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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE  
VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 11 June 1975, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria)

General debate (continued)

- Argentina
- Pakistan
- Poland
- Germany, FR
- Czechoslovakia
- Belgium
- Japan
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GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

Mr. COCCA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The items we are to discuss at this session have a special meaning, not only because of their diversity but also because of the importance of their contents. I should like to congratulate the Chairman and the Secretariat on the annotations contained in the provisional agenda, which are for all of us participating in this session a very valuable guide.

At the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee we expressed our condolences on the death of Academician Blagonravov of the Soviet Union, and now we have been saddened by the news of two other irreparable losses for this Committee, namely, those of Mr. Charvet of France and Mr. Fiorio of Italy.

The representative of France had been with us for many years, and we all valued his activities in the Legal Sub-Committee, which showed, in addition to a deep knowledge of international law and of space law, a great spirit of understanding and the flexibility of a diplomat who truly understood the essence of international co-operation. For Argentina this is a great loss indeed. We shall never forget the many proposals which were submitted by our delegations and the support given to Argentinian drafts by the French delegation headed by Mr. Charvet, a friend of my country and a very dear friend of one who today recalls his distinguished personality and his valuable international work.

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

Mr. Franco Fiorio was an excellent collaborator in the work of the Committee in the field of science, and participated from the very first meetings of the Committee until his last activities as Chairman of the Special Working Group on remote sensing of earth resources by space technology. Mr. Fiorio visited Argentina on a few occasions and I personally had the opportunity of receiving him as a member of the United Nations Group of Experts looking into the question of establishing the rocket launching station at Mar del Plata, and I was able to appreciate the depth of his knowledge at the International Congress of Space Travel held in Argentina in 1969.

We mourn the loss of these distinguished colleagues and we should like to express to those Governments that they have represented in so worthy a manner our most sincere condolences. We request that these words be conveyed to the families of Academician Blagonravov, Mr. Charvet and Mr. Fiorio.

The achievements in the field of space activities in the time which has lapsed since our last session have been not only significant, but have been increasingly important in terms of international co-operation which, in the view of the Argentine delegation, is not only a moral imperative, but also a legal concept which in some fields, such as in the field of space, has become a general principle of international law.

The successful launching of Pioneer-10, of several co-operative satellite projects, of the Landsat-B satellite by the United States, the activities of the ATS-6 satellite of India in experimental and educational programmes, the wide ranging activities carried out with unmanned satellites of the Cosmos series by the Soviet Union, as well as its recent manned flight and the launching on the day of the opening of our session of Venus-IX, all imply that space co-operation is now a tangible reality which will culminate in a joint Apollo-Soyuz mission, which will take place in a few weeks, on 15 July of this year.

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

The delegation of Argentina was informed of the successful launching of the Indian satellite Aryabhata and we hailed that action with great satisfaction not only because this is the first of those countries that have not yet reached full development to launch a satellite, but also because India has once again shown how important it is to have co-operation in space activities, for at a time when it is beginning to co-operate with the United States in the ATS-6 satellite, it is launching in orbit together with the Soviet Union from the territory of the Soviet Union the experimental Indian satellite Aryabhata.

The recent Paris conference of 30 May 1975, which gave birth to the European Space Agency, which include the European Launcher Development Organization and the European Space Research Organization, evidence the need for joint efforts as well as the advantages of international participation in space activities. Shortly before that, between 23 April and 9 May a conference was held in London to consider the possibilities of the Inmarsat system, an item which, in the view of my delegation, is of the utmost importance, particularly in the field of remote sensing. That must be carried out in close contact with the United Nations Committee on Outer Space, for this Committee is the very hub of all international activity in space, as was stated this morning by the representative of India.

Mr. Chairman, in your opening statement, you referred to the need to utilize new sources of energy, considering those that might be found in outer space, and you emphasized the use of solar energy. I should like to subscribe to the important ideas that you expressed with respect to the importance of this question, and I should like to inform you as well as the distinguished representatives that this question is the subject of thorough study in Argentina, where this year we held the first Latin American seminar on solar energy, an interdisciplinarian conference which is considering two other national scientific congresses in 1975, whose conclusions we shall convey in due time to this Committee.

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

With regard to the space activities that have been carried out by my country, I should like to state that the organ responsible for the co-ordination, promotion and planning of space activities is the National Commission for Space Research (CNIE). During the last year it has co-operated with scientists and technology experts from the universities, the Space Research Institute of the Armed Forces and various groups of the CNIE itself to develop programmes in the field of applied space science.

In the rocket probe research in that field, we are continuing launchings under the EXAMETNET multilateral co-operation programme in order to measure winds and temperatures between 30 and 65 kilometres in altitude over the zone of the launching station in Mar Chiquita.

We continued the German-Argentine experiment of ionized clouds, EGANI 75. These experiments are being carried out in co-operation with the National Commission and the Max Planck Institute of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Argentine Commission has two Castor rockets which are manufactured in Argentina and the German Institute provides the payload. These will carry such loads to a height of 500 kms., and will be launched next November in the Marambio Base, in the Argentinian Antarctic region. This experiment requires the preparation of special support elements which are adapted to operations in areas of intense cold. The scientific purpose of the EGANI 75 experiment is the study of the behaviour of the electric and magnetic fields and the measurement of temperature patterns and density of electrons.



(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

With reference to the question of evaluation of natural resources by remote sensing, work has been done in the field of photo-interpretation with material collected from the Skylark experiments and the pictures provided by the ERST-1 satellite. The results obtained following correction of the pictures obtained by means of rockets are extremely promising. This fact has led to a decision to undertake the development of a new series of Argentinian rockets, the TAURO series, experimental rockets for purposes of photography that will make it possible to test the payload that has already been developed, including an automatic altitude control system.

I shall now refer to our work programme, in general, and the annotations.

The report of the Legal Sub-Committee contains four substantive questions, three of which are given the same priority treatment: the draft Treaty on the Moon, the elaboration of the principles that will govern the utilization by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, and the legal consequences of remote sensing of the earth from space.

With respect to the first item, the delegation of Argentina that priority attention should be given to the final drafting of articles X and X bis regarding the natural resources of the moon, and we are prepared to participate in formal and informal meetings that may be convened on this item, since we understand that the present texts are not in keeping with our position.

With regard to the scope of the application of the treaty, that does not present major difficulties. It should also refer to the other celestial bodies, in conformity with the 1967 Treaty; but, if there is a specific agreement to govern a celestial body, other than the moon, the treaty that we are preparing for the natural satellite of the earth will no longer apply to that body, in accordance with the principle that the particular prevails over the general.

With reference to the kind of information to be supplied with respect to moon missions, our delegation believes that this type of information must be as thorough and as wide-ranging as possible, and it should not be on a periodic but on a permanent basis.

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

The questions relating to direct broadcast by satellites represent progress that we wish not only to point out but also to hail. We will continue to co-operate along this road. However, we must emphasize the need of not delaying political-legal solutions. The World Administrative Conference on Radio Communications has been called by ITU for early 1977. Thus we must have made sufficient progress in the field of political understanding and in the area of legal consensus, so that the technical matters are not divorced from these two very essential aspects of the same question.

The other item concerning remote sensing of earth's resources through space technology is indeed a challenge to the creativity of international jurists. We would like to say that from the legal, as well as from the political, standpoint there is no difference whatsoever between the experimental or preoperational period and the operational period itself, and that all questions concerning organization and procedure are basically legal in nature and, therefore, fall within the competence of the Legal Sub-Committee.

We wish to point out, as a challenge to the creative capabilities of the jurists, the expressions "Organizational and financial requirements of a space sector for world-wide coverage by a joint international enterprise, which would belong to an independent international organization financed and exploited by it, or which would function under United Nations auspices", contained in the provisional agenda of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee; and we also wish to point to recommendation (a) (4) of the report which states:

"A preliminary study on the organizational and financial requirements of a future operational space segment for global coverage to be internationally operated, owned and financed", (A/AC.105/150, para. 29) where there is a reference to "an international co-operative venture". We will refer to this once again when we deal with the report of that Sub-Committee.

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

With regard to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, the question was mentioned this morning by the Observer of COSPAR, Professor de Jager, who has contributed new elements for an assessment of this question.

As my delegation stated at the last meeting of the Sub-Committee, Argentina has signed the Agreement on registration of objects launched into outer space, one of the first countries having signed this important instrument, and we have signed the Agreement on the distribution of wave lengths for programmes transmitted by satellite.

The work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee represents a considerable effort in terms of the effective progress made with regard to questions considered. In this effort, the solution of legal and political problems have often been predominant, which is a considerable contribution when we look at the same item through different lenses, as it were. The wide participation in the discussion of the question of remote sensing of the earth from space leads us to believe that a solution will be found for the legal consequences of this issue at the experimental or preoperational stage -- which should be soon.

With reference to the United Nations Programme for the Application of Space Technology, my delegation understands that it should be expanded in terms of content and scope and that it should have the greatest possible financial support and be carried out as effectively as possible.

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

A United Nations Conference on space cannot have limited scope. That is why we do not share the view that such a conference can be part of the United Nations conference on science and technology scheduled for the 1970s. If in 1968 activities in outer space were considered sufficiently important to give rise to the Vienna Conference, seven years later any intergovernmental meeting must be at the highest level and must have the autonomy proper to the major questions of our times.

In the statements made earlier in this Committee reference has been made to the possibility of closer co-operation between the two subsidiary bodies of the Outer Space Committee. The Argentine delegation enthusiastically supports that idea, since we have always encouraged interdisciplinary joint meetings of the two Sub-Committees.

Yesterday morning we were fortunate to have the benefit of an important scientific contribution: the statement of the observer from COSPAR. He referred to the definition of outer space, the registration of satellites, the designations of the formations of celestial bodies, certain aspects of remote sensing, and the pollution of outer space. His observations were an extremely useful contribution.

With regard to the zone existing between the upper limit of air space and a light satellite's orbit that is closest to the earth, I would comment that this does not mean that there is a legal vacuum, either with regard to outer space or with regard to the vehicle used, provided that above the aircraft and balloons and under the minimum orbit there is a vehicle with its own peculiarities, the probe rocket, whose legal system -- precisely because it falls within this zone described as a vacuum or a neutral zone -- has been thoroughly studied for more than 20 years. I should like to recall here the meeting that took place on guided missiles and rockets in Paris in 1956, where the Argentine delegation submitted a paper on the nature of these various artificial satellites. Since then this matter has been studied at various international conferences on space law, and there is quite a lengthy juridical bibliography.

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

The references made by the scientist observer of COSPAR, my friend Mr. de Jager, to the system for marking and registering of satellites used by the Committee on space investigation which he represents were very valuable indeed. If the methods used before the conclusion of the registration Convention had been more widely disseminated, all the dimensions of that system could have been better appreciated.

I should like to thank the Committee for its attention to my statement. But I cannot conclude without saying that we listened very sympathetically to the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom suggesting the slogan ad astra per aspera pro bono humanitatis. The Argentine delegation, which has raised mankind to the category of a subject of law, is pleased to hear that the beneficiary of space activities is to be mankind, considered as a whole.

I enthusiastically support also the proposal made this morning by the representative of Egypt, Ambassador Abdel-Ghani, that we adopt a recommendation with regard to a system of information on space activities; that initiative would fully respond to the concern referred to yesterday in this Committee by the Argentine delegation.

My delegation is equally enthusiastic about the firm opinion expressed by the representative of Austria that there should be a separate space conference and about his proposal to establish a working group within this Committee with the specific task of defining the objective and the scope of that world conference.

Mr. AHMED (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, I should like first of all to join other representatives in expressing our pleasure at meeting once again under your able chairmanship. We compliment you on your excellent summing up, in your opening statement, of the Committee's work to date.

My delegation extends its warmest welcome and offers its sincerest co-operation to Mr. Perek, the Director of the Outer Space Affairs Division. We look forward to many years of fruitful co-operation.

We extend our warmest congratulations also to Mr. Lindenberg Sette on his election as the Committee's new Rapporteur.

My delegation is confident that with the good will and co-operation of all our colleagues, and with your skilful guidance, Mr. Chairman, this session of the Committee will take us farther on the road to our common goal of harnessing outer space, to the benefit of mankind. It would be a sad reflection on us if that progress towards maximizing the peaceful use of outer space were blocked or delayed through fears of its misuse. My delegation would, however, like to sound a note of caution here. We would do well to recognize at the outset that such fears are not without foundation.

The challenge before us, therefore, is to steer clear of the pitfalls but, at the same time, to devise ways and means to grasp the opportunity for fuller use of space technology towards the social and economic advancement of mankind as a whole, and of the developing countries in particular.

To those objectives of this Committee the late Academician Blagonravov of the USSR, Mr. Charvet of France and Mr. Fiorio of Italy made a valuable contribution. They enriched this Committee through the long years of their association. My delegation wishes to convey, through you, Mr. Chairman, our sincere condolences to the delegations of the USSR, France and Italy on the passing-away of their illustrious compatriots and our much lamented colleagues.

Referring to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, my delegation fully appreciates the difficulties inherent in the task of the preparation of the draft treaty relating to the moon and of the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television



(Mr. Ahmed, Pakistan)

broadcasting and the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space. It is our opinion that despite these difficulties the Legal Sub-Committee did move forward at its last session.

We hope that the present session of the Committee will succeed in resolving some of the outstanding issues, leading in particular to the removal of the square brackets in draft articles X and X bis. In that connexion my delegation wishes to reiterate its position that the resources on the moon are the common heritage of mankind and should be treated as such. It will be unfortunate if we fail to arrive at a consensus on this key element of the draft treaty. My delegation therefore looks forward to a reconciliation of positions, in the same spirit in which last year this Committee completed the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space.

The technological developments in the field of direct television broadcasting now being experimented with in several countries are already making possible impressive gains. Despite the fact that the scope of these experiments is limited to community reception, it appears that the day is not far off when satellites will carry messages directly to home receivers. My delegation therefore considers that it is not at all too early to start work on guidelines for an organized and smooth international use of satellites in this highly significant area of space applications.

(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

As in the previous meetings of the main Committee and its subsidiary bodies, my delegation finds considerable merit in the acceptance of the principles of participation and prior consent, as advocated by our colleagues from Sweden and Canada.

Regarding the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, we are glad that a serious beginning has been made towards international understanding in the work of evolving guidelines to regulate remote-sensing activities.

Allow me to reiterate our previous position in this regard. We believe that all "sensed" States should have the legal right of full access to the remote-sensing data pertaining to the territories under their jurisdiction. Furthermore, in view of the general trend evidenced at the last session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, my delegation considers it likely that regional international data reception centres will proliferate in the years ahead of us. It is therefore necessary that suitable guidelines be evolved expeditiously to regulate the working of such regional international centres. We also hope that these guidelines will be reflected in the international instrument eventually to be worked out for regulating remote-sensing activities as a whole.

I would now like to refer to the work done by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its twelfth session, but before doing that I should like to extend my delegation's sincere felicitations to the United States delegation on the successful launching of Landsat-2 and to express our appreciation of the NASA decision to launch Landsat-3 in 1977. There is no doubt that this programme is making a significant contribution to the solution of problems related to the development of natural resources and is destined to play a great role throughout the world, especially in the developing countries.

I would also like to mention the application-technology satellite ATS-6, which will soon be or perhaps has already been shifted to the Indian Ocean region, as was indicated by the representative of the United States this morning. Apart from its main objective of conducting a satellite instructional television experiment, ATS-6 also carries several other experiments, including the ionospheric beacon experiment in which Pakistan is taking part. We have nearly completed the fabrication of ground receiving equipment for the purpose. As in the case of the

(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

Landsat programme, we hope to benefit from ATS-6 during the latter's positioning in our part of the world. I may add that successful fabrication of the entire ground receiving equipment involving sophisticated digital-system electronics in SUPARCO laboratories has contributed greatly to self-reliance in our scientific endeavours. We are now looking forward to beneficial participation in the ATS-6 ionospheric beacon experiment, which will supplement the radio propagation research programme now being carried out in Pakistan.

My delegation would likewise compliment the USSR on their valuable advances in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. We wish them success in their recent launching of their new Venus probe. We have continued to watch with interest the progress of the joint United States-USSR Apollo-Soyuz mission, which we regard as a landmark in international co-operation in space and to which we attach great importance as a forerunner of active collaboration among space Powers. Another recent event of great significance was the signing of the agreement for the establishment of the European Space Agency (ESA). As a result of these developments we look forward to further impetus in international space science and technology, and my delegation extends sincere felicitations to the countries members of ESA and to the United States and the USSR for their joint programme.

Reverting to the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/150) my delegation would like once again to record our appreciation of the work done by the Secretariat in the preparation of the several studies completed at the instance of the Committee. These studies were most helpful to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Their extension in the form of further studies requested in paragraph 29 (a) of document A/AC.105/150 is fully supported by my delegation. We also support the recommendation made in paragraph 29 (b) for the other steps to be taken by the Secretary-General.

With regard to the United Nations Programme of Space Applications, my delegation has noted with satisfaction the increasing interest of the developing countries as well as the United Nations family in organizing panels, seminars and training workshops in various fields of application. I may add in this connexion that we feel greatly honoured to see our offer of holding a training workshop on remote-sensing applications for the benefit of the ESCAP and ECWA regions accepted by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. We look forward to its approval by

(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

this Committee and hope that the holding of this workshop will be a modest contribution by my country to the international co-operative effort in this field as much as a benefit to Pakistan's own programme of space applications.

My delegation's views on the contents and scope of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications have already been placed on record, during the last session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. While I do not wish to restate here our deep sense of disappointment in this connexion, I hope a truly concerted effort will be made next year to examine the matter in depth when, it is to be hoped, more responses to the Secretary-General's questionnaire of 19 August 1974 will have become available as anticipated through the action indicated in paragraph 49 of document A/AC.105/150.

This Committee and its sub-committees have been unable thus far to devote much thought to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer-space activities. My delegation would like to voice its hope that this matter will receive due attention in the coming year.

As was pointed out by the representative of France this morning, we consider it necessary to define and delimit outer space and outer-space activities in order to provide a proper perspective for various international instruments already in existence or which may come up in future concerning the peaceful uses of outer space. At this point my delegation would like particularly to commend to the attention of this Committee the remarks made this morning by the representative of Egypt. In our opinion, they reflect the consensus concerns of all of us here. They surely reflect those of our delegation as we look forward to this Committee making an even bigger and more effective impact. We are sure his observations will receive due attention later, when we discuss the specifics.

Another matter of importance in our view is the question of effective co-ordination among the different specialized agencies and other organs of the United Nations system and the United Nations Outer Space Committee. My delegation believes that, in the absence of a specialized agency, such as IAEA, for space matters, such as was suggested by this delegation earlier, there is at present no suitable international machinery which could adequately perform this function and effectively see to it that such activities conform to some agreed guidelines for the peaceful uses of outer space.



(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

My delegation, motivated and inspired by this genuine concern, had, along with several other delegations sponsored a proposal at the last session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, document A/AC.105/C.1/L.73, annexed to the report of the Sub-Committee. This proposal, even though not going far enough in our view, could represent a beginning towards meeting this need and therefore deserves careful consideration by this Committee. My delegation will welcome other suggestions which might cater to this need of effective co-ordination. If it is not attended to now, this delay could only lead to serious and unnecessary difficulties at a later stage.

My delegation would like to conclude this statement at this stage. There are, however, several other specific points to which we may want to come back later during the detailed consideration of the reports of the sub-committees.

Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland): The Polish delegation wishes to express deep sorrow because of the deaths of Academician Blagonravov, one of the founders of space science, Mr. Jean-Félix Charvet and Mr. Franco Fiorio, and to convey condolences to the delegations of the Soviet Union, France and Italy.

We note with great satisfaction the important events of the past year in the field of space activities. We were particularly encouraged by the fact that the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, which had been completed by the Legal Sub-Committee at its thirteenth session, was endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in July 1974 and was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in November of last year. That Convention will undoubtedly be an important step towards the codification of the principles of the law of outer space.

Our delegation welcomes the important progress achieved during the past year in peaceful scientific and technological research relating to outer space and congratulates the countries whose efforts have made those results possible, in particular the Soviet Union and the United States. We wish also to congratulate India on the occasion of the launching of its first satellite.

(Mr. Czarkowski, Poland)

Poland attaches great significance to the role of space science and technology in the socio-economic development of nations. We are deeply convinced that the research carried out in the framework of this modern and relatively new branch of science is not only valuable for the further exploration of outer space, but also contains still unused and still unexplored possibilities for raising the standard of living of people on this globe. That is why Polish scientists have been conducting research in many fields of outer space, such as space meteorology, satellite communication, space physics, satellite geodesy, space biology and medicine.

These and other related activities are co-ordinated by the Committee for Research and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the Polish Academy of Sciences. This co-ordinating role entails research work by a number of institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences and of the Ministry for Science, Higher Education and Technology, as well as other State agencies. Most of these agencies participate in the framework of the international programme of co-operation of socialist countries known as Intercosmos. We also co-operate in the International Satellites Communication Organization, Intersputnik.

In this context we would like to emphasize the role of the Soviet Union in the creation of favourable conditions enabling Poland and other socialist countries to participate actively in some very important space projects and to receive scientific information on space activities.

It follows from this that we are interested in and consistently support the concept of international, bilateral and multilateral co-operation in space activities. In our opinion progress in space science, perhaps even more than in other of its fields, depends very much on international co-operation. Therefore, we welcome international co-operation in that regard among all States, as well as various joint ventures and programmes implemented by two or more countries.

But there is more to it. We believe that such co-operation constitutes a very important factor in the process of détente, without which no co-operation in any field of international relations would be meaningful. Against such a

(Mr. Czarkowski, Poland)

background we wish to express our appreciation of recent forms of co-operation between the USSR and the United States of America, as well as between France and the USSR.

Of special importance in this regard is the forthcoming Apollo-Soyuz mission to be undertaken jointly by the Soviet Union and the United States. This is indeed a good example of peaceful international co-operation.

We believe that, on the one hand, scientific and technological progress facilitates the further development of national and international space activities for peaceful purposes and, on the other, bilateral and multilateral co-operation contributes to détente, strengthens confidence and encourages the development of international relations in all fields.

In the view of the Polish delegation, the years 1975 and 1976 will be characterized by intensified international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. This conclusion, among others, may be drawn from the expansion of the scope of the work of this Committee and its two sub-committees.

Our Committee, as well as the Legal Sub-Committee, and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, will have to perform further, more responsible, tasks.

Having considered the reports of these sub-committees, we would like to say that in our view all the subsidiary bodies of our Committee have achieved considerable progress.

There is no doubt that work has been carried out in a good atmosphere and with the utilization of appropriate methods, among them the principle of consensus being of paramount importance. Though, at first, it might seem that working on the basis of this principle makes progress more difficult, we are deeply convinced that the results thus achieved are of real practical value.

We believe that the spirit of co-operation will prevail at the current and future sessions of this Committee, as well as at the sessions of its subsidiary bodies, thus permitting the acceleration of progress towards the achievement of tasks confronting us.

(Mr. Czarkowski, Poland)

Our efforts should be further intensified in order to conclude the draft treaty relating to the moon. The conclusion of this treaty, which would provide that States parties should have an equal right to exploration and use of the moon without any discrimination, would become one of the most important regulations of international space law. Like other representatives, my delegation assesses in a positive manner the progress achieved as expressed in the texts of articles X and X bis of the draft treaty. It seems to us that it is possible to complete the preparation of that treaty within a year.

We feel that questions relating to the remote sensing of the earth by satellites and the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting should be considered priority tasks.

The remote sensing of the earth by satellites is a relatively new field of science. Its development creates new possibilities for broad international co-operation in the exploration of natural resources, and contributes to the discovery of new natural resources and to world economic development. It will have a very important influence on the economic development of the developing countries. The elaboration of technical and economic feasibility surveys with the help of remote sensing could bring about more accurate and correct decisions on programmes of resources development.

In this regard, international regulations concerning remote sensing are indispensable, and should be based on the principle of respect for the sovereignty of all States. Consequently, each State should have the right to prohibit the dissemination by third States of data relating to its territory, and in particular to its natural resources. As far as areas beyond national jurisdiction are concerned, we maintain that all States should be entitled to receive data resulting from remote sensing activities on equal terms.

The use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting will, no doubt, become a very important factor in cultural and social development if an appropriate international understanding on the matter is reached. It is our considered view that direct television broadcasting

(Mr. Czarkowski, Poland)

by satellites should be subject to the prior consent of the receiving States. Failure to secure prior consent would constitute a violation of the receiving State's sovereignty and, indeed, interference in its internal affairs. We are glad to note on the basis of the work of our subsidiary bodies that there exists a distinct trend to give full recognition to the aforementioned principles. On that basis we wish to reaffirm our support for the proposal of the USSR contained in annex II to the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites on the work of its fifth session.

In particular, we wish to associate ourselves with the contention that direct television broadcasting by means of artificial earth satellites should be based on the principle that any such system should be carried out exclusively in the interest of peace, progress, the development of mutual understanding and the strengthening of friendly relations among all States and peoples.

I should now like to make some remarks concerning the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, as well as on the United Nations conference on space.

We consider that the present United Nations Programme on Space Applications is satisfactory. That Programme could eventually be improved by increasing the effectiveness of the functioning of existing bodies. This, we think, is a better way than the establishment of an additional intersessional United Nations body. We hold the view that the crux of the matter rests in the appropriate balancing of the Secretariat's work with the momentum of the activities of intergovernmental bodies.

I have listened with a great deal of interest to the suggestions made in regard to the Programme by the representatives of India and Egypt this morning. There is no doubt that we need new initiatives in such a pioneering field as this. That is why we will give most serious consideration to the points those two representatives have made on the subject.

(Mr. Czarkowski, Poland)

With regard to the proposal for a United Nations conference on space, we believe that too small a number of States have heretofore expressed interest in this question, as has indeed been pointed out by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. We agree that we should permit more States to make their positions known on the subject before we start to formulate strong conclusions in this respect. Since there are advance plans for the holding of the second United Nations Conference on Science and Technology, we think that the suggestion to include outer space questions on its agenda, instead of holding a special conference on the matter, deserves serious consideration by our Committee.

My statement would not be complete without congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, on the comprehensive statement you made at the opening of our debate. In it you concisely outlined the entire scope of the tasks and work confronting the United Nations in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space. It constitutes a valuable contribution to the progress of our work.

In May this year we in Poland, like the people in other countries, celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and victory over fascism. That war and the 30 years which have followed have convinced us that broad and equal co-operation among States safeguards the maintenance of international peace and security. By expanding co-operation within the framework of our Committee we not only bring about the peaceful use of outer space by the world community, but we also make an important contribution to peace itself.

It is in such an over-all spirit and understanding that my delegation is ready to collaborate with other representatives towards the implementation of the tasks confronting us.



Miss VOLLMAR (Federal Republic of Germany): Mr. Chairman, the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany is very pleased to participate in this eighteenth session of the Outer Space Committee, once again under your experienced guidance. Let me take this opportunity also to express our appreciation for the intensity and devotion with which our two sub-committees have continued their work on the important issues before us. We owe particular gratitude to the experienced Chairmen of the Legal Sub-Committee and of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, Ambassador Wyzner and Mr. Carver, who so effectively guided the sub-committees through their complex deliberations.

It is with great sorrow that my delegation learned of the passing of three of our most respected colleagues, Academician Blagonravov, Mr. Charvet and Mr. Fiorio. We will seriously miss their knowledge, experience and co-operative work in this Committee. May we take this opportunity to express our deepest sympathy to their families, as well as to the Soviet, French and Italian delegations.

In recent months the space activities of the Federal Republic of Germany have achieved considerable results within the framework of international co-operation. The successful launching of the German-American solar probe Helios represents a significant contribution to the exploration of the sun. Our share in the launching of the French-German experimental telecommunications satellite Symphonie shows our efforts in the field of applied space technology. We are prepared to make Symphonie technology available to all interested countries. We note with satisfaction that with the signing of its Convention on 30 May the new European Space Agency, ESA, was established, which, as successor to ESRO and ELDO, concentrates the European space activities. Within the framework of ESA the Federal Republic of Germany actively co-operates in the development of a series of European satellites which either have scientific missions or serve the application of space technologies and which are intended to be launched in the next few years. Spacelab, developed by Europe, will provide new possibilities for the use of outer space in the context of the American space shuttle project.

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Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the United States on the launching of Landsat B and India on the launching of its first satellite.

At present the Committee's work is focused on the treaty relating to the moon and on principles on direct television broadcasting and legal implications of remote sensing. This reflects the direction in which the development of space technology is moving. The Committee is fully aware of space technology as a help towards realizing the economic and cultural aims of the United Nations, using space technology for the benefit of all mankind, especially the developing countries, and promoting social progress and higher standards of living. In this connexion, co-operation between industrialized and developing countries assumes growing importance.

Our Committee has to integrate the work of all its sub-bodies and to report to the General Assembly thereupon. However, at present we should focus our work on the task of establishing legal and organizational principles for the world-wide use of new technologies rather than on the scientific and technological problems. Our task on the one hand is to prevent conflicts between States over the use of space technologies and to devise legal and organizational instruments for achieving peaceful solutions; on the other hand we have to establish the legal framework for a fruitful international co-operation in outer space. Therefore arrangements should be found which neither hinder technical development and progress nor restrict any country in its freedom to make the best possible use of new technologies for its own purpose and for co-operation with others. This task justifies the considerable personal and material efforts which all countries have invested in the work of this Committee.

As regards the treaty relating to the moon, we are aware of the need for an international agreement covering the exploration and use of lunar resources; but we are also aware of the considerable difficulties in reaching a rapid agreement. The crucial points became apparent in the deliberations of the Legal Sub-Committee and its Working Group I, which was chaired effectively by Professor Haraszti. We feel we should continue our discussions on possible solutions with patience and frankness. This is the only way in which we can hope to arrive at an agreement acceptable to all, to the developing countries as well as to the industrialized nations. In this spirit we should concentrate our

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attention especially on articles X and X bis of the draft treaty. Because of the fundamental importance of the problems involved I feel that the treaty relating to the moon should continue to have the same high priority as direct television broadcasting and remote sensing.

Before going into the subject of direct television broadcasting, I wish to thank the Legal Sub-Committee and in particular Working Group II and its Chairman, Mr. Vellodi, for the concentrated work on all 14 principles that are up for discussion, and for the progress they have made. Yet it is obvious that there is still disagreement on some of the principles, that those principles which are now before us without brackets might perhaps be worded more appropriately, that some of the arrangements would seem to be redundant, and that the structuring of the principles could be improved. In our further discussions we should bear in mind that the primary function of direct international television broadcasts is to communicate information in the broadest sense to people. Information is received, visually or orally, by other people who consciously or unconsciously appraise it on the strength of their own knowledge and experience. The criterion of our work should, therefore, be how the best and most comprehensive information could be made available to all people.

It goes without saying that in principle there are no limits to the number of individuals and nations taking part in the communication process. International communication also takes place between individuals. This should be taken into account by making allowance for the rights of the individual in connexion with the two principles of "applicability of international law" and "rights and benefits of States". This is all the more so as, in contrast to earlier times, international law is now slowly beginning to concede certain substantive and formal rights to the individual. It is a development which received world-wide recognition in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and has since been impressively documented, especially in the European Convention of Human Rights of 1950 and in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966. In the Federal Government's opinion, this evolution deserves to be promoted. Even if the law is sometimes ahead of reality, we feel it would mean

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a deplorable setback for the international community if the individual's established rights in international law were now to be curtailed in the process of developing the legal aspects of freedom of information in direct television broadcasting. My Government considers, therefore, that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the other already existing legal rules for the protection of human rights should serve as guidelines for the Committee's future work.

In particular, our discussion of the principle of "consent and participation", which is still controversial, should be seen in this light. Some delegations consider that, in a case where a broadcast across borders exceeds a technically unavoidable spill-over, the receiving State must give its prior consent. Others consider that such broadcast will, on account of the forthcoming world-wide reallocation of frequencies, in any case be allowed only within the framework of joint international broadcast systems. My Government is of the opinion that, in the interest of providing the individual with comprehensive information and of promoting peaceful contacts between countries, restrictive arrangements should be avoided. This would not preclude steps to counteract the misuse of the freedom of information in cases where the public order of the receiving State or its national security are seriously endangered. For this the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 provide a fully adequate legal basis. Apprehensions of individual States that their national sovereignty might be impaired can be satisfactorily dispelled by invoking these legal instruments.

As regards the equally important subject of remote sensing, I should like to thank the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee for the outstanding work during its recent session. It made substantial progress on the long task of identifying the various problems of remote sensing, their complexity and their technological and economical impact for the countries concerned and in particular for the developing countries. My delegation supports the recommendations to study more in detail the organizational and financial issues of internationally operated space segments. In this context the possibilities of regional systems should be carefully examined.

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The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee received studies on the technical, organizational and financial aspects of remote sensing, including three from my Government relating to agriculture, hydrology and air pollution. The findings should be enlarged by further studies. The proposal to prepare a user survey with the aid of UNDP, the United Nations regional economic commissions and other United Nations agencies would seem to be of particular interest. It would help to identify more accurately than hitherto potential users of remote sensing technology and their special requirements.

The Legal Sub-Committee has for the first time allocated the same high priority to remote sensing as to the treaty relating to the moon and to the direct television broadcasting. We are not surprised that, owing to the complex general, technical, and organizational issues the negotiated results are not yet satisfactory to all delegations. Nevertheless, Working Group III was able to complete a considerable amount of work and achieved some notable results. This progress is promising and not least due to its Chairman, Ambassador Abdel-Ghani, whose long years of experience in the Secretariat have proved extremely valuable. The Legal Sub-Committee also discussed the question whether it should deal generally with remote sensing of the natural environment of the earth or specifically with remote sensing of the earth resources. We feel that the mandate this Committee was given by the General Assembly requires us to deal with all legal aspects of remote sensing of the earth by satellite. All fields of remote sensing have some aspects in common. Should we agree to restrict our discussions to earth resources we must clearly bear in mind that we are dealing only with some specific aspects. If we did so, we could hardly avoid prejudicing other fields. The danger of beginning with a single field is all the more obvious when one considers how closely the very different fields of sensing are linked together in technical, organizational and financial respects.

The Federal Republic of Germany is therefore in favour of first looking into the general and legal implications of remote sensing and then turning to the specific field of earth resources. Whether future rules for remote sensing should be given the form of a general declaration or of a convention seems to be a question of expediency. However, since we have to deal with the regulation of very complex

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issues with consequences foreseeable only to a limited extent, the more flexible form of a declaration would seem to be called for. Such a declaration, if it proves effective, could later on serve as the basis for a convention.

With regard to the different drafts before us on the subject of data collection and data distribution, it is the view of my Government that no information on the physical conditions under which people live and on which their lives depend should be withheld. We reaffirm, therefore, that such information should be made available to the widest possible extent. We consider regional systems more flexible and more suitable to the needs of the users as a global solution for all remote sensing activities. Let me mention here that my Government favours the study of the establishment of an international training centre in the field of remote sensing for the developing countries, as suggested by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission I should, in conclusion, draw attention to the fact that the Federal Republic of Germany -- following the example of other members States of this Committee -- will next year issue invitations to a seminar on remote sensing in the vicinity of Bonn. The seminar will take place under United Nations auspices and is specially designed for potential users in developing countries. I hope that the seminar will attract considerable interest and that it will do some valuable work in this field.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, and in so doing I think it is appropriate to note with satisfaction on behalf of the Committee and in the context of International Women's Year that the degree of female participation in the Committee seems to be on the increase.

Mr. JACHEK (Czechoslovakia): Mr. Chairman, allow me first to express the satisfaction of the Czechoslovak delegation that the present session of the Outer Space Committee is also taking place under your highly experienced guidance. We should like to express to you our thanks for your introductory statement on the reports of the Scientific and Technical and the Legal Sub-Committees.



(Mr. Jachek, Czechoslovakia)

The conclusions contained in the statement and the recommendations for the present work of the Committee also correspond in their essence to the Czechoslovak view. My delegation would also like to congratulate Mr. Lindenberg Sette, the representative of Brazil, on his unanimous election as Rapporteur of this Committee.

At the opening of our session, the Committee paid tribute to the memory of three eminent personalities who made a great contribution to the work of the United Nations in the field of the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space. The Czechoslovak delegation would like to express its profound condolences to the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the passing of Academician Anatoli Blagonravov, to the delegation of France on the death of Mr. Jean-Félix Charvet and to the delegation of Italy on the death of Mr. Franco Florio.

The activities of the United Nations aimed at promoting and strengthening international co-operation in the field of peaceful research and uses of outer space in the interest of the whole of mankind has brought, during the years of the Committee's existence, a great number of significant achievements both in the scientific, technical and legal fields. The latest sessions of both sub-committees, whose results we are considering, as well as the ever-increasing number and significance of projects carried out or planned in the field of the peaceful exploration of outer space, both on a bilateral and on a regional scale, in which an ever-increasing number of States is participating irrespective of their social systems and of the varying level of their technological development, testifies to the favourable trend of the quickly developing international co-operation in this important field.

This year, when we are celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the victory of the Allies over fascism and of the establishment of the United Nations, provides a suitable opportunity to recall in this forum that the favourable trend of the developing international co-operation in the field of outer space research also would have been impossible without the victory over fascism, to which the decisive share was contributed by the Soviet Union, whose people brought the greatest sacrifice to that victory.

(Mr. Jachek, Czechoslovakia)

Czechoslovakia is in favour of broad and active international co-operation in the conquest of outer space, on the basis of the principles of the Charter and respect for the treaties adopted within the framework of the United Nations, and welcomes the achievements of the Soviet Union, the United States and other States directly involved in space research, and should like to wish much success to the joint Soyuz-Apollo programme of the Soviet Union and the United States which exceeds the scope of other projects. The carrying out of this programme will not only be an exceptional scientific and technical achievement but also an important political act in the process of strengthening the peaceful co-operation of States with different social systems.

Thirty years of creative work by the Czechoslovak people have also brought some important successes in the field of scientific research in outer space and in the construction and use of space technology. For a number of years, Czechoslovak scientists have been actively participating, within the framework of the Intercosmos programme, in outer space research, using the technical equipment so generously provided by the Soviet Union --- scientific bases, launchers and satellites.

In 1974 Czechoslovakia took part in a scientific programme of Intercosmos-11 and Intercosmos-12 satellites. Thus far, a number of Czechoslovak scientific or telemetric instruments have been used in all Intercosmos satellites and on many rocket launchings carried out to date. The cosmic activities of Czechoslovakia scientists are also related to astronomy, geophysics, geology, biomedicine and radiobiology.

In the field of remote sensing of the earth, too, Czechoslovak scientists have participated in certain experimental tasks. In meteorology, the transmission of data on cloud coverage from telemetred photographs by satellites has been extended not only to the synoptic service and the aviation service, where it is being used in particular in trans-Atlantic flights. In the field of communications, Czechoslovakia participates in the Intersputnik system used both by television systems of the socialist countries and by organizations of those countries' Intersputnik. Czechoslovakia took part in the construction of the second Intercosmos laser radar, which was put into operation at the Cairo station in the Arab Republic of Egypt and participated in the "Great Arc" Programme.

(Mr. Jachek, Czechoslovakia)

With reference to the Legal Sub-Committee's report, my delegation is of the opinion that particular attention should be given to the treaty relating to the moon. Prerequisites for its completion during this session of the Committee, were created by a certain reconciliation of positions on the most difficult question relating to the natural resources of the moon. The completion of that treaty would, in the opinion of my delegation, represent a significant contribution by the Committee to the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations and would enable the Legal Sub-Committee to focus its attention on solving other important problems.

We agree with the opinion of many delegations that the formulation of a comprehensive draft of principles relating to direct broadcasting by satellites is a remarkable success, although in the text there remain alternate solutions with regard to certain important questions. It is our opinion that in the course of the Committee's session it will be possible to clarify positions on some of the open questions and to come close to their solution.

Resolution of the legal regulation of remote sensing of the earth -- a very complex range of questions with regard to which the Legal Sub-Committee has not as yet had any tangible success -- is also pressing in view of the significance that the respective legal regulations might have for the acceleration of economic development.

The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, too, as evidenced at its last session, is gradually seeking ways to solve this range of questions from the viewpoint of their technical, organizational and financial aspects. The question of remote sensing of the earth involves a whole number of scientific fields.

We consider that as a matter of priority the question of research into natural resources and that of international co-operation in the dissemination of information on natural resources will have to be solved. It would be improper, in view of the fact that these problems are very complex and that not much progress has so far been made in their study, to separate at this stage solution of the organizational and technical aspects from the legal

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aspects. We are therefore of the view that closer co-ordination of the work of the Legal Sub-Committee and that of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on these questions would be useful and would contribute to an effective solution.

With regard to the great significance of solving the questions pertaining to remote sensing of the earth, to their political sensitiveness and to the progress made by contemporary technology, we are of the opinion that the United Nations should attach considerable attention to these problems, particularly with a view to co-ordinating all existing international activities in this field.

Mr. van BRUSSELEN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes at the outset to express to you its gratitude for the statement you made at the opening of this session, a statement which, as usual, was at once clear and full. In my delegation's opinion, that statement had the great merit, among others, of stressing the need for our Committee to give the necessary impetus to United Nations activities in the field of outer space in the next few years.

In that opening statement, Mr. Chairman, you had the sad duty of recalling that three distinguished personalities who had recently represented their countries in our Committee had passed away. My delegation joins you in expressing sincere condolences to the families and Governments of the deceased.

I do not intend to dwell at any length on my country's activities in the field of space, because the essential elements of those activities are reflected in a communication to the Secretariat which is now to be found among the relevant documents. I refer to the report on Belgian space activities above all to emphasize two particular features which seem to me to be essential and which have guided and will continue to guide my delegation in determining its attitude within this Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Those two guidelines are, on the one hand, the determination to co-operate bilaterally and, above all, multilaterally in the preparation and implementation of projects, including the application of space technology; and, on the other hand, the constant interest, particularly on the part of Belgian universities, in space technology that can help the developing countries to overcome some of their difficulties. My country's interest in remote sensing of the earth stems directly from those concerns. I should like to remind the Committee, in that same context, that my country was among those that expressed its great interest and great satisfaction -- and, I would say, for good reason -- at the time when the convention creating the European Space Agency was signed. We regard that as an outstanding achievement.

We have before us the two reports of the two Sub-Committees. One contains a progress report on the work done; the other contains, in addition, a series of recommendations. Both are interesting and important in that they open up prospects that seem to me to be very promising. They prove that, no matter how

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far apart the positions of various delegations may be at the outset, it is possible to narrow the differences when the political will exists and when there is an excellent understanding of the technological problems.

I should like briefly to review these two reports, while making it clear straightaway that my delegation may have to make some more detailed comments at a later stage of our work.

The work of the Legal Sub-Committee has unfortunately not produced as decisive results as my delegation would have desired. A large step forward has been taken, however, in the sense that the positions of all the parties have been made clear, and often even reconciled.

There is an interesting sign with regard to the moon treaty: the Sub-Committee gave very high priority to this draft treaty, and it is therefore reasonable to hope that at its next session it will be able to achieve an agreement on the very complicated problem of the juridical status of the natural resources of the moon and the scope of the treaty.

With regard to direct broadcasting satellites, the Sub-Committee concentrated on the production of principles governing such broadcasts. My delegation's position on this subject is well known. It is based essentially on the ITU rules, on the one hand, and on a principle very important to my delegation, that of freedom of information, on the other. My delegation considers that the Legal Sub-Committee made substantial progress in the formulation of these principles; it achieved agreement on certain principles, and I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that it made progress towards an over-all consensus. It would therefore seem that, given the existence of the will to succeed, and while maintaining the hope that a large step forward will be taken in the elaboration of an appropriate technical framework by the next ITU conference, the Outer Space Committee could in the not too distant future recommend to the General Assembly a solution of the question of -- and here I use the terms of resolution 3234 (XXIX):

"the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII)...". (General Assembly resolution 3234 (XXIX), para. 6 (b))



(Mr. van Brusselen, Belgium)

The Legal Sub-Committee, finally, examined the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth. My delegation is pleased at the progress achieved in that field, progress which amply demonstrates the usefulness of the inclusion of this item in the Sub-Committee's agenda. It has always seemed to my delegation that the very basis for this progress must be sought in the work done previously by the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites and in the work done by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Remote sensing of the earth is essentially a multidisciplinary problem; its legal aspects cannot be considered in isolation from and in disregard of the acts or situations it is designed to deal with; at the very minimum, a perfect understanding of the technological and, above all, organizational aspects seems to me to be indispensable to the elaboration of any legal principle on this subject.

My delegation hopes that in the next few years the legal aspects, on the one hand, and the technological and organizational aspects, on the other, will continue to be studied together. That seems to me to be the sine qua non condition for the success to which we hope these studies may lead.

My comments on the subject of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee will be briefer, not because my delegation attaches any less importance to it -- quite the contrary -- but because I may have an opportunity later to offer more detailed comments on the various matters.

I should like first of all to confirm that my delegation agrees with all the recommendations made by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and that we are therefore ready to endorse them. For my delegation, two of the chapters of that report are of particular importance -- that is, remote sensing of the earth, and the United Nations programme on space applications.

With regard to the first chapter, and without in any way overlooking the fact that, in our opinion, much still remains to be done, my delegation would like to express its deep satisfaction with the great progress achieved this year in the field of remote sensing. My delegation attached particular importance, during the last session of the Sub-Committee, to presenting its views with regard to the management of an international space sector. A few moments ago

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I said that one of the fundamental principles dictating my delegation's attitude is the determination to co-operate. It is precisely because we believe that real international co-operation is a sine qua non condition for the best possible use of this new technology, for the benefit of all, that my country thought it useful to bring to the Sub-Committee's attention, through the relevant working document, its views on one of the essential elements of an operational system of remote sensing.

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It is quite clear that this document in a way presupposes that a choice has to be made beforehand between the various possibilities in the field of organization, and it is precisely along those lines that my delegation hopes the Committee will direct its future work. We do feel that if the international community wants to be able to derive full benefit from the promising results of this new technology, if it wants it to yield rapid dividends, particularly with the purpose of contributing to its economic and social development and to solve some of the problems caused by the deterioration of the human environment, there is a certain urgency in the matter. Furthermore, the partial results already obtained thanks to the application of the technology of remote sensing to certain specific problems are, it seems to me, proof of the importance of applying it more generally.

I now wish to say a few words about the United Nations Programme for Space Applications. For many years my delegation has been among that large group of delegations that has supported the Programme and argued not that its budget should be substantially increased over that of the previous year but, rather, that it should at least be realistic. The views of my delegation on this subject are well known, just as is its appreciation of the excellent work done by the Expert in Space Technology Applications, Mr. Murthy.

As for the indispensable co-ordination between United Nations organs, suffice it to say at this stage that Belgium and six other countries sponsored the working document A/AC.105/C.1/L.73.

For some time now the Belgian authorities have been studying the various options Belgium has in regard to taking an active part in the United Nations Programme for the application of space technology. I am happy to inform you that my Government, as a first step, has decided to offer two study fellowships which will either be for post-graduate studies or for practical studies -- the choice would be left to the candidates -- related to training in the field of remote earth sensing. These fellowships will of course be offered through the Programme for Space Applications, and my delegation will in a few days inform Mr. Murthy of the arrangements for the granting of these fellowships. At this stage I can only add that the recipients of these fellowships will not, however, be able to train in Belgium, because my country does not have the necessary

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facilities, at least not to an adequate extent. It therefore follows that the candidates selected will have to use their fellowships to perfect their knowledge in one of the countries members of the Outer Space Committee which does possess the necessary facilities.

Mr. KATO (Japan): Mr. Chairman, since this is the first time my delegation has spoken in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space I should like to begin by saying that we are pleased to see you presiding over the Committee. Over the years you have demonstrated skill, wisdom and talent in guiding the work of the Committee, and my delegation will give you its continued co-operation. May I take this opportunity to congratulate Minister Lindenberg Sette of Brazil upon his election to succeed his colleague Mr. Seixas-Correa as Rapporteur.

My delegation wishes to join in offering condolences over the loss of three representatives on this Committee: Academician Blagonravov of the USSR, Mr. Charvet of France and Mr. Fiorio of Italy. My delegation had enjoyed working with them and had benefited from the valuable contributions made by those outstanding representatives.

Mr. Chairman, as you remarked in your opening statement on 9 June, new vistas are still opening up in the application of space technology for the benefit of mankind. My delegation has noted with satisfaction the achievements in space activities since the Committee met last, which were mentioned by you and by various delegations. My delegation particularly welcomes the continuing co-operation between the United States and the USSR with regard to the joint Apollo-Soyuz flight scheduled for next July, and wishes it every success. Such co-operation between the major space Powers is in itself a truly remarkable development in the history of outer space. Let us hope that this, coupled with an increasingly impressive record of co-operation for mutual benefit, both among space Powers and between space Powers and non-space Powers will prove to be the springboard for further co-operation in the field of space technology and its applications. It will, we trust, improve the prospects for compromise on issues before this Committee.

In the past my delegation has had occasion to describe in some detail Japan's increasingly vigorous activities in space matters, and today I wish to emphasize

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our firm determination to contribute within our capacity to the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes in accordance with the spirit of the outer space Treaty of 1967 and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

Over the past year my country has continued to make steady progress in its space activities. I wish to note here the most recent development. On 23 May 1975 the Space Activities Commission of Japan, which is the highest policy-making and operational authority of my country in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States signed an agreement for co-operation in launching three artificial earth satellites. Under that agreement NASA will help to launch into orbit a geostationary meteorological satellite, a medium-capacity geostationary communications satellite for experimental purposes and a medium-scale broadcasting satellite for experimental purposes. The launchings of these satellites are expected to take place in 1977.

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Mr. Chairman, I wish now to comment briefly on some of the more significant developments in the work of our subsidiary bodies over the past year. In your opening statement, you covered in a most comprehensive manner the activities of the Committee in fulfilment of its mandate, and there is little to add to it. As regards my delegation's position, I shall first take up the report of the Legal Sub-Committee. In general, we are satisfied with the progress made by the Legal Sub-Committee at its fourteenth session earlier this year. It is of course possible to argue that more could have been achieved than actually was the case, and to deplore the lack of greater progress. But we must all bear in mind the complex nature of the problems involved in this work. Slow as it indeed is, the work done in the Sub-Committee and its working groups nevertheless represents progress, and many delegations have referred to it as substantial.

My delegation shares the view that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue to proceed with due diligence and caution, as the subject matter demands, rather than embark on a hasty course. For this reason my delegation supports the recommendation of the Sub-Committee, as expressed in paragraph 15 of the report (A/AC.105/147), that the Sub-Committee at its next session in 1976 should continue to consider with the same priority the issues of the draft moon treaty, the principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, and the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space.

First of all, with regard to the moon treaty, my delegation continues to hold the view that it would be more appropriate to deal with the question of the natural resources of the moon, in concrete terms, only when the exploration and exploitation of these resources have actually become feasible, rather than to take it up now, in a vacuum, when no such feasibility yet exists. We therefore give a general welcome to the kind of approach adopted in the discussion of articles X and X bis in the draft treaty relating to the moon, which emphasizes the procedural aspects: when, how and under what circumstances an international conference could be convened to authorize a possible international régime governing the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon.



(Mr. Kato, Japan)

Regarding the elaboration of principles for direct television broadcasting, my delegation notes with appreciation the emergence of moves toward compromise on certain issues on which views of States have widely differed, and also the fact that texts of principles on 14 items have been worked out, although these are still subject to various reservations. It is the hope of my delegation that at its next session the Legal Sub-Committee will be able to narrow the areas of difference and agree on formulations acceptable to a great majority which will, among other things, adequately take into account the domestic legislation of each State.

With regard to the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, my delegation recognizes the need for a co-ordination of the work of the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. The Outer Space Committee could usefully address itself to this co-ordination which would facilitate further progress in the work of the respective sub-committees when they meet next year. In any event, we consider that the further discussion of organizational, technical and financial aspects of this question, as well as the legal framework, must not result in an over severe restriction of remote sensing activities by means of space technology. Should this result, it could seriously prejudice the sound development of outer space technology and its vast potential uses for the common benefit of all mankind.

Turning briefly to the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/150), my delegation supports the recommendations contained in paragraph 29, which requests the preparation by the Secretariat of certain studies and reports on organizational and financial matters connected with remote sensing. In this connexion, we believe that it would be premature to consider at this stage the possibility of an international organization which would own, finance or operate on its own an earth satellite for remote sensing. With respect to the organizational set-up for the collection and dissemination of data and information, in our view a step-by-step approach should be followed. At first, national or regional centres would be established and developed, and then global centres could be envisaged.

(Mr. Kato, Japan)

Finally, with regard to a United Nations conference on space applications, my delegation hopes that at the next session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee it will be possible to discuss in greater detail the objectives and scope of the proposed conference with a view to taking a decision as early as possible on the holding of such a conference. Whether a conference on outer space matters should be merged with the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology is a matter for further discussion and consideration, in the light of the information to be made available by the Secretary-General. At this stage my delegation does not have any preference one way or the other, but it does seem to us that the prominence to be given to space matters might perhaps be unduly diminished in an amalgamated conference.

In conclusion, I should like to reaffirm our determination to do our best to contribute, where we can, to future progress and international co-operation in this field. My delegation wishes to take up the matters which I did not discuss today when the Committee considers the reports of the respective sub-committees.

Mr. MOGHTADERI (Iran): Mr. Chairman, let me say at the outset how happy we are to be able once again to work under your leadership. My delegation has always held in highest esteem your outstanding contribution to the work of this Committee. Allow me also to take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to Minister Luis Paulo Lindenberg Sette of Brazil upon his unanimous election to the post of Rapporteur of this Committee.

In focusing our attention upon developments related to the exploration of outer space, we wish to note with admiration the significant advances that have been made in this field, not only by the two major Powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, but also by other States as well.

We particularly look forward with anticipation to the joint Apollo-Soyuz flight next month and wish every success to the United States and the Soviet Union in this collaborative endeavour. It is our earnest hope that this event will prove, in retrospect, to have been the harbinger of greater and more fruitful international co-operation in the field of outer space.

(Mr. Moghtaderi, Iran)

Our pleasure at the successes scored during the past year in the field of outer space has, however, been tempered by the sad news of the passing away of three renowned men in this field. We once again wish to pay tribute to the memory of Academician Blagonravov of the Soviet Union, Mr. Franco Florio of Italy and Mr. Charvet of France, all three of whom were at one time or another associated with the work of this Committee. The Committee will always remain indebted to them for their outstanding contributions.

With respect to my own country's space applications programme, the Iranian Government has since 1969 instituted various measures in the area of communications, education, meteorology, geophysics and earth resources. I shall dwell on only some of the major highlights of these programmes, since the details have been previously elaborated in our communication on this subject to the Secretary-General last year, and supplementary information has been made available in document A/AC.105/146/Add.1, this year.

The Plan Organization of Iran has launched extensive projects concerning the use of the ERTS-1 satellite with respect to problems concerning mapping, surveying and the development of the natural resources of the country. This project has been initiated as a joint co-operative programme between the Iranian Government and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States in all phases connected with problems of agriculture, forestry, land use, urbanization, fisheries, and the geological and tectonic configuration of certain regions.

The agriculture, forest and rangeland resources of Iran are at present the subject of large-scale intensive development programmes. Several studies have been undertaken in the Ministry of Agriculture in recent years to determine the best strategy for allocating land use among agricultural crops, pasture grasses, and forest lands.

Since remote sensing appears to be the best and most appropriate technique and methodology available for an extensive survey on a national basis, the studies for the determination of an optimum balance of land use will be completed by means of remote sensing technology.

(Mr. Moghtaderi, Iran)

It might be noted that Iran has been associated with the ERTS programme for more than three years now. During this period the initial emphasis has been on the training of personnel, and then on preparing the basis for utilizing the voluminous data provided by the satellites.

In this connexion, my delegation wishes to thank NASA for the interest it has shown in training Iranian scientists and providing data to Iran. However, in order to be able to make a general classification of natural resources, this data will have to be supplemented with additional data, and thought will have to be given to other questions, such as communications, ground truth data, processing centres and software.

Our ground reception station is scheduled to become operational in early 1976, and a communications network, data-collection platforms, data-processing centres and digital image processing centres are expected to be in operation well ahead of time.

In the field of education, the planned objective of expanding mass education facilities via satellites and television will come into operation within the next few years. The motivation behind this project has been to provide elementary and secondary education along modern lines to all sectors of the community, particularly in the rural areas.

Although designed primarily for education, the satellites will not only be used for that specific objective, but will also be instrumental in expanding the existing communications network by facilitating the addition of some thousands of extra microwave channels. Thus the entire surface area of the country will be afforded perfect coverage from the point of view of education and communications.

Turning now to some of the major issues before the Committee, I should like at this stage to confine myself to some preliminary remarks.

In reviewing the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, we once more find ourselves disappointed at the lack of progress in connexion with the moon treaty. Despite the time and effort expended on this subject, we find that the deadlock which developed in 1973 -- after the text of 21 articles and the preamble had been agreed upon -- still persists. The main issue which

(Mr. Moghtaderi, Iran)

has resisted solution over the years still revolves around the question of the legal régime of the natural resources of the moon. Here, the crux of the problem, as far as we can see, remains whether exploitation of the moon's resources should commence before or after the establishment of an international régime.

The proliferation of brackets and the appearance of alternative provisions in the draft articles concerning natural resources suggest a disturbing measure of regression in the elaboration of those articles. It is our sincere hope that a more compromising and constructive spirit will mark the next round of talks on this issue in the Legal Sub-Committee.

In the field of direct broadcasting by satellites, we find that useful and encouraging progress has been made in this area by the Sub-Committee which has been assigned the task of formulating principles governing such broadcasts, with a view to concluding an agreement or agreements on the subject. We are gratified to note that the Sub-Committee's efforts were substantially rewarded when it was able not only to reach agreement on State responsibility and peaceful settlement of disputes, but also to formulate a number of other principles on which a considerable amount of consensus was forthcoming.

Another significant achievement was the emerging consensus that the concept of freedom of information and the principle of State sovereignty were not unbridgeable propositions, as many had previously feared.

On the question of remote sensing of the earth's resources, I wish to state that my country attaches especial importance to this question. We believe that as the uses of this technology encompass an expanding field of applications, the international community must take steps to ensure that the development of legal principles keeps pace with this process. To lag behind in providing an adequate legal framework within which activities in this area can continue would be to invite the generation of unnecessary tensions between States.

(Mr. Moghtaderi, Iran)

It is with these considerations in mind that my delegation hopes for the maintenance and acceleration of the momentum generated during the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee, when it was able to agree on identifying certain common elements in the various draft proposals that were submitted.

Given the pressing nature of the issues involved with respect to remote sensing and direct broadcast satellites, we would urge that the Sub-Committee, in its future deliberations, continue to accord at least as high a priority to these two questions as to that concerning the moon treaty.



(Mr. Moghtaderi, Iran)

Turning to the report of the Technical and Scientific Sub-Committee, my delegation wishes to endorse the various recommendations of the Sub-Committee. In this context, we are heartened to note that in making its recommendations the Sub-Committee reiterated the view that further study of organizational and financial matters should progress together with consideration of the legal aspects of remote sensing. My delegation is gratified to note that a balanced approach on this question has prevailed and that the legal aspects have not been relegated to a secondary position.

Further, we are happy to see that the Sub-Committee noted the importance of providing adequate training facilities in all aspects of remote sensing, particularly to the developing countries, to enable them to derive the maximum benefit from this new technology.

As far as the United Nations Programme on Space Applications is concerned, we once again wish to express our appreciation to Mr. Murthy, the United Nations Expert in charge of space applications, for the excellent work done by him and we approve his work programme as outlined to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

A slight controversy arose during the last session of the Sub-Committee on the question of the scope and contents of the United Nations space applications Programme. My delegation has continued to support the view that the Programme should be expanded with respect to both those aspects. Nevertheless, we feel that this discussion, which seems to have become a perpetual feature in our debates, should no longer be held in abstraction. The time has arrived, we feel, for the Secretary-General to provide us with a much clearer and more concrete picture of the type of expansion that might be envisaged with regard to the scope and contents of future programmes in this area. We shall then be able to pronounce a more enlightened judgement on this whole matter.

The past few years have amply demonstrated the significant and practical benefits of space applications. This is particularly true in the case of the developing countries. My country, therefore, has been in favour of the panel meetings, seminars and training workshops which have been conducted within the framework of the United Nations space application programme, as a means of disseminating information and advancing knowledge in this area.

(Mr. Moghtaderi, Iran)

In keeping with the importance we attach to this question, my country has decided, in principle, to play host to a United Nations Symposium on Satellite Broadcasting Systems for Education during the first quarter of 1976 and has made tentative provision for appropriation of funds for this purpose. One of the prime purposes of the Seminar will be to focus attention on the potential benefits to be derived from using satellite television broadcasting for a developing country to promote education and contribute to national development. Further, it is intended to provide an opportunity for the participants to share in the experiences of other countries, especially the developing countries which are involved in similar experiments.

Before ending my statement, I should like to inform this Committee that on 28 May 1975 Iran became the ninth country to sign the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

Mr. LOPEZ BASSOLS (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, my delegation is very pleased to see you once again occupying the chair in this Committee, and we interpret this as an assurance of the success of our work. Your lucid opening statement, which covered the various fields that this Committee will examine and opened new horizons for study, bears witness to your great skills and qualities. We are pleased to see in the post of Rapporteur a good friend and excellent diplomat, Mr. Lindenberg Sette, and we are convinced of the future success of the work of our Committee.

My delegation would like to associate itself with those that have expressed their sorrow at the deaths of three distinguished members of this Committee, and we should like to ask the representatives of the Soviet Union, France and Italy respectively to convey our sympathy to the families of Academician Blagonravov, Mr. Charvet and Mr. Fiorio.

As in previous years, the agenda is quite long and contains very important items. We now wish to refer to only some of them.

With regard to the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, the achievements are considerable. Work on the draft treaty on the moon could remain paralysed if, in accepting the formula of an international conference for the establishment of

(Mr. Lopez Bassols, Mexico)

the legal régime for the natural resources of the moon, we are unable to find the appropriate machinery to render automatic and unconditional the convening of such a conference and, of course, the participation of States parties. It is certain that the exploitation of lunar resources will not be carried out in the immediate future, but we must agree as soon as possible on the régime to be applied. We are optimistic about the negotiations on this question planned for next year.

We regard as more productive the results of Working Group II, which, pursuant to the recommendation in resolution 3234 (XXIX), considered the elaboration of the principles which are to govern the utilization by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting in order to arrive at an international agreement or agreements. We feel that the touchstone of the future international instrument is unquestionably the principle of the express prior consent of the receiving State.

One item which a sister country of the Latin American region brought to the Committee in 1970 now has our co-sponsorship: a draft treaty on the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space. The formulation of basic legal principles will have to respect the sovereign rights of States over their own natural resources and the information obtained on those resources through space technology. The Working Group unquestionably did excellent work. Not only were the issues identified but agreement was also reached in certain spheres. The Sub-Committee, despite its heavy task, was able to arrive at a lucid and productive exchange of views on an item which seems to come up for exhaustive consideration time and again, that is, the delimitation of outer space. We will go into this in greater detail at a subsequent stage.

With regard to the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and in particular the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, my country favours the establishment of regional training centres, with courses at various levels, in order to allow those countries that have begun activities in space technology to prepare and train technicians of the various countries, with the help of advice given by various experts in those centres and recommendations to be received on the educational material to be used.

(Mr. Lopez Bassols, Mexico)

We believe that possible bilateral programmes between countries should be fostered in order to avoid expensive investments for those countries that are just beginning to use this technology, so that they may take advantage of the facilities existing in other countries and through the use of funds of the Organization.

(Mr. Lopez Bassols, Mexico)

The technical consideration of remote sensing is indispensable, but then this implies an agreement on joint principles which govern and stimulate the organizational stage. In this context our delegation is prepared also to endorse the recommendations of the report.

The analysis of the feasibility of holding a United Nations conference on the applications of space technology, which my country favours, is urgent if we want it to coincide with the first decade after the Conference in Vienna. It is in this context that we support the proposals made by the representative of Austria.

In conclusion, we should like to express the satisfaction of our Government and our country at the fact that we shall serve as host in September of this year to the United Nations and UNESCO seminar on systems of radio broadcasting for purposes of education for the countries of Latin America in the Caribbean area.

My delegation is prepared to do everything it can to ensure the success of the work of this Committee.

Mr. ARTEAGA ACOSTA (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish):

Mr. Chairman, first I should like to express our satisfaction at seeing you once again as Chairman of these very important meetings. We should like at the same time to congratulate Mr. Lindenberg Sette, representative of Brazil, for his well-deserved election to the post of Rapporteur.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, under your wise guidance the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is holding another session with the benefit of the very successful results of the consideration of the various items entrusted to its subsidiary bodies and of the outstanding achievements that have taken place in the exploration of space. All this further encourages us in discharging the task which the General Assembly has assigned to this Committee.

Like you, Mr. Chairman, and other representatives, we should like to express our happiness at the launching of the experimental satellite Aryabhata by India, conceived in its entirety by nationals of that developing country, which constitutes an encouraging example for other developing countries anxious to expand their own knowledge in the field of space. We are also pleased at the success of the Landsat-1 programme of the United States and the forthcoming

(Mr. Arteaga Acosta, Venezuela)

Apollo-Soyuz joint flight, which is a clear example of international co-operation.

Despite the extreme positions with regard to various aspects, a climate of flexibility and a spirit of accommodation prevailed in the meetings held in the course of this year by the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, meetings that we were able to follow with keen interest. The Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee stated that the fourteenth session had been one of the most productive; even though no definitive instrument of international law had been agreed upon, considerable progress had been made in the consideration of the three items of highest priority.

Working Group II, entrusted with the task of studying the question of principles which are to govern the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, was able to produce a final text of various principles and made considerable progress in the drafting of others. Obviously, in order to arrive at a final agreement on this matter, as has already been pointed out, it will be necessary to find a proper balance between the sovereign rights of States and the principle of freedom of information, which, as is well known, are not mutually exclusive.

Among the items considered by the subsidiary bodies of this Committee there is one to which the delegation of Venezuela attaches special importance, namely, the remote sensing of the earth by satellite. We expressed our interest at the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee by joining the sponsors of the draft treaty on remote sensing of natural resources by means of space technology, which had previously been presented jointly by the delegations of Argentina and Brazil. We now wish to reiterate our feeling that this text represents a valuable contribution for the establishment of an international régime to govern remote-sensing activities.

We believe that on the basis of the substantive consideration of draft international instruments, such as the one sponsored by Latin American delegations, as well as other most interesting documents submitted to the Legal Sub-Committee, and also bearing in mind the relevant opinions expressed by a number of States, the Sub-Committee already has the necessary elements for the elaboration of an international instrument on remote sensing. On the basis of



(Mr. Arteaga Acosta, Venezuela)

these elements, the necessary steps could be taken to concentrate on discussions that will be designed specifically to achieve this purpose. At this time it is superfluous to go into details concerning the extraordinary dimensions acquired by this novel technique and its useful implications for mankind as a whole, and in particular for the developing countries. It is precisely this that makes it imperative to accelerate our work and our efforts to conclude this task of regulation.

In connexion with remote sensing, and within the context of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, we should like very briefly to refer to the visit to Caracas of a consultant at the service of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications, at the beginning of this year. Needless to say, we are enormously grateful for the work of the consultant, whose conclusions and recommendations about our country, with which we are familiar, will be very carefully studied and evaluated in order to promote in Venezuela a better knowledge of the activities of the United Nations in the sphere of the applications of space technology and, at the same time, to avail ourselves of the various advantages and opportunities offered to countries such as ours, undergoing a process of apprenticeship and training in this important technology. In particular, we have taken note of the observations contained in this report referring to remote sensing and recommendations designed to develop this technique in Venezuela. In a seminar on the utilization of artificial satellites in Venezuela conducted in Caracas by the Academy of Physical and Natural Sciences in October of last year, there emerged the idea of establishing a national centre of remote sensing in our country. The consultant was of the opinion that this was a very important activity and that such a centre should be established. We in Venezuela are prepared to take all the necessary steps to develop our technology in this sphere, and here we have the support and assistance of the United Nations.

As a result of previous comments, we should like to give our most enthusiastic support to the various recommendations submitted by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, in particular the one whereby the Secretary-General is requested to examine, in co-operation with the competent bodies, the viability of utilizing existing technical installations and knowledge to establish on an experimental basis an international centre designed to train and lend assistance to persons from developing countries so that they may be enabled to use more effectively the information obtained through remote sensing.

(Mr. Arteaga Acosta, Venezuela)

In concluding these brief comments, we should like to express our agreement in principle with the idea of convening a United Nations conference devoted to a study of outer space questions. We expect soon to submit our views in answer to the questionnaire sent out by the Secretary-General concerning the possibility of holding this conference.

Mr. KANGWANA (Kenya): My delegation would like to associate itself with the tributes paid to the late representatives to this Committee, namely, Academician A. Blagonravov of the Soviet Union, Mr. Jean Félix Charvet of France, and Mr. Franco Fiorio of Italy. Their dedication and hard work in the Committee and the sub-committees will be missed by all of us. I am sure that their devotion will remain as an encouragement and a shining example for us all. My delegation would like through you, Mr. Chairman, to convey our condolences to the countries which have suffered this great loss.

We should also like at this time to congratulate Mr. Luiz Paulo Lindenberg Sette on his unanimous election to the position of Rapporteur.

I should also like to join my fellow representatives in congratulating India for its forthcoming educational satellite programme.

The co-operation to be undertaken between the Soviet Union and the United States is a perfect example of international co-operation. As has been pointed out, that will be a landmark in international co-operation, and one hopes that it will help us in overcoming the problems in the way of arriving at a consensus in the drafting of legal principles both on remote sensing and on direct broadcast satellites.

I should also like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for your able and inspiring guidance of this Committee. In your resumé at the opening of this session you gave a detailed report of what has been achieved since last year. But I should also like to refer to your opening remarks at the seventeenth session of this Committee when you expressed, among other things, pleasure in welcoming the new members to this Committee. You pointed out that the General Assembly's aim in accepting the Committee's recommendation for broadening the membership of this Committee to include representation from the developing countries was to extend the benefits of the peaceful uses of outer space to

(Mr. Kangwana, Kenya)

those countries. Indeed, as some of the earlier speakers have said, it is the developing countries which are in urgent need of space technology for the advancement of their communities. That was an encouraging development, and it is our hope that financial assistance will be forthcoming to tackle this noble task.

What has been done by the sub-committees since we met last year is encouraging. Last year this Committee identified the areas of interest to it and directed the sub-committees to carry them out. In this regard, my delegation would like to express its gratitude to the United Nations Secretariat for the assistance rendered to the sub-committees in the studies and provision of necessary information for the latter's work. We can all be proud of what has so far been achieved. Nevertheless, there still remain gaps in our work. The slowness with which the work is progressing either reflects the need for careful consideration of every step made or questions the sincerity of the optimistic words of participation and co-operation which many representatives have expressed. My delegation feels that there is need not only to examine the work before us but also, as has already been suggested by other representatives, to consider new strategies for our work in order to meet the objective of spreading the benefits of space technology.

It is the view of my delegation that participation and co-operation from the developing countries will not be readily forthcoming in the absence of adequate information. It has been implied in these discussions that the poor response to the questionnaire drafted last year is due to the fact that the developing countries were probably not interested. I should like to say that, for the developing countries, the problem is by and large one of inadequately co-ordinated information; and, in getting the little information that we have put together, we have found the role of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications indispensable.

My delegation would therefore like to congratulate the United Nations Expert on Space Applications for the good job he is doing in providing information to the developing countries, either directly or through seminars and conferences in co-operation with United Nations agencies. His work is essential, in our view,

(Mr. Kangwana, Kenya)

to increase knowledge and create awareness among the developing countries of the possibilities of space technology and the extent to which it can be utilized by these countries.

I should like to announce at this point -- as we have done in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee -- the forthcoming regional seminar on meteorology to be held in Nairobi in October 1975.

My delegation would like to see the work of the Expert expanded. In addition, we would like to recommend that consideration be given to holding the United Nations space conference as a separate conference so that many of the issues and problems facing us can be discussed fully.

As we pointed out at the twelfth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the main policy guidelines on space applications for the developing countries of Africa were clarified in the Economic Commission for Africa's twelfth session of the third meeting of the Conference of Ministers held in Nairobi from 24 to 28 February 1975. For us, that was a step forward in getting the African countries to participate and co-operate whenever possible in space application programmes. It would be opportune for the developing countries of Africa if the United Nations conference on space applications were held in the near future so that the African countries could benefit from and relate their policies to the findings of the conference.

While we struggle to arrive at a consensus on which to base today's legal principles, technology does not stand still and whatever legal principles we arrive at today are rendered obsolete tomorrow. The question is: Should we wait, or should we make use of the technology as is under the present imperfect conditions?

I am happy to report at this point that Kenya co-operates with the Aerospace Research Centre (ARC), which belongs to the University of Rome. Two facilities of ARC, namely, the San Marco Equatorial Range (SMER) and the Mobile Italian Telemetry and Tracking Station (MITS) are located in Kenya.

(Mr. Kangwana, Kenya)

It is possible that, as the range of activities of these stations expands, a group of countries in that region will be able to obtain information on remote sensing of the earth, for their consideration and possible utilization. That is something that could take place before any legal principles had been arrived at with regard to remote sensing.

My delegation believes that agreeing to broaden the base of this Committee by including the developing countries implies the intention and the wish to give new direction to the Committee's work and to make it more relevant to the needs of the developing countries so that, as the boundaries of our nations shrink, we may move towards oneness, unity and mutual respect.

THE CHAIRMAN: In view of the hour, we shall not be able to complete the general debate today, but I think that we can be rather satisfied with our performance today: we have heard 20 speakers.

We shall hear the three remaining speakers in the general debate at our meeting tomorrow morning. We shall then proceed to consider agenda item 4.

Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to revert to a matter that I mentioned at our opening meeting, on Monday. It concerns the request made by the European Broadcasting Union for observer status with this Committee.

This matter has been the subject of consultations in the Committee, but it has not so far been possible to reach a conclusion. I would therefore make the following proposal: that, since we are approaching our consideration of agenda item 4 (b), which appears to be the item of particular interest to the European Broadcasting Union, we extend an invitation to a representative of that body to address the Committee, if he so wishes, on that item on an ad hoc basis and without prejudice to any action the Committee might wish to take on the more far-reaching request of the European Broadcasting Union. I believe that by giving this opportunity to a representative of the European Broadcasting Union to address the Committee,

(The Chairman)

we shall obtain a better idea of the kind of co-operation that body has in mind.

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees with my proposal.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.