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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND MEETING

Fifth Session

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 12 September 1966, at 3.20 p.m.

CONTENTS

Consideration of a treaty governing the exploration and use of
outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies (A/AC.105/C.2/L.12,
L.13 and L.16) (continued)

66-22667

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PRESENT

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. LACHS	(Poland)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. GOWLAND	Argentina
	Sir Kenneth BAILEY	Australia
	Mr. ZEMANEK	Austria
	Mr. SCHUURMANS	Belgium
	Mr. de CARVALHO SILOS	Brazil
	Mr. YANKOV	Bulgaria
	Mr. GOTLIEB	Canada
	Mr. NEJEDLY	Czechoslovakia
	Mr. DELEAU	France
	Mr. PRANDLER	Hungary
	Mr. MISHRA	India
	Mr. VAKIL	Iran
	Mr. VINCI	Italy
	Mr. YAMAZAKI	Japan
	Mr. MAKKAWI	Lebanon
	Mr. TABITI	Morocco
	Mr. WYZNER	Poland
	Mr. DIACONESCU)	Romania
	Mr. BOTA)	
	Mr. MOROZOV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. EL-KONY	United Arab Republic
	Mr. SINCLAIR	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. GOLDBERG	United States of America
	Mr. KELLBERG	Sweden
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. STAVROPOULOS	Under-Secretary, Legal Counsel
	Mr. SLOAN	Secretary of the Sub-Committee

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CONSIDERATION OF A TREATY GOVERNING THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE,
THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES (A/AC.105/C.2/L.12, L.13 and L.16) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Legal Sub-Committee had decided at Geneva to suspend the work of its fifth session and to reconvene at Headquarters in order to examine the questions on which no agreement had been reached and which were mentioned in the Interim Report by the Chairman (A/AC.105/C.2/L.16). He suggested that there should be no general debate and that the Sub-Committee should immediately take up the question which remained to be settled under the first agenda item, namely, the conclusion of a treaty governing the exploration and use of outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies.

Mr. GOLDBERG (United States of America) said that the work achieved during the first part of the Legal Sub-Committee's session at Geneva was substantial, since the Sub-Committee had reached agreement on eight treaty articles. His delegation was guided by a spirit of conciliation and was ready to consider the constructive suggestions already made by various delegations for settling the unresolved issues. It was important to present a fully agreed treaty text to the General Assembly without delay. In that way the Legal Sub-Committee would help to create a favourable atmosphere at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

His delegation hoped that the preliminary phase of the Sub-Committee's work could be concluded at the present meeting, and it proposed that the members of the Sub-Committee should meet at the next meeting as a working group to examine the items on the agenda.

The successful launching of Gemini 11 only confirmed the need for the early conclusion of a treaty governing the activities of States in outer space. It was important to establish a universally accepted regime of law before the first landing was made on the moon.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the unresolved questions involved, in particular, a number of proposals made by the Soviet Union. During the five weeks since the Legal Sub-Committee's last meeting the Soviet Union had studied the results achieved at Geneva and had formulated a number of new and constructive proposals, which it would present to the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee should reach agreement and complete work on a treaty on the exploration and use of outer space and celestial bodies as quickly as possible.

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(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

His delegation hoped that the members of the Sub-Committee, moved by goodwill and a spirit of co-operation, would be able to achieve the results which the peoples of the world and the United Nations expected of them.

Mr. VINCI (Italy) congratulated the United States on the successful launching of Gemini 11. His delegation was gratified to find that the statements just made by the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union were encouraging and would no doubt make it possible to progress rapidly towards the conclusion of a universally acceptable treaty. The Legal Sub-Committee should adopt the procedure suggested by the Chairman: it should endeavour to reach agreement as quickly as possible on the outstanding treaty articles. His delegation was awaiting the Soviet Union's proposals with great interest.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the members of the Sub-Committee should spend some time in the necessary consultations and exchanges of views and that the next meeting should be held the following afternoon.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.