

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



A/AC.105/PV.130
9 July 1973

ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 6 July 1973, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria)

- Report of the Committee to the General Assembly (continued)
- Election of a rapporteur
- Closure of the session

This record is issued in final form pursuant to the decision taken by the Committee in September 1970 (see Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/8020, para. 10))

73-83040

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: During this first part of our formal meeting, the representative of Austria wishes to make a short statement. After that, I shall suspend the meeting and we shall continue our informal consultations on the remaining portions of the report. When those consultations have been completed, this meeting will be resumed to finish the business of this session.

Mr. TUERK (Austria): I should like to make a brief comment on the proposal submitted by my delegation concerning article X of the draft treaty relating to the moon, as contained in document A/AC.105/L.74, which was distributed yesterday afternoon. This working paper contains the text of a proposal which I presented in the course of the informal consultations, in my capacity as chairman of those consultations, to provide some material for discussion on the extremely complex matter of the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies in order eventually to reach a consensus in this respect.

As to the contents of this paper, I should like to explain that it is to a large extent based on the text of article X as originally worked out in informal consultations and considered by Working Group I of the Legal Sub-Committee and as contained in annex I (C) of its report, taking into account some aspects of the working paper submitted by the United States of America as contained in annex I (B) of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, as well as comments made by some delegations during the informal discussions held in the last few days.

As the Committee is aware, no agreement could be reached concerning article X of the draft treaty relating to the moon. Some delegations, however, stated during the aforementioned informal consultations that the present text of article X could be useful in the course of future deliberations on the draft treaty relating to the moon. Other delegations, however, held the view that regarding the problem of the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies, a different approach would have to be adopted.

(Mr. Tuerk, Austria)

My delegation has, nevertheless, decided to submit this text as a working paper although, as a compromise text, some of its aspects do not necessarily reflect the views of the Austrian Government, in the hope that during future discussions on this problem this proposal may perhaps serve some useful purpose. In connexion with this working paper, I should like to suggest adding the following paragraph to the report of this Committee. As regards the exact place where this paragraph should appear, I should like to leave that matter to the Rapporteur and other members of the Committee. The text of the proposed paragraph reads as follows:

"The Committee noted the working paper relating to article X of the draft treaty relating to the moon submitted by the delegation of Austria. This working paper contains the text of a proposal presented by the Austrian representative during the informal consultations in his capacity as chairman of these consultations. Although no agreement on this text was reached, some delegations were of the opinion that this proposal would be useful in the course of future discussions concerning the treaty relating to the moon and therefore requested the delegation of Austria to submit it formally for its inclusion in this report. Some other delegations were of the opinion that the text originally worked out in informal consultations and considered by Working Group I of the Legal Sub-Committee during its twelfth session would provide a useful basis for reaching an agreement on the question of natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies, and therefore expressed the desire that this text also be annexed to the present report. Still other delegations considered that formulations previously presented in the Legal Sub-Committee would also afford a useful basis for further deliberations on this question."

The CHAIRMAN: In our informal consultations, we may have a chance to examine the Austrian proposal in so far as it pertains to the report.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We know that the representative of Austria, who has just spoken, is, unfortunately, going to have to leave us in a few minutes and he will not be with us when, today or tomorrow, we complete the work of the Committee. I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to express to Mr. Tuerk, on behalf of the Soviet delegation, our deepest gratitude for the great contribution, the very constructive contribution that he has made to the work of the Committee at this session as the chairman of the informal contact group, as the author of a whole series of texts which, it is our deep conviction, may serve as a very good basis for compromise. Mr. Tuerk did more than perhaps anyone else among us at this session of the Committee to bring us to a successful completion of work on both draft treaties. He took an extremely realistic, positive approach to the problems we are discussing. We should like to wish him every success in his further work.

Mr. MILLER (Canada): Mr. Chairman, as you know, I asked for the floor informally, a moment ago, to do precisely what the representative of the Soviet Union has just done. I should like on behalf of my Government to join, with great sincerity, in this warm sense of appreciation for the really sterling effort that Mr. Tuerk has made -- an effort which is in keeping, I might say, with the tradition of the man as we in Canada have watched him through the Legal Sub-Committee, where he very ably took on a complicated subject and was Chairman of Working Group II, in which we had considerable interest. Our admiration for him has been, if anything, reinforced by the way in which he has assisted this Committee, and I think, indeed, assisted you, Sir, in the very difficult task that you had as Chairman of the Working Group and the perhaps not so easy task as Chairman of the Committee. We are grateful to the Government of Austria for having sent him, for enabling him to be here and recapture for us the atmosphere of the Legal Sub-Committee so that we could continue more readily from where the Legal Sub-Committee left off in an effort to meet the recommendation it made to us.

(Mr. Miller, Canada)

We wish to say these things personally to Mr. Tuerk before he leaves, because Canada has a very great appreciation of his sense of energy and dedication, his realistic and positive approach, to which the representative of the Soviet Union has referred, and the professionalism that he has brought to the work of the informal mini-group. On occasion I have, I might confess, sat down with him in the wee hours of the morning -- in fact the wee hours of this morning -- in a micro group, I think, under the witness of members of the Secretariat. At all stages I have found him to be not only a good friend but a very worthy colleague in the professional sense that this Committee has come to expect from representatives on it.

We wish him Godspeed. We know that he is moving from here to the sea-bed conference and it is a credit to him that he can change hats across the Atlantic so easily. With the advance information given to our delegation at the sea-bed conference, he will be welcomed there at least by the Canadian representatives.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now suspend the meeting for such time as will be necessary to consider, in informal consultations, the remaining portions of the report.

The meeting was suspended at 3.25 p.m. and resumed at 6.15 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to propose that we include in our agenda as item 6 an item entitled "Election of the Rapporteur". If there is no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now continue our consideration of the draft report of the Committee on the work of its sixteenth session. Members have before them the revised text (A/AC.105/L.73).

I call on the Rapporteur to introduce the draft report.

Mr. SOUZA E SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: As in previous years, we have discussed the draft report, paragraph by paragraph, in both formal meetings and informal consultations. The text that the Committee has before it at this moment is the revision resulting from our latest consultations and decisions; it was drafted in accordance with the decisions taken by the Committee in the informal meetings. Therefore, as I think our work is quite advanced, I might suggest that, as we have done in the past, we consider this draft report section by section, so that members of the Committee may raise the points they deem appropriate under each section. It appears that that procedure is agreeable to members. I therefore now put to the Committee the first two sections, Introduction and Meetings of subsidiary bodies, which comprise paragraphs 1 to 13.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no comments on paragraphs 1 to 13, I shall consider them as adopted.

Paragraphs 1 to 13 were adopted.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: The Committee might now consider chapter I of the revised draft report, entitled "Report of the Legal Sub-Committee", paragraphs 14 to 26, including the new text of the delegation of Austria that was approved this afternoon.

The CHAIRMAN: Paragraphs 14 to 26 of the revised draft report, including the new paragraph submitted this afternoon concerning article X of the treaty on the moon, are before the Committee. The new paragraph will require the renumbering of some of these paragraphs.

Mr. WYNDHAM (Australia): With respect to paragraphs 25 and 26, it was the understanding of my delegation, and I believe of some other delegations also, when this matter was discussed informally, that the four constituent parts of these two paragraphs were to be set out separately, as four separate paragraphs. That seems to my delegation to be logical in view of the fact that each of them deals with a separate aspect of the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee. However, in order not to detain the Committee in debating questions which are essentially questions of style, I shall not at this time seek a revision of the present text on the basis that this is purely a stylistic question and that these two paragraphs deal with four aspects of the future work of the Committee.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: I have no doubt that those paragraphs were drafted in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee yesterday in informal consultations. The proposal for two separate paragraphs, paragraphs 25 and 26, was made by the delegation of the United Kingdom, and I personally confirmed that understanding with the representative of the United Kingdom.

The CHAIRMAN: If the representative of Australia accepts that explanation, I think we can accept the numbering of the paragraphs as it now stands. I see that that is acceptable to the representative of Australia.

If there are no further comments on paragraphs 14 to 26, I shall consider them as adopted.

Paragraphs 14 to 26 were adopted.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: I now put before the Committee chapter II of the revised draft report, entitled "Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee", part A, section 1, entitled "Remote sensing of the earth by satellites". That comprises paragraphs 27 to 29.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no comments on paragraphs 27 to 29, I shall consider them as adopted.

Paragraphs 27 to 29 were adopted.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: The Committee might now consider section 2 of chapter II, entitled "United Nations programme on space application", paragraphs 30 to 33.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no comments on paragraphs 30 to 33, I shall consider them as adopted.

Paragraphs 30 to 33 were adopted.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: I now put to the Committee section 3 of chapter II, entitled "Applications of space technology: specialized agencies and other international organizations", paragraphs 34 to 40.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no comments on paragraphs 34 to 40, I shall consider them as adopted.

Paragraphs 34 to 40 were adopted.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: We turn now to part B of chapter II, entitled "Consideration of the Scientific and Technical Aspects of International Co-operation". I put to the Committee the paragraphs on "Exchange of information" and "Education and training" -- that is, paragraphs 41 to 49.

The CHAIRMAN: Paragraphs 41 to 49 of the revised draft report are before the Committee. I would remind members in this context that a new paragraph 43, concerning a tribute to the Government of Brazil, was adopted at the informal consultations. That will require the renumbering of some paragraphs.

Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil): I believe that the new paragraph would appear between the present paragraphs 46 and 47.

The CHAIRMAN: That is correct.

If there are no other comments on paragraphs 41 to 49, including the new paragraph, I shall take it that they are adopted.

Paragraphs 41 to 49 were adopted.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: I now submit to the Committee paragraphs 50 and 51.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no comments on paragraphs 50 and 51, I shall regard them as adopted.

Paragraphs 50 and 51 were adopted.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: We can now proceed to consider paragraphs 52 to 56.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on paragraphs 52 to 56?

Mr. CEAUSU (Romania) (interpretation from French): I should like to suggest that the last sentence of paragraph 53 should be placed immediately following the first sentence of the paragraph.

Mr. OHTAKA (Japan): Yesterday, during the informal consultations, it was agreed that immediately after the words "its views" in paragraph 55 the following three words would be added: "and made recommendations". The phrase would read: "expressed its views and made recommendations".

Mr. WYNDHAM (Australia): I should like to comment on the amendment to paragraph 53 proposed by the representative of Romania. All the sentences of that paragraph, apart from the last sentence, deal with one subject: the consideration by the Sub-Committee of its role and functions. They are a unified

(Mr. Wyndham, Australia)

whole. The sentence which has been added at the end of the paragraph really deals with another matter. It is quite appropriate for the sentence to be in the paragraph, but I think it has been rightly placed at the end because it deals with a slightly different subject from the other sentences; it does not deal specifically with the consideration by the Sub-Committee of its role and functions, as do the other sentences.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the representative of Romania maintain his suggestion?

Mr. CEAUSU (Romania) (interpretation from French): I do not really follow the argument of the representative of Australia. Nevertheless, I withdraw my proposal.

Mr. VELLODI (India): I would suggest only a minor editorial change in connexion with the remarks of the representative of Japan. I think it would sound better if the words to be added were "and made its recommendations". In other words the phrase would read: "the Sub-Committee expressed its views and made its recommendations".

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no further observations on these paragraphs, I shall take it that they are adopted, taking into account the remarks of the representatives of Japan and India on paragraph 55.

Paragraphs 52 to 56 were adopted.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: I now submit to the Committee chapter III of the draft report, "Report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites". This comprises paragraphs 57 to 62.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no observations on paragraphs 57 to 62, I shall take it that they are adopted.

Paragraphs 57 to 62 were adopted.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: We can now proceed to chapter IV of the draft report, "Other matters". Two paragraphs have been adopted under this chapter. They are not yet included in the document. However, the appropriate texts have been distributed to the Committee, and I now put the two paragraphs to the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on the two paragraphs under chapter IV, "Other matters"? Those paragraphs were discussed and adopted during the informal consultations.

Mr. VELLODI (India): I should like to make one very brief remark about the second paragraph of this chapter. That paragraph deals with the Secretariat support for our work. My delegation is extremely happy to have heard the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs on the Secretary-General's decision to enhance the effectiveness of the Outer Space Affairs Division by establishing two separate Sections and adding the necessary staff. The only point I should like to make is this. The main Committee and the Sub-Committees and Working Groups have given a large number of assignments to the Secretariat for the coming year. I merely wish to express my delegation's hope that the measures contemplated by the Secretary-General for increasing the staff of the Outer Space Affairs Division will be implemented as soon as possible.

Mr. COCCA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): We have not received the text which the Rapporteur said had been distributed. The text which we used as the basis for our discussion was substantially amended by many delegations. I would therefore ask the Secretariat to be good enough to submit the text to us in at least one of the working languages. If a little time is needed to do that, we could go on to another part of the report, for example annex II.

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of Argentina is aware of the fact that we were able to conclude the informal consultations on these two paragraphs only a short time ago. For that reason we appeal to representatives to consider these two paragraphs in the present form.

Mr. SOUZA E SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: For the benefit of the representative of Argentina, I would refer to document A/AC.105/L.73/Add.1, page 2, "Other matters", paragraphs 1 and 2. Those two paragraphs were very much amended during our informal discussions. I read out the amended texts when the paragraphs were finally adopted in the informal meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: Could we then proceed to the adoption of these paragraphs, placing our faith in the Rapporteur and the Secretariat for the accurate rendering of these paragraphs in the report in accordance with the results of our informal consultations?

Mr. COCCA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): I have some doubts. I do not know if we have a definitive text or if informal consultations are still going on about this. This is my preoccupation, because, if there is a definitive text, I do not think it will take a long time to have it typed out. It is about 20 lines. If the text is not agreed upon, then we should like to point out that we made important amendments, particularly to the first part of this. It is not lack of confidence in the Secretariat and the Rapporteur, but we do not want to have a situation where we have adopted a paragraph that is not in our language. At least it should be typed in one of the languages. I reiterate my confidence in the Secretariat, in you, Mr. Chairman, and in the Rapporteur, but I think it is incurring a great deal of risk if we do not have a written text of something that is controversial.

The CHAIRMAN: I would inform the representative of Argentina that the text is being typed out, and he will shortly receive it for his consideration.

Mr. REIS (United States of America): I was going to make an emotional appeal to the representative of Argentina, pointing out that his single request might make it necessary to have a Saturday morning or Monday meeting in view of the fact that, as I understand it, the interpreters are to leave here at 6.30 p.m. They were with us last night until 11 p.m. or midnight. My delegation attributes no less importance, I can assure the representative of Argentina, than does his own to the question of the enlargement of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. If the Secretariat is able to type the text quickly, my delegation would certainly feel more secure with such a typed text. Nevertheless, I must say we have full confidence in the Rapporteur. He has never to our knowledge made a mistake, and I cannot imagine he would do so now.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps in the meantime we can go on to part V of the report. I am sure that we shall soon be in a position to adopt chapter IV of the report, with the co-operation of all delegations.

Mr. SOUZA E SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: Turning to chapter V of the report, I would draw the attention of the Committee again to document A/AC.105/L.73, which contains paragraphs 60 to 64. The first paragraphs, 60 to 63, just state facts. Paragraph 64 requires a decision concerning dates of sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies. A decision was taken in the informal meeting, and I would suggest that it be confirmed by the Committee in this formal meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: Before I ask for the Committee's views, the Secretary wishes to make a statement on financial implications concerning part V of our report.

Mr. PADANG (Secretary of the Committee): In the event of the adoption of paragraph 64, the cost of holding a two-week session of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites in Geneva, from 11 March to 22 March 1974 is estimated at \$13,000, on the assumption that simultaneous interpretation from and into English, French, Russian and Spanish will be required, that no records of meetings will be required and that in-session documentation will be about 25 pages in English, French, Russian and Spanish. The cost represents the recruitment on a temporary assistance basis of eight interpreters, three bilingual secretaries, two huissiers and two technicians, as well as the cost of the travel and subsistence of two substantive officers to be detailed from New York.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Since we are now considering paragraph 64 of our report, my delegation would like to place on record two comments.

We do not object to the adoption of this paragraph as drafted but we regard it as a complex compromise applicable to 1974. My delegation reserves the right to come back to the question of the need to change the alternation of sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee between New York and Geneva and to revert to our original decision whereby all sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee were to be held in Geneva. There is also the question of the timing of the sessions of our main Committee. That is the first point.

The second comment is this. My delegation would like to request the Chairman of the Committee or the Chairman of the Working Group or any other competent person to try to ascertain why holding sessions in Geneva of organs concerned with space matters inevitably gives rise to the necessity of hiring additional interpreters and why such sessions cannot be serviced by interpreters who are already on the Secretariat permanent staff.

Mr. REIS (United States of America): Speaking with extreme brevity in view of the lateness of the hour, I should like to say that there never was a decision that all sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee should be held in Geneva. I myself attended and participated in sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee in the City of New York in 1963, 1965 and 1973 -- I may even have omitted some. Secondly, I would repeat for the record that the United States strongly prefers that all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly should meet in New York, but that, in view of the strong desires of many other delegations and in view of the relatively rather low costs involved in the proposed Geneva session of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites in 1974, we have on this occasion, agreed that the session should be held in Geneva.

Mr. WYNDHAM (Australia): My delegation joins with the delegation of the Soviet Union in regarding the decision on next year's sessions as constituting a compromise and not a precedent for future years. My delegation, like the delegation of the United States, does not favour sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space being held outside New York, but, in view of the previous agreement regarding the Legal Sub-Committee and in view of special circumstances that are not likely to repeat themselves, my delegation is prepared to refrain from opposing the session of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites being held in Geneva in 1974.

Mr. VAN USSEL (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Since we are now considering chapter V of our report I would ask that the records of our meeting today make clear that my delegation would like the plenary Committee to meet immediately after the closing of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, that is, during the month of January -- even if it is for only one day. This would be an organizational meeting.

Mr. MILLER (Canada): My delegation wishes to associate itself with the remarks of the representative of Australia about the timing and place of the sessions in 1974. We should also like to state for the record our encouragement to you, Sir, in your capacity as our Chairman, to ascertain through informal consultations whether or not it would be desirable to have an organizational meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space some time early in the new year to take account of the appropriate resolutions of the General Assembly.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom): My delegation too would like to associate itself with the remarks about the places of sessions made by the representatives of United States and Australia and with the remarks of the delegation of Canada on the question of an organizational meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Mr. VELLODI (India): I too should like to associate myself with the remarks made by the representative of Canada. It was our understanding that you, Mr. Chairman, would be making a statement on this subject at this plenary meeting.

While I have the floor I should like to make one brief observation. When the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites met here two weeks ago my delegation raised the question of having summary records of the meetings of the Working Group. I was assured that my suggestion, which was important to my delegation, was not practical, that it could not be done because of certain decisions taken earlier. I then suggested that we might have, if not summary records, at least minutes of the meetings. That suggestion was not accepted either. However, we did benefit a great deal from the press releases that were

(Mr. Vellodi, India)

made during the meetings. At least this helped us to keep some check on what had gone on in the Working Group. I should like to express the hope that similar press releases will be made available during the meetings in Geneva.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to assure the representative of India as well as other delegations which have expressed their views that I shall take due account of the wishes of delegations regarding the holding of an organizational meeting early in 1974 to consider such decisions of the General Assembly as may affect our Committee.

If no other delegation wishes to take the floor on chapter V of the draft report I shall consider that chapter accepted as proposed by the Rapporteur.

Chapter V was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand that the typed text of the paragraph in chapter IV of the report requested by the representative of Argentina has been made available to him and I wonder if we may now proceed to the adoption of that chapter of the report.

Mr. COCCA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): We fully agree with the text which has just been distributed and we should like once again to state our confidence in the Secretariat and particularly the Rapporteur and congratulate them on the precise wording of this text.

The CHAIRMAN: Could we now adopt chapter IV of our report relating to "Other matters"?

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Of course I am prepared to take the representative of Argentina at his word, but if he has seen this new text we have not. Perhaps other delegations too should be shown what it is we are adopting.

The CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat will make this text available to members.

Mr. VELLODI (India): Now that I have the text before me I see one rather serious omission; it has to do with the suggestion which the representative of Canada made and to which my delegation took strong exception. As it stands now the middle of the paragraph reads:

"Some delegations felt that before any enlargement took place, members of the Committee might be asked whether they wished to continue to serve on the Committee."

The next sentence, reading "Others did not agree to this", does not appear in this text.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of India for pointing out this omission.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: I understand that the omission was made because of pressure of time on the Secretariat, but the sentence will of course be included in the report, in accordance with the wishes of the delegation of India.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further comments on paragraphs 59 a and 59 b, as amended in the informal consultations? These paragraphs constitute chapter IV of the report, "Other matters", and will be given the correct numbers.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The last sentence of paragraph 59 b states that the Committee was gratified at the statement by the Under-Secretary-General concerning measures that need to be taken. Could we not add a phrase expressing support for those measures?

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of the Soviet Union proposes to revise paragraph 59 b. If there is no objection we could consider his suggestion to amend the last sentence of that paragraph to read: "The Committee was therefore gratified at and expressed support for the statement...", and so on. Another possibility would be to add the suggested phrase at the end of the sentence.

Mr. REIS (United States of America): I think we have done enough with this. Let us leave it the way it is. It already sounds smug: we say we are "gratified". If that does not mean support, I do not know what does. We really ought to stop this tinkering unless there are high reasons of state policy to be served by it. Otherwise we shall never adopt the report at all.

Mr. MILLER (Canada): With the indulgence of my colleague from the United States, perhaps we might just add a sentence to the effect that the Committee expressed its support for these -- I am not sure "measures" is quite the right word -- steps being contemplated or to be implemented, or something like that. I think it is important we say that.

The CHAIRMAN: Would the representative of Canada be good enough to offer more specific language?

Mr. MILLER (Canada): I am suggesting something like this: "The Committee expressed its support for these steps".

The CHAIRMAN: If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Committee decides to adopt paragraph 59 b, with the addition of that sentence.
It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: May I now ask the Rapporteur to lead us to the end of the report -- namely, the annexes.

Mr. SOUZA E SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: There are two annexes contemplated for this report. Annex I is the traditional one, the opening statement of the Chairman at the first meeting of this session. Annex II has already been distributed; it is the report of the Chairman of the informal working group, with some documents appended to it. I submit those annexes for the consideration of the Committee.

Mr. LECLERCQ (France) (interpretation from French): I just want to recapitulate the very brief statement made this morning by the delegation of France at our informal meeting so that that statement may appear in the record.

The agreement on the text of a review clause that would be included in the draft convention on registration -- the agreement mentioned in paragraph 3 of Annex II, which contains the report of the Chairman of the informal working group -- should, so far as my delegation is concerned, be considered as having been given ad referendum. This was an informal working group which considered a series of questions that, in our view, were interrelated. Consequently, and no matter what the merit of the text that was drafted in that working group, the agreement mentioned cannot be regarded as constituting a definitive commitment on the part of my delegation, or as binding it in the Committee in regard to any subsequent work on the question.

Mr. PALACIOS TREVIÑO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation would like to make the following proposal with regard to Annex II: that the contents of paragraph 5 be placed at the end of paragraph 4 instead of being a separate paragraph. The reason for this proposal of my delegation is simply to permit all opinions expressed to be put forward in the same way.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My delegation is not now quite clear as to the form in which the draft treaty relating to the moon is to be annexed to this report. Our assumption is that since the greater part of the draft treaty relating to the moon, just like the greater part of the draft convention on registration, has already reproduced in other documents, if we annex to this report what is in fact an old text, a text of the draft convention on registration, as already considered, with the addition of the two new elements drafted at this session, then the same thing needs to be done in regard to the draft treaty relating to the moon: that is to say, we should take the text that was approved earlier by the Legal Sub-Committee and, in square brackets, add to it the six elements that were agreed at the session of the Legal Sub-Committee this year. Otherwise, we consider that we should confine ourselves to annexing the new texts that we drafted at this session.

Mr. REIS (United States of America): When the representative of the Soviet Union was out of the room, I said that my delegation had the honour to support the proposal made by another representative of the Soviet Union and that we should do exactly what he wants. So let us not litigate that again; it is going to be done.

We said we were not entirely clear on how these articles would look, but we had faith in the judgement and discretion of the Secretariat to reproduce the text. I dare say that it will be done exactly as the current representatives of the Soviet Union have just asked that it be done in respect of the draft treaty relating to the moon.

(Mr. Reis, United States)

So this has been agreed; there is no disagreement about it; and I really think we should not take it up further.

With regard to the question of a review clause, my delegation wishes to place it on record that it fully associates itself with the views of the representative of France.

Mr. COCCA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The Argentine delegation would also like to refer to the review clause and reiterate its position, which it has had occasion to express both in plenary meetings and in the working group, that this clause is not altogether satisfactory to us. We would prefer that article VII make reference to the Treaty on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons on the seabed.

While I have the floor, I should like to express my support for the proposal made by the representative of Mexico, which, I think, represents a general consensus, since paragraph 5, on page 2 of annex II, would make a separation not in keeping with the rest of the report of the Chairman of the informal working group. While paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 are separated by virtue of the subject-matter, paragraph 4 appears to be divided into two parts, with a separate paragraph 5. Therefore, for reasons of drafting and logic, we think that the text of paragraph 5 should become part of paragraph 4, immediately following the words "...at its session in 1974."

Paragraph 6 would then become paragraph 5.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to make the following suggestion to the Committee, in the light of the discussion held and the views expressed. With respect to annex II, I have not heard any objection to the combining of paragraphs 4 and 5, so that will be done in the final drafting of the report of the Chairman of the informal working group. With respect to the annexing of the two conventions, I understand that it was agreed earlier in the informal working group that we would annex both draft conventions, bearing in mind that the report of the Committee is a document sent to the General Assembly and that annexing the conventions might help the General Assembly to understand the report. That reflects the agreement that we reached earlier in the informal consultations.

Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil): Strictly speaking, there is not yet a draft treaty on the moon. I am not clear what articles of that document the representative of the Soviet Union wishes to have included in the annex. I should like to have some clarification on that point.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I was in the meeting room when the Soviet delegation proposed that the draft treaty on the moon should be annexed to our report and I was in the room when the representative of the United States supported that proposal. I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to express our gratitude to the United States delegation for that support. Subsequently, a question was put to the Secretariat which was similar to the one just put by the representative of Brazil. In order that there should be no misunderstanding on this matter, I should like to repeat that in the view of my delegation the treaty on the moon also represents a text approved at a session of the Legal Sub-Committee in 1972, with whatever material in square brackets it may contain. To that text should be added, also in square brackets, the texts of the six draft articles which were drafted in the working group of the Legal Sub-Committee at this year's session and of which the Legal Sub-Committee took note. The text should be reproduced in that form so that the General Assembly may have a clear picture of the state of the discussion.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: I now understand more clearly what annexes it is proposed to include in the report. However, I think that I should call the attention of the Committee to the fact that there is a rule ... which I understand has been approved by the General Assembly and is implemented by the United Nations Controller ... to the effect that texts which are already included in a document should not be reproduced in another document. That rule was adopted for reasons of economy. I think that before the Committee takes a decision, consideration should be given to that rule.

Mr. REIS (United States of America): With great respect I should like to say that perhaps that rule does not apply precisely to a situation where in year "1" certain articles of a particular treaty are provisionally approved by a working group, and then in a later year additional articles are approved. Otherwise it would of course be very difficult to get an over-all view of either the consistencies or the inconsistencies, the gaps or the uniformities, of what was done in the two years. While I agree with what the Rapporteur has said, I think we can all, without prejudice to our positions, allow what the representative of the Soviet Union has asked to be done. The result will be that the reader will see that a lot of drafting still needs to be done on the treaty on the moon, that there are gaps and inconsistencies. This would at least put the raw materials into the hands of the reader of our report. We think that would be a contribution. Obviously, we as a delegation and as a Government will not agree with much of what is in that text. But I think that does not matter. In terms of informing the General Assembly, I think there is very considerable merit in what the representative of the Soviet Union has proposed, and that is why we support his proposal.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom): Further to that point, I do see that in the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcasting Satellites the convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting was included as annex III totally unchanged from its first appearance. I think there is a good reason for annexing to this report the changed version of the text of the treaty on the moon.

The CHAIRMAN: If we can agree to adopt the annex with the inclusion of the two draft conventions we shall be taking a big leap forward.

Mr. ZAMRAH (Egypt) (interpretation from French): Before the Committee adopts this annex, I should like to state that the proposed text on optional marking does not reflect the position of my delegation. That text would undermine the value of the convention on registration. However, my delegation as it has already stated, has not lost hope that at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly an acceptable text on the marking of space objects can be produced, and perhaps we could mandate you, Mr. Chairman, to consult delegations with that purpose in mind during the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. MILLER (Canada): Before we adopt this section of our report and in the light of the remarks just made by the representative of Egypt, I feel prompted to recall to representatives what my delegation said on the morning of 5 July in response to some new instructions that were communicated to us then by certain representatives about the marking provision. I do not wish to take up the time of the Committee by repeating the arguments that I made, suggesting that what we needed now was the political will towards a compromise. I should like however strongly to support the suggestion of the representative of Egypt that you, Mr. Chairman, should take informal soundings of the members of this Committee during the period when the item of this report is under consideration by the General Assembly in order to ascertain whether it would be worth while to try to complete the convention on registration in the course of the discussion of that item.

Finally, I should like to appeal to all members of this Committee to use the period between now and then to reflect further on the question of marking, to look carefully at the compromise suggested and to be prepared to discuss, in the course of the General Assembly and through you, Mr. Chairman, suggested changes that would enable us to articulate a voluntary marking system. That, in the opinion of my delegation, is where the compromise lies. In that way we can indeed avoid sending the whole convention back to the Legal Sub-Committee simply because this one point is outstanding.

Mr. COCCA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The Argentine delegation views with sympathy the proposal made by the representative of the Soviet Union that we should annex to the report the text of those parts of the draft treaty relating to the moon that were approved by the working group. Unfortunately however, we cannot vote in favour of this, for the reasons that we expressed on a previous occasion and that we regard as still valid in connexion with the list of representatives that we considered to be an element of great value for international co-operation, given the time that elapses between one session and the next.

We should like to state to the representative of the Soviet Union that our opposition is purely formal in nature; the contents of this draft are perhaps significant, but they have already been included in annexes to the report of the Legal Sub-Committee and, consequently, are before everyone. Hence, I would ask the representative of the Soviet Union not to insist on his proposal, since the same criterion should apply as has been recommended today by the Rapporteur -- that is, the criterion of rationalization adopted in regard to the Argentine proposal. Otherwise, my delegation would have to ask for the inclusion of all the amendments to the draft that were approved in Geneva at the last session and that we regard as fundamental.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): To make things easier for the representative of Argentina, the Soviet delegation proposes to include the two articles of the registration convention that were drafted at this session.

Mr. REIS (United States of America): This type of obstruction is not acceptable to my delegation. If we are going to tear up the report in this way, I think it would be better to have no report at all.

I shall not put it in a pejorative way and say: How can we fulfil our responsibilities if we do not inform the General Assembly of what has been done on these articles? Let me adopt the most humble posture imaginable, one that is really not fitting for someone representing my Government. Let me say to the members of this Committee in the most humane way possible: What harm can result to anyone's position on any of these matters by bringing to the attention of the General Assembly, the readers of our report, in an annex which is appropriately labelled, the text of these various articles?

I do not understand; I really do not understand. Obviously, my Government does not agree with many things that have been proposed, but I do not say for a moment that those things have to be kept in an obscure document of a subsidiary organ. I really cannot understand how anyone can seriously believe that the position of his Government or his own personal concerns could be prejudiced in any way by informing the General Assembly of what has been done. I must appeal to representatives here. If the representative of Argentina maintains his point of view, the representative of the Soviet Union is apparently now going to tear up the registration convention. Well, I must say that other people may be willing to do as part of their life work something which leads to this type of result, but I am not.

This is really not worthy of us. I would say this to the representative of the Soviet Union: We are not prepared to have only these two articles of the registration convention included. If that is the price that must be paid for a report, it is better to have no report at all; and then we shall tell the General Assembly, each in our own way, why there is no report.

Mr. MILLER (Canada): I think it was the representative of the Soviet Union who said only today that there is an English expression to the effect that bad habits are catching. If ever there was an example of that, I think it is to be found in the suggestion that we ought to start making it more difficult for the parent body of this Committee, the General Assembly, to find out what were the best efforts that we made on the registration convention and on the moon treaty.

It is no secret to representatives here that my delegation considers that we have made some considerable efforts on the registration convention and that we ought to include the articles that we have been working on in the context of the entire registration convention -- a convention that is virtually complete but for some additional points. Hence, we think it does not come within the restraints that the Rapporteur drew to our attention.

In order to get this before the Assembly -- which we really believe is important -- we were willing to agree that the articles on the moon treaty also should be included.

I would make an appeal to the representative of Argentina, who I am sure is disappointed that the Committee did not decide to include as an annex the list of the representatives of the various Governments in this Committee. I would ask him to consider for a moment the merits of what we are trying to do here on the registration convention and on the moon treaty and not insist that no articles on the moon treaty be included. Alternatively the representative of the Soviet Union might take to heart some of the advice that he was giving us earlier today and not seek, in a reaction to what the Argentine representative is complaining about, to delete articles of the registration convention which will be valuable in determining what it was we were able to accomplish at this session.

The CHAIRMAN: We are very close to the completion of our work on our report. This has been made possible by a considerable amount of compromise and understanding on the part of all the delegations. I hope that, in a final effort of understanding, we can take this decisive last step, bearing in mind that time is passing and that our work is putting considerable strain on the supporting staff. I would therefore strongly appeal to members to come to a conclusion rapidly.

Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil): Mr. Chairman, I would request from you some clarification concerning the annexes relating to the moon treaty. Some time ago the representative of the Soviet Union proposed that there should be included as an annex the draft document that was issued by the Legal Sub-Committee, plus the texts of six new provisions in square brackets. That still leaves out the question of article X. It is my understanding, on reading the Austrian proposal that we have included in the report, that we are going to annex not only the text issued by the informal working group of this Committee but also the text worked out in informal consultations and considered by Working Group I of the Legal Sub-Committee. That is not clearly indicated anywhere in the report. I should like to have a confirmation from you, Sir, or from the Rapporteur that my understanding is correct.

Mr. SOUZA E SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: The proposal of the Austrian delegation has already been adopted; this text is to be included in the report. So I think we should proceed accordingly and have those texts annexed to the report.

Mr. ZAHARAN (Egypt) (interpretation from French): At the beginning of article III bis there is a typing error. I think perhaps a part of the bracket was omitted.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom): On this question of what is or what is not to be annexed to the report, I wonder whether there is not some misunderstanding. It certainly seems so to my delegation. I was under the impression that, when we talked about annexing the list of representatives attending this meeting, many delegations agreed that it would be useful to have such an annex but that this was specifically precluded by certain rules and regulations which would make it quite impossible for such an annex to be attached to the report. Here we are talking about annexing the texts of the registration convention and the draft moon treaty. Although there are certain indications, as it were, that such things, certainly if they come in a particular kind of form, should not be annexed, it is clearly not a rule that has quite the same force, because, as we see, in the case of the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites there are similar annexes. So I think that the two things are different in status. Therefore I would appeal to the representative of Argentina not to try to link these two things together. I think most of us here would like, ideally, to see the list of representatives annexed here, but that cannot be. We can at least annex the texts of the registration convention and the draft moon treaty, and indeed both would be of value to the General Assembly, and I think we should allow this to go forward.

Mr. REIS (United States of America): I am reminded that, making every effort to meet every wish of the representative of Argentina, my delegation had the honour to propose that you, Mr. Chairman, should write to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee to inform him of the Committee's strong feeling that this matter should be reconsidered by the Fifth Committee when it comes to the question of the control of documentation. I would assume that the delegation of Argentina would be correct if it were to assume that when we go to the General Assembly this fall -- since there is no Chairman of the Fifth Committee now -- there will be an A/C.5 document which will contain this letter. More than that I cannot do for the representative of Argentina. If that is the way in which my effort to meet every wish of his is to be greeted, I give up.

Mr. REBAGLIATI (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): In relation to the statement made by the United Kingdom the rules and regulations on rationalization -- I do not have a copy here, but the Secretariat can correct me -- do not speak specifically about these lists of representatives. The rules of procedure which we read out were clear. The representative of the United States opposed these measures for specific reasons. If it is a question of reproducing the text to facilitate the work of the General Assembly we feel it would be just as easy to consult the report of the Legal Sub-Committee. The symbol of that report is in our report, and any delegations interested could read the entire background, which would be found in the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, not only this year's but the reports of previous years -- the last two at any rate. Thirdly, if we want to give a thorough picture to the General Assembly, as was said by the United States, then my delegation would agree that we should give it a complete picture and reproduce in an annex all the proposals that were made and all the annexes of the Legal Sub-Committee. It is not a question of the list of representatives. It goes beyond that point. It goes beyond the substance and refers to the entire picture that we can give to the delegations at the General Assembly. I would suggest that all the annexes be included in that case, all the proposals that have been made. Otherwise we would be compelled to maintain our reservations not only with regard to the rules on rationalization of procedures adopted by the General Assembly, but for reasons of equality.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): On the basis of equality my delegation put forward its proposal. Frankly speaking, I cannot follow the logic of the representative of Argentina. We proposed that in the text sent to the General Assembly we include only those parts of the treaty on the moon which were agreed upon either by the Committee or by the Sub-Committee or one of its groups. I regret that the representative of Argentina, who was absent for most of the 1972 session, does not regard the text of the part of the treaty on the moon which was adopted by the Legal Sub-Committee, and which was included in its report, as having been adopted or as representing the point of view of the Committee. However, we proposed that we add to this text the texts that were elaborated and noted by the Working Group of the Sub-Committee. If we are going to talk about degree of adoption of the text of the treaty on the moon, then we should have to say that the degree is higher than that of the convention on registration, because part of the treaty on the moon has already been adopted by the Sub-Committee, whereas, as regards the convention, the parts we are putting forward to the General Assembly were not adopted but were simply noted. The addition mentioned in the report was not officially adopted by the Sub-Committee but only elaborated by its Working Group. Therefore it would be incorrect to place on the same footing the proposals of certain delegations with regard to the texts approved by the Working Group of the Sub-Committee.

We do not understand why our proposal should raise such objections. The Legal Sub-Committee has two priority questions before it. They were established by the General Assembly. The General Assembly has not received any report on the text of either of these two instruments. If we propose a text on one of these questions referred by the General Assembly, then I think at the same time we should show the General Assembly what is the state of the work that has been accomplished on the other question, at least the parts that have been agreed upon more or less. I think that this will put the two questions on an equal footing and not lead to any objections of principle.

Mr. REIS (United States of America): I am sorry, but in fairness to the Government of Argentina I must say that I remember very well the representative of the Government of Argentina at the session in question because it happened to be a very dear old friend of mine; a man named Marcelo Delpech. So I do not know what was meant when it was said that there was no representation.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I said that the representative of Argentina was absent for the greater part of the session in 1972. The representative of Argentina appeared in Geneva at the end of the session. He took part in the last stage of the session, for three days, when the consideration of substance had been concluded and we were dealing with the adoption of the report. I had the honour of taking part in the work in Geneva at that time.

Mr. COCCA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): I regret that this discussion has been extended to matters that do not deal with the substance.

Reference has been made to anecdotes, to the degree of participation of a delegation and so forth. Mr. Marcelo Delpech, as the representative of the United States has just reminded us, attended and expressed a reservation which is to be found in the record of the last or the next to the last meeting in Geneva. This was a reservation to all of the work done. If we look at the record we will see that. The delegation of Argentina repeated that reservation -- and the number and the page of the document were mentioned -- last April or May at the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee. It dissented as we do now.

That is not only the position of Argentina. Since the Geneva session in 1972 there have been many proposals contrary to this text and we were happy that there were certain disagreements with this text. We felt that a better text could have been worked out, one with broader content. But the proposals were so radical that it was impossible, despite the efforts at negotiation which we all put forward, for the legal Sub-Committee to adopt any of the texts which had been so painfully elaborated. Therefore to put forward to the General Assembly

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

such a text as an annex implies that the text has become almost an agreed text and that we need not reopen a debate on it. This would not be true. There is no definitive text and I would point out that many delegations -- particularly that of the Soviet Union -- said that we should accept the texts as a whole, as a package deal. So there is no convention in which all of the clauses have been agreed upon in the preamble and elsewhere; there is no entity to submit to the General Assembly. We cannot put forward a text which was the subject of a consensus. There were so many difficulties involved that this Committee was unable to overcome them, and there was no agreed text. All the texts which have been elaborated up to now lack the support of the delegation of Argentina -- particularly the final clauses, to which many delegations attribute importance.

The CHAIRMAN: Before we continue this debate I must inform members that the interpreters, who have been working since 3 o'clock in the afternoon, cannot go on working much longer. It is my intention, therefore, to suspend the meeting at 8 o'clock, if agreement has not been reached by then, and call a new meeting for tomorrow at 10.30 a.m., as we have to finish our report.

Mr. REIS (United States of America): I only wish to observe that in the opinion of my delegation the behaviour that necessitates this prolongation of the debate is a scandal.

Mr. MILLER (Canada): It might be worth while if I outlined what it is that the Soviet representative, in my view, wishes to see annexed to our report. I think he wants to see annexed the text that is to be found in paragraph 21 of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee's eleventh session but I would remind the representative of Argentina that on that text, which was after all approved by the Sub-Committee, there were in the course of the debate some 26 or so working papers and suggestions by many countries.

I think that the representative of the Soviet Union is also hoping that we will annex as additional articles in the moon treaty -- in some cases they are better reformulations -- the text that appears in paragraph 17 of the report of the twelfth session of the Legal Sub-Committee, a text which was approved by a working group. These texts have a certain status because they have acquired a certain

(Mr. Miller, Canada)

amount of approval and I think we could safely leave it to the Secretariat to record faithfully the extent of the approval given and the status of each of these particular texts -- including, I would say, the text on the registration convention. I do not think we need to be afraid that the text will be incorrectly presented by annexing it if we are assured by the Secretariat that it will use the correct descriptive language about the status and the nature of approval given to the text, to be found in these two reports of the Legal Sub-Committee. That is what we are talking about. I think that if we could just agree on that quickly we could end by 8 p.m. I do sympathize with the interpreters.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. PADANG (Secretary of the Committee): Frequent references have been made to leaving this to the discretion of the Secretariat. I merely wish to bring to the attention of the Chairman and members of the Committee the existence of the report of the Rationalization Committee to which the Rapporteur has already referred. Decisions in these matters have to be taken primarily by the Chief Editor. If it is the wish of the members of the Committee, we in the Secretariat will certainly bring the records of this debate to the attention of the Chief Editor and leave it to his judgement as to what can be done in regard to this part of the annex.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am very grateful to the representative of Canada for the explanations he gave us. That is precisely what we had in mind.

As regards the last statement by the representative of Argentina, the Soviet delegation cannot but express its deepest regret at everything we have just heard. We cannot possibly agree with the assessment made by the representative of Argentina either as regards the text that was approved -- I repeat: approved -- by the Legal Sub-Committee in 1972 or as regards the state of work on the draft treaty on the moon.

The CHAIRMAN: As the time at our disposal is very limited and it would be a matter of considerable technical difficulty for this Committee to continue beyond the present hour, I should like to make a strong appeal to all delegations to come to an agreement on this question of the annexes to the report, which is really the last missing stone in the building of this report. It would be a matter of deep regret if we could not settle this matter now.

In this spirit, could we not agree on the proposal made by the representative of Canada on the inclusion of these various portions in annex II and thus conclude our work today? As I say, this is really the last step we have to take in order to finish this report, and I do not see any other way out.

Mr. WYNDHAM (Australia): My delegation is not convinced of the necessity of having as an annex to our report the texts of articles of the moon treaty; but in view of the strong feeling of at least one delegation that it would be desirable, my delegation does not wish to oppose this. However, this strong desire has put another delegation in a difficult and perhaps embarrassing position. I wonder, therefore, whether the problem might not be overcome if -- when annexing the text of the articles within brackets which is contained in annex I to the draft report of the Legal Sub-Committee, entitled, "Text contained in 1972 report of the Sub-Committee", and when adding to it the text contained in paragraph 17 of the main body of the draft report of the Sub-Committee of this year -- a suitable footnote were placed at the head of the annex indicating that some delegations have indicated a certain position with regard to some of these texts, and perhaps drawing the attention of the reader to a number of proposals that have been made and that are to be found in the draft report of the Legal Sub-Committee. It seems to me that this may be a way out.

Mr. REIS (United States of America): I think that is a very positive proposal. Perhaps such a footnote might say:

"For the positions of delegations, their reservations, interpretations and proposals, the attention of the reader is directed to the verbatim records of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the summary records of the Legal Sub-Committee and the reports of each of those bodies.

Mr. COCCA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): In a spirit of co-operation the delegation of Argentina will accept the proposal put forward by the representative of Australia and the footnote proposed by the representative of the United States. The Australian proposal refers only to the draft treaty relating to the moon, but I think it should apply also to the draft convention on registration.

The CHAIRMAN: If we could all accept the kind of footnote proposed by the delegations of Australia and the United States to be applicable to both the moon treaty and the registration convention, this might be the way out. If there is no objection I shall take it that the Committee agrees to that procedure.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 5, report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning its sixteenth session.

ELECTION OF A RAPPORTEUR

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the Rapporteur.

Mr. SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: Mr. Chairman, before you embark on this item, I think it necessary that your present Rapporteur resign his office. I should like only to say that I have for seven consecutive years been associated with the proceedings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and some of its subsidiary organs, and since September 1969 as one of its servants. Now the time has come for me to take my leave.

I have learned much, and I hope to have done some useful work. The words of praise addressed to me in this room may be discounted and attributed to the friendship I have fortunately established with many of my colleagues. To each and every one of you I am grateful, and I have in mind particularly those on the staff whose anonymous work made my task not only possible but also pleasant.

(Mr. Souza e Silva Brazil)

If international co-operation and understanding has some meaning, I have found it here. I only hope --- and it is also my wish --- that this Committee, under your able guidance, Sir, may set an example to the international community of endeavours devoted mainly to progress and peace for all.

The CHAIRMAN: It is extremely difficult for me to express the feelings of gratitude we all share for the work done by our Rapporteur. Many delegations have already done so, and in a much better way than I could do. At this stage, therefore, may I just say a word of personal regret at seeing terminated a relationship of co-operation which I have enjoyed very much indeed, and add to all the words of thanks expressed here my personal tribute to our distinguished Rapporteur, Selso de Souza e Silva.

Mr. VELLODI (India): Mr. Chairman, let me first of all associate myself completely with the sentiments you have expressed concerning the contribution made to the work of this Committee by Mr. Souza e Silva, whom we are very sorry to see leave. As I said in my general debate statement, I trust and hope that Mr. Souza e Silva, in the new, important functions he is going to occupy in Brasilia, will continue to give us and the United Nations the benefit of all his wisdom.

I should like at this point also to make reference to the contribution that Brazil in general has made to the work of this Committee. Before Mr. Souza e Silva we had another Brazilian, Mr. de Carvalho Silos, who was Rapporteur of the Committee, if I remember rightly, from the beginning of its work.

In this context, and in order to save time, I now have great pleasure to nominate another distinguished Brazilian, Mr. Luiz Felipe de Seixas-Correia, who is with us today, for the post of Rapporteur of this Committee.

(Mr. Vellodi, India)

Mr. Seixas-Correa is a distinguished member of the Brazilian diplomatic service. Before he came here he had held important positions in that service. He was a member of the Brazilian delegation to the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly, and in particular and more to the point as far as we are concerned, he has been a member of the Brazilian delegation to the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as to most of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee since 1971, when he was posted here.

I have known Mr. Seixas-Correa only since coming to New York this time, but even during these last four weeks I have been deeply impressed with his clarity of thought and his grasp of the various issues before this Committee. I have no doubt that Mr. Seixas-Correa will make an excellent Rapporteur and will be a worthy successor to his distinguished predecessors.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I have pleasure in submitting the nomination of Mr. Seixas-Correa for the favourable consideration of the Committee.

Mr. COCCA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): I shall be very brief because of the lateness of the hour. I should like to state my profound gratitude to the Rapporteur, Mr. Souza e Silva, who is leaving us, and to state that because of our deep friendship I shall lament his departure even more. But since he has been called upon to perform important functions for his Government and his country, we in the diplomatic service can value the satisfaction obtained from that. We have all recognized the valuable work that Mr. Souza e Silva performed at previous sessions of the Committee, and I therefore need not repeat that now.

With respect to the candidature of another distinguished Brazilian, Mr. Seixas-Correa, we support his nomination very strongly and with great pleasure. We do so with very important considerations in mind. Mr. Seixas-Correa is an expert and a diplomat with experience. We know that he is a very capable and efficient jurist. He graduated from the University of Rio de Janeiro. He is a very active representative who has contributed to the solution of many problems with his very valuable interventions, which have often obtained the agreement of the Committee.

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

The experience of Mr. Seixas-Correa in our Committee and in the Legal Sub-Committee over the past three sessions, and in the General Assembly, the important meetings of the First Committee and the Special Political Committee, leads us not only warmly to support his candidature, but to applaud it most sincerely. In addition, he is a very young man who will be working actively at the side of our young Chairman.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My delegation has already stated how highly we esteem our Rapporteur who is leaving us today. Unfortunately, that does not appear in the records since it was said at a meeting that did not have a verbatim record. However, the Rapporteur is well aware of the high opinion that we have of him. What we wish to say to him can be put in two words, which I shall say in Portuguese: muito obrigado.

The Soviet delegation also takes great satisfaction in supporting the candidacy of Mr. Seixas-Correa. We have no doubt that he will be a worthy successor to Mr. Souza e Silva in that difficult office. Neither does my delegation doubt that Mr. Seixas-Correa will find it no easy task to do so, given the high level at which the present Rapporteur has worked.

I should like to take this last opportunity at this session, Mr. Chairman, to thank you for the unfailingly wise guidance that you have given us at this session, to thank the Secretariat for the assistance they have given to you and to us, and in particular to thank our long-suffering, very patient -- I would even say heroically patient -- interpreters, who undoubtedly hate us.

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of India has nominated Mr. Seixas-Correa of Brazil as our new Rapporteur, and that nomination has been supported by the delegations of Argentina and the Soviet Union. If there are no further nominations or statements, I shall take it that the Committee decides to elect Mr. Seixas-Correa unanimously as Rapporteur of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Mr. Seixas-Correa (Brazil) was elected Rapporteur unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to offer Mr. Seixas-Correa my sincere congratulations on his election as Rapporteur.

Mr. SEIXAS-CORREA (Brazil): I shall be very brief, not only because of the lateness of the hour but also because I believe that the key to a Rapporteur's success is to listen a great deal but to speak as little as possible. I could not fail, however, to tell you, Mr. Chairman and all my colleagues here in the Committee how gratified and honoured I am at this opportunity. I wish to address my most sincere thanks in particular to the representative of India, Mr. Vellodi, who was kind enough to nominate me, as well as to the representative of Argentina, Mr. Cocca, and the representative of the Soviet Union, Mr. Maiorski, who supported my nomination with extremely generous words.

This will be my first assignment in any Bureau of a United Nations body and I must say that I take up the challenge with great enthusiasm. I have had the privilege of dealing with outer space affairs in the Brazilian delegation since 1971. The relatively short but, I believe, significant experience that I have gained in these last two years has made me fully conscious of the importance, political and otherwise, of our Committee's proceedings.

(Mr. Seixas-Correa, Brazil)

Under your guidance, Sir, and under your efficient prodding, we shall be increasingly required to take further decisions that are bound to shape the future of international co-operation in the field of outer space, to the benefit of both developing and developed countries. As the new Rapporteur of the Committee, I can only pledge to you and to my other colleagues that, with your help and theirs and with the assistance of the Committee's very competent secretariat, I shall do my best to translate into written words all our future accomplishments.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN: We have now come to the end of the work of this sixteenth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Many ideas come to mind when one contemplates the last two weeks of hard work, but the hour is late and I shall therefore not be able to say all that is on my mind.

However, I can assure members that what stands out in my mind is a large number of positive achievements. In the first place, I should like to express, on behalf of all the members of the Committee, our gratitude to the extremely hard-working staff of the United Nations which has supported this Committee. I hope that the excellent reputation this Committee enjoys in the international community will be maintained within the Secretariat of the United Nations and not be severely affected by the inordinate amount of work that we have placed on the shoulders of all the staff. Our thanks go especially to the interpreters, whose work has already been the subject of much praise here. We also thank the verbatim reporters and all the other members of the staff, particularly the members of the Outer Space Affairs Division, with Mr. Abdel-Ghani at their head.

I should like also to address a word of thanks to all the representatives here for the excellent work that has been done. As I have already said, there is not enough time now for me to make a complete review of our work. In any case, I think it is adequately reflected in the report we have just adopted. What we have accomplished is new proof of, a new monument to, the spirit of compromise which this Committee has so often shown. Outer space is a region

where good spirits are at home, and we have had great need of such good spirits during our deliberations these past few days.

But I think that at the end of these two weeks we can say, with some conviction and some pride, that we have made progress, that this Committee has affirmed its role as the parent body -- as it is sometimes called -- of the growing family of outer space institutions of the United Nations. It will be our task during the forthcoming meetings of the subsidiary bodies and during the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, to assert this role, to make our Committee what we have intended it to be: a focal point of United Nations activities in the field of outer space.

All those who have co-operated towards the achievement of that goal deserve our thanks. I hope that in the light of the results of this Committee's work -- results that we shall be able to appreciate better when we have a fuller view of the detailed and highly complex work we have done here -- we shall approach all the tasks we have set ourselves fortified and strengthened.

With a renewed expression of my thanks for the support that I have received, I conclude this session of the Committee. I wish those representatives who are going home to their countries Godspeed. I express the hope that we shall see each other again very soon.

I declare closed the sixteenth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The meeting rose at 8.20 p.m.