted that the date is contained in the first paragraph. I think that if it is the wish of the members we could mention it in the report of the Committee.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I think that for the convenience of the unenlightened, those not quite conversant with the work of the Working Group -- and this may be the case with some of us -- it might be better when we speak of the site of the conference to repeat the formula of the Working Group concerning the date of the conference. There is a Russian proverb that says that you cannot spoil the broth with butter. I would therefore ask that, if there is no objection, we repeat this date at the point where we speak of the site. It could be said that the conference will be convened in the first two weeks of September in Vienna.

The CHAIRMAN: If there is no objection to the proposal submitted by the representative of the Soviet Union to add the date in paragraph 14, after we mention the place of the conference, I would ask the Rapporteur to make that addition.

Mr. de CARVALHO SILOS (Brazil), Rapporteur: It shall be done.

Mr. FRUTKIN (United States of America): I would recommend that we use the language of the Working Group's recommendations in paragraph 10 of its report (A/AC.105/34) rather than the reference in the statement of financial implications by the Secretary-General (A/AC.105/L.33).

The CHAIRMAN: Would the representative of the Soviet Union agree to this suggestion? The paragraph would then read: "should be held in the first part of September 1967".

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): That is satisfactory.

It was so decided.

Mr. McKEOWN (Australia): With regard to the ceiling to be established for the expenses of the conference, as I recall the proposal -- and I do not have the wording here -- I think it was that we should decide at this time to establish a ceiling between \$300,000 and \$350,000, but that the exact amount could be fixed after consultations with members and with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Since, as it stands at the moment, we have decided to establish a ceiling and if we do not establish a ceiling, I wonder whether a reference to those consultations and to the fact that the exact amount is to be fixed after those consultations might not be appropriate.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that suggestion acceptable to the members of the Committee? I take it that it is acceptable, and I would therefore ask the Rapporteur to add the suggestion made by the representative of Australia.

Are there any further comments on the report of the Committee to the General Assembly?

Mr. TELLO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to know whether any reference has been made to my delegation's suggestion in the report of the Rapporteur.

The CHAIRMAN: As far as I understand the situation, the representative of Mexico's statement will be in the record.

Mr. TELLO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): I thought that some reference was going to be made to this in the report, but if it is not the practice of the Committee I have no objection to having the reference included in the record. My idea was that there would be some reference to it in the Rapporteur's report which will be taken up by the General Assembly.

Mr. de CARVALHO SILOS (Brazil), Rapporteur: As the Rapporteur, I am in the hands of the Committee. If the Committee so decides, I shall be delighted to do so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Committee agrees, the Rapporteur could add one paragraph to the report, mentioning the suggestion made by the representative of Mexico and adding that the Committee decided to refer the matter to the General Assembly for further consideration. If I hear no objection to this procedure, I shall take it that we decide the matter in this way.

It was so decided.

## CLOSING OF THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN: This brings us to the end of our session. May I express to all of you my sincere thanks and appreciation for your co-operation with the Chair, which made it possible to conclude our work in a spirit of co-operation and a business-like atmosphere. We have discussed a number of important questions which should pave the way for a broader and more intensive co-operation in the field of outer space.

May I, in this connexion, thank all delegations for the friendly words that they have addressed to the Chair and to the members of the Bureau of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

I do not want to conclude our session without expressing my sincere thanks to the members of the Secretariat, to my right, Mr. Vellodi, and, to my left, Mr. Abdel-Ghani, for their tireless efforts in assisting the Chairman in his endeavour to achieve fruitful work in this Committee. I also want to thank most sincerely the interpreters and the staff of the Secretariat for their patience when meetings started much later than scheduled and for their never-failing spirit of co-operation.

I declare the closure of the eighth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The meeting rose at 7.15 p.m.