REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 20 (A/37/20)

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its twenty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters from 22 March to 1 April 1982. The officers of the Committee were the following:

Chairman: Mr. Peter Jankowitsch (Austria)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Teodor Marinescu (Romania)

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos Antonio Bettencourt Bueno (Brazil)

The verbatim records of the Committee's meetings are contained in documents A/AC.105/PV.230-244.

A. Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee held its nineteenth session at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 22 January 1982 under the chairmanship of Mr. J. H. Carver (Australia). The report of the Sub-Committee was issued under the symbol A/AC.105/304.

3. The Legal Sub-Committee held its twenty-first session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 19 February 1982 under the chairmanship of Mr. Eugeniusz Wyzner (Poland). The report of the Sub-Committee was issued under the symbol A/AC.105/305. The summary records of the Sub-Committee's meetings are contained in documents A/AC.105/C.2/SR.360-380.

B. Twenty-fifth session of the Committee

4. At its opening meeting, on 22 March 1982, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chairman.
3. General exchange of views.
4. Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the work of its nineteenth session (A/AC.105/304).
5. Report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its twenty-first session (A/AC.105/305).
6. Elaboration of a draft set of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting (General Assembly resolution 36/35, paras. 7 and 8).
7. Other matters.
8. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Attendance

5. Representatives of the following Member States attended the session:

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Benin
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Czechoslovakia
Ecuador
Egypt
France
German Democratic Republic
Germany, Federal Republic of
Greece
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Iran
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Lebanon
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Pakistan
Philippines
Poland
Romania
Sierra Leone
Spain
Sudan
Sweden
Syrian Arab Republic
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Cameroon
United States of America
Upper Volta
Uruguay
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yugoslavia

6. The session was also attended by the Secretary-General of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

7. At its 230th and 232nd meetings, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, the representatives of Bangladesh, Cuba, Peru and the United Republic of Tanzania to attend the twenty-fifth session of the Committee and address it as

appropriate, on the understanding that this would be without prejudice to further requests of this nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status. The Committee also decided that this arrangement would apply, mutatis mutandis, to the session of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

8. At its 230th and 234th meetings, a similar invitation was extended to the observers of the Holy See and Switzerland.

9. Representatives of the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Centre for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) also attended the session.

10. Representatives of the following specialized agencies attended the session: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

11. Representatives of the European Space Agency (ESA), the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) also attended the session.

12. A list of representatives attending the session is contained in document A/AC.105/XXV/INF.1 and Add.1.

Proceedings

13. At the opening of the session, at the 230th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee made a statement reviewing the work of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and outlining the work of the Committee. Noting that this was the twenty-fifth anniversary year of the launching of the first SPUTNIK by the USSR as well as the twenty-fifth anniversary session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he also reviewed the current status of international co-operation relating to outer space and called upon the Committee to continue strengthening co-operation in this field. The text of the Chairman's statement is annexed to the present report.

14. The Committee held a general exchange of views at the 232nd and 234th to 236th meetings, from 23 to 25 March 1982, in the course of which statements were made by the representatives of Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. These statements are contained in the verbatim records of the 232nd and 234th to 236th meetings of the Committee (A/AC.105/PV.232, 234-236).

15. The representatives of FAO, UNESCO, ICAO, ITU, IAF and COSPAR also made statements. Those statements are contained in the verbatim records of the 232nd, 236th and 239th meetings of the Committee (A/AC.105/PV.232, 236 and 239).

16. At its 232nd meeting, the Committee established an informal working group under the chairmanship of Mr. Sune Danielsson (Sweden) to consider the item relating to direct television broadcasting satellites (item 6).

17. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its 243rd meeting on 1 April 1982, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out in the paragraphs below.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

A. Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee

18. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the work of its nineteenth session (A/AC.105/304). In considering the various recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in the report, the Committee expressed its views as set out in the following paragraphs.

1. Remote sensing of the earth by satellites

19. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 36/35, had resumed its priority consideration of questions relating to the remote sensing of the earth by satellites. The Committee also noted that in the course of the debate in the Sub-Committee delegations had reaffirmed their basic positions relating to remote sensing data which had been reflected in the reports of the previous sessions of the Sub-Committee.

20. The Committee noted that, in accordance with its recommendation regarding improvements in the compilation of the list of remote sensing applications, information had been received from several Member States (A/AC.105/297 and Add.1) and it endorsed the view that the updating of the catalogue should be continued and that more Member States should provide information to be included in the list, which should be made available to all interested nations.

21. Some delegations expressed the view that in order to bring about progress in the drafting of principles relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellites a step-by-step approach should be followed, taking into account what has already been achieved in this field as well as the evolution of the technical characteristics of satellites.

22. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Government of Indonesia had expressed readiness to host a regional remote sensing centre under United Nations auspices to help the developing countries establish their remote sensing programmes.

2. United Nations Programme on Space Applications

23. The Committee took note of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications as set out in chapter II of the report of the Sub-Committee and was pleased to note that further progress had continued to be made in the implementation of that Programme.

24. In this regard, the Committee expressed its appreciation to the Expert on Space Applications for the effective manner in which he had implemented the United Nations Programme within the limited funds at his disposal.

25. The Committee endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1983 as proposed to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee by the Expert in his

report (A/AC.105/302), together with a statement on the administrative aspects of that Programme (A/AC.105/L.127). In this connexion, the Committee noted that the Programme would take into account the results of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

26. The Committee noted that in accordance with a request of the Committee 1/ the Expert had prepared a detailed list of proposed activities of the United Nations Space Applications Programme further to assist Member States in their efforts to share the benefits of space technology (A/AC.105/303). In this connexion, the Committee noted the view of the Sub-Committee that the proposed activities be taken into account in considering and revising the relevant parts of the draft report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

27. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Argentina, Bulgaria, France and Indonesia for hosting in 1981 regional and interregional seminars on remote sensing applications and satellite communications for education and development in preparation for UNISPACE-82. It also expressed its appreciation to the Government of Italy for hosting the sixth United Nations/FAO international training course on remote sensing applications. The Committee also expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Canada, Ecuador and Italy and the Economic Commission for Africa for agreeing to host similar seminars in 1982.

28. The Committee, expressing its appreciation to the Government of the USSR for reiterating its readiness to hold United Nations training seminars on a regular basis, noted that the USSR intended to organize at the end of 1983 a training seminar for the benefit of developing countries on the use of remote sensing in the area of forestry.

29. In the course of the session, the Committee expressed its appreciation to the European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSeL) for its offer to collaborate with the United Nations in the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. In this regard it recommended that the Expert on Space Applications should explore the possibility of United Nations co-operation with that Association and report on the matter to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its next session.

30. The Committee further expressed its appreciation to FAO for the assistance it had provided in co-sponsoring and participating in seminars and for its financial contribution in support of the joint United Nations/FAO seminar held in Sofia, Bulgaria. The Committee also expressed its gratitude to the Governments of the Netherlands and Sweden for their financial help in support of United Nations regional seminars organized in connexion with UNISPACE-82. The Committee further expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Austria and Italy for having offered fellowships through the United Nations to candidates from developing countries for study and training in areas related to space applications and welcomed the offer of Australia to consider the question of providing scholarships to the Programme.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/36/20), para. 33.

3. Co-ordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system

31. The Committee noted with appreciation the participation in its work and that of its sub-committees by representatives of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations and found the reports they had submitted helpful in enabling the Committee and its subsidiary bodies to fulfil their role as a focal point for international co-operation, especially with respect to the practical application of space science and technology in developing countries.

32. The Committee further noted with appreciation that the Sub-Committee continued to stress the necessity of ensuring continuous and effective consultations and co-ordination in the field of outer space activities among organizations within the United Nations system. The Committee, in this connexion, noted with satisfaction that a fourth Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities would probably be held in the latter part of 1982 at FAO headquarters in Rome.

4. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

33. The Committee noted that the Sub-Committee, in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 36/35, had continued its consideration of the technical aspects and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

34. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that this item should be kept on the Sub-Committee's agenda on a priority basis.

5. Space transportation systems

35. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/35, the Sub-Committee had continued the consideration of the item relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

36. The Committee also noted that, in accordance with a request of the Sub-Committee endorsed by the Committee at its last session, the Secretariat had updated the study it had prepared in 1979 on the international implications of new space transportation systems (A/AC.105/244/Add.1).

37. The Committee took note of the statements on the progress being achieved in the various programmes in operation or planned as reported by China, France, India, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and ESA.

38. In the course of the session, the Committee noted the successful launching, on 22 March 1982 and the successful landing on 30 March, of the third mission of the Space Shuttle Orbiter Columbia which completed its mission.

39. The Committee endorsed the decision of the Sub-Committee that it continue consideration of this item at its next session.

6. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit

40. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/35, the Sub-Committee had continued the examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit. It also noted that some delegations had expressed reservations with regard to several conclusions of the study undertaken by the Secretariat with the assistance of IAF and presented as a background paper to UNISPACE-82 (A/CONF.101/BP/7). The Committee further noted the studies undertaken by the International Telecommunication Union in preparation for the World Administrative Radio Conference to be held in 1985 and 1987 to consider the use of the geostationary satellite orbit and to the planning of services utilizing it.

41. The Committee noted that delegations had reiterated and elaborated on the views expressed by them at earlier sessions of the Sub-Committee.

42. The Committee endorsed the request of the Sub-Committee that the study on the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit (A/AC.105/203 and Add.1-3) continue to be brought up to date as required. The Committee also endorsed the decision of the Sub-Committee that it continue consideration of this item at its next session.

B. Report of the Legal Sub-Committee

43. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its twenty-first session (A/AC.105/305) covering the results of its deliberations on the items assigned to it by General Assembly resolution 36/35.

1. Legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles

44. The Committee noted that, in continuing as a matter of priority its detailed consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth by satellites, the Sub-Committee had re-established its Working Group on remote sensing under the chairmanship of Mr. Cede (Austria). The Committee also noted that a principle-by-principle reading of the draft principles as formulated to date had been carried out with special attention being paid to the discussion of principles XII and XV and that a number of issues remained to be agreed upon before the draft principles could be finalized. (A/AC.105/305, paras. 20-25 and annex I).

2. Consideration of the possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space

45. The Committee noted that, in continuing the detailed consideration of the possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, the Sub-Committee had re-established its Working Group on this item under the chairmanship of Mr. Bueno (Brazil).

46. The Committee noted the work carried out by the Working Group, as reflecterd in the report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/305, paras. 26-29 and annex II).

47. In the course of the session, the view was expressed that, pursuant to the progress achieved in the Legal Sub-Committee, the title of the item should be modified to read "Consideration of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space with the view to elaborating additional rules through its working group".

3. Matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit

48. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/35, the Legal Sub-Committee had continued to consider matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit.

49. The Committee noted that a variety of views had been expressed on this question, as reflected in the report of the Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/305, paras. 30-44). Similar views were also expressed during the current session of the Committee.

C. Elaboration of a draft set of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting

50. The General Assembly, by paragraphs 7 and 8 of its resolution 36/35, decided that further attempts to complete the elaboration of a draft set of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting should be made by the Committee at its current session, and further decided to consider at its thirty-seventh session the adoption of such a draft set of principles.

51. The Committee established an informal working group under the chairmanship of Mr. Sune Danielsson (Sweden) to consider the matter. The informal working group held four meetings.

52. The working group decided to consider principle "Consultation and agreements between States" and concentrate on paragraph 2 of that principle.

53. In the course of the discussions, the following informal suggestion by Greece regarding this paragraph was made:

> "An international direct television broadcasting satellite service shall only be established after the conditions set forth in paragraph 1 above have been met and on the basis of agreements and/or arrangements as required only by international law and in accordance with these principles."

An informal suggestion was also made by India, which read as follows:

"An international direct television broadcasting satellite service shall only be established after the conditions set forth in paragraph 1 above have been met and on the basis of agreements and/or arrangements and in conformity with international law and these principles."

54. The working group discussed these suggestions, but agreement was not reached.

D. Other matters

55. During the session, some delegations expressed their concern regarding the growing dangers of the military use of outer space, stressing the need for the early consideration by the international community of meaures to prevent an arms race in outer space. In this connexion, some delegations noted that the General Assembly requested the Committee on Disarmament to consider, as from the beginning of its session of 1982, the question of negotiating effective and verifiable agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space and to consider as a matter of priority the question of negotiating an effective and verifiable agreement to prohibit anti-satellite systems. Some delegations noted that, following the proposal of the USSR to conclude a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space, the General Assembly considered it necessary to conclude an appropriate international treaty to prevent the spread of the arms in outer space and requested the Committee on Disarmament to embark on negotiations with the view to achieving agreement on the text of such a treaty. In this regard, some delegations stated that the matter should be a matter of basic concern to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its sub-committees.

56. The Committee noted with appreciation the participation in its work and that of its sub-committees by representatives of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and found the reports they had submitted helpful in enabling the Committee and its subsidiary bodies to fulfil their role as a focal point of international co-operation. The Committee also noted with appreciation the participation in its work and that of its sub-committees by the representatives of ESA, COSPAR and IAF.

57. The Committee noted the successful landings of the USSR space probes Venera-13 and Venera-14 on 2 and 5 March 1982, respectively.

E. Future work of the sub-committees

58. The Committee noted the views expressed by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee as contained in paragraphs 65 to 67 of its report (A/AC.105/304) and endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 65 and 66 concerning the agenda of the twentieth session of that Sub-Committee.

59. The Committee recommended that the Legal Sub-Committee at its twenty-second session, should:

(a) Continue on a priority basis its detailed consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles relating to remote sensing;

(b) Continue its consideration of:

(i) The possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space through its working group;

(ii) Matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit, and devote adequate time for a deeper consideration of this question.

60. The Committee also recognized that delegations could express views on other matters, for example, during the general exchange of views, and recommended that such considerations should be reflected in the report of the Legal Sub-Committee under a heading "Other matters".

61. The Committee also noted the views expressed by the Legal Sub-Committee regarding the question of summary records for that Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/305, para. 17).

F. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

62. The Committee agreed on the following time-table for 1983:

	Time	Location
Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee	7-18 February	New York
Legal Sub-Committee	21 March-8 April	New York
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	20 June-1 July	New York

63. The recommendation of the Committee concerning the three-week duration of the Legal Sub-Committee has been taken in light of the present agenda and is without prejudice to the future sessions of the Sub-Committee. It is understood that if the agenda so demands future sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee may be extended to a fourth week.

64. Some delegations drew attention to the fact that the question of parallel meetings of the two sub-committees was raised in the draft report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

ANNEX

Opening statement by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

1. We are assembled here this afternoon, as members are well aware, for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I want first of all to extend a very warm welcome to all members, whether they are newcomers to the work of this active and growing body of the United Nations or, as many are, dedicated, experienced and long-time participants in this growing international effort to extend the benefits of man's conquest of space to a larger and larger group of nations.

2. This sesson of the Committee - and we shall shortly be meeting also as the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE-82 - is not only an important one but also one whose meaning is perhaps somewhat wider than has been the case at many previous sessions. For, as members are aware, this current session marks another anniversary in our work; this is the twenty-fifth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. But 1982 is also the year of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the launching of the first major man-made space object, SPUTNIK, an event which marked an entirely new and promising phase of man's venture into space. I regard it as a happy coincidence that, on the very morning of this anniversary meeting, Columbia, the space shuttle developed by the United States, has successfully lifted off for its first working mission. I should like to extend congratulations to the delegation of the United States on this event, which was, as could be noted by those who witnessed it on-site or, like some of the less privileged among us, including your Chairman, on television, characterized by the flawless working of all the complicated systems of that superb flying machine. May I, on behalf of all members, wish a safe return to earth to Astronauts Jack Lousma and Gordon Fullerton.

3. During the last 25 years the world has witnessed man-made objects orbiting the earth, the moon and other celestial bodies. Man himself has landed on the moon; and many man-made objects have landed on far-away planets and transmitted valuable information.

4. The landing of a Soviet space probe on Venus only a few days ago is the last such example to date.

5. While we have admired these feats of science and technology, we have also reaped valuable space applications which offer on many occasions new means to solve some of the economic and social problems facing humanity.

6. I do not propose on this occasion to detail the impressive record of accomplishments during these past 25 years. But even if I confine myself for a moment to the year since our last meeting, we can see the tremendous achievements of space science and technology typified by pioneering breakthroughs in space transportation, such as the one constituted by the Space Shuttle or by the continued operation of the Soviet Union's SALYUT-6 orbital complex, which has now been continuously manned for several years. If we look at the practical benefits

of space exploration, this last month the International Maritime Satellite Telecommunications Organization's (INMARSAT) new global system of satellites began to revolutionize maritime communications. During the last year two new International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) satellits were launched as the second and third of a new generation of international telecommunication spacecraft with expanded capacities to provide communication service between the Americas, Europe and the Middle East.

7. These are not simple feats, although we are beginning to accept them as commonplace occurrences and even take them for granted. These developments in space communications and navigation will also have a tremendous influence on the world economy, especially trade and commerce, but also on education and the exchange of information.

8. And while the rhythm of space activities has increased, the number of participants has also grown.

9. Through the creation of regional agencies, such as the European Space Agency, many countries of Western Europe are now participating in new space programmes and the success of such joint efforts is symbolized by, among other achievements, the development of Ariane, the first independent European launcher.

10. The Council on International Co-operation in the Study and Utilizaton of Outer Space (INTERCOSMOS), another example of a co-operative approach to space activities, has brought many countries in Eastern Europe, and also in other parts of the world, into direct contact with space.

11. China, India, Indonesia and Japan are among those States that have launched their own satellites, and almost every Member State of the United Nations is now a participant in space activities, mostly through international organizations such as INTELSAT, INMARSAT, the International System and Organization of Space Communications (INTERSPUTNIK), the Arab Satellite Communications Organization (ARABSAT) and many others. Space is thus no longer the province of the privileged few, and there are truly beginnings of an opening to more and more nations to outer space. That has been made possible first and foremost by the rapid pace of international co-operation in this field over the last few years, but also by the growing number of international organizations that have been attracted by space activities. Co-operation between European countries and the United States in the space lab programme and the work of several international crews within the INTERCOSMOS programmes are only highlights in a wide array of bilateral and multilateral activities in the field of space exploration which, we hope, will continue to grow.

12. Governments, international organizations, and also the many brilliant and dedicated individuals in many countries which have promoted national and international space efforts, deserve our gratitude for those past achievements and also our encouragement for the continuation of those activities in the future.

13. Because even if this happens to be an anniversary event, even if there is much reason for satisfaction, anniversaries should not be an excuse for complacency or self-congratulation or an occasion for passive contemplation of past achievements, magnificent as they might have been.

14. Anniversaries such as this one should rather be the occasion to examine critically and in depth not only the bright sides but also the darker sides of the particular field of international co-operation for which this Committee, discharging a mandate received from the General Assembly, bears such heavy responsibilities. Of course the record of this Committee remains, even in a critical analysis, a credible and impressive one.

15. We have given much attention to the orderly growth of space activities and it has therefore been our primary concern - and it remains our primary concern - to create the international legal framework for this purpose. Thus, important international legal instruments, beginning in 1967 with the outer space Treaty, which continues to be our Magna Carta, have been developed by this Committee. It is indeed a tribute to its work that during the short span of 25 years it has indeed been possible to lay down a sound legal foundation for the exploration and uses of outer space, which, as we know, in the case of other environments took many centuries to build.

16. The record of the Committee includes the encouragement of projects involving a high degree of international co-operation, beginning with the establishment of United Nations sponsored sounding rocket launching stations. Resolutions of the General Assembly, based on the recommendations of this Committee, gave the necessary impetus for the convening of the early International Telecommunication Union conferences relating to frequency allocations for space activities. Those resolutions and recommendations also served as the impetus for the growing internationalization of space communications, the birth of the World Weather Watch programme and, more recently, the establishment of INMARSAT. The record of the Committee also includes the establishment of a United Nations programme of space applications through which greater awareness of the benefits of space applications has been created among Member States of the United Nations, particularly by training specialists from developing countries.

17. Thus the Committee has, I believe, established a commendable record for itself during the last 25 years. This is no doubt the result of the co-operation, understanding and also the political wisdom of each and every member of this Committee - old members and new ones. And as we look to the future we must face developments in space with some vision and fortitude. We cannot afford to concentrate only on problems of the moment or to regard them in the light of short-term interests, coloured by criteria of a basically national character.

18. There is no doubt that the degree of international co-operation which this Committee - not all by itself, but as an important international focal point - has managed to promote has made outer space into an environment where international tensions have been low or sometimes even non-existent. This has been so because many of the instruments of terrestrial power politics are banned from outer space - and they should remain banned. Outer space has early been made into a nuclear-free zone, and it should remain so. Outer space has early been made into a zone free of the rivalries of the claims of national sovereignty, and it should remain so.

19. But, most of all, outer space has profited from an understanding that nobody would gain by the use of space science and technology for military purposes and that the security of all would be best served by mutual restraints rather than by creating new zones of international confrontation.

20. We can, by insisting on the values of peaceful co-operation in outer space among as many actors as possible, by consciously blurring in this new environment the frontiers of east and west, of north and south, and by making every effort to create new and different perspectives, reduce what appears most distinctly as a new menance, as a new danger, which might threaten the human race from outer space.

21. And all this appears even more important in the face of an unprecedented pace of development in space science and technology. We must therefore be innovative and forward-looking, as well as forward-thinking. We must bear in mind the interests of all States and indeed of the entire international community and seek to chart a course that will allow us to look at the next 25 years without anxiety and with the same confidence we had when we started the work 25 years ago.

22. A great opportunity for us to start ourselves on that course is at hand as we look at the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be held later this year. I hope that everyone here will come to Vienna in August with a sense of creating a new spirit and a new philosophy in the exploration and uses of outer space for the benefit of us all.

23. Let me now briefly turn to the concerns that will be the Committee's during the short term, namely, during the next two weeks. I should like briefly to review the reports reflecting the results of the 1982 sessions of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee. In doing so, I discharge the pleasant duty of expressing my own and the Committee's collective appreciation of the excellent leadership, skill and dedication of the two Chairmen of the Sub-Committees, Professor John Carver of Australia and Ambassador Eugeniusz Wyzner of Poland, who have once again navigated the deliberations of the Sub-Committees through a difficult course and not without success.

24. The report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the work of its nineteenth session indicates that a thorough examination was given to each item on the agenda, particularly to priority items such as the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system; questions relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellites; the use of nuclear power sources in outer space; and, most important of all at this time, preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

25. The Sub-Committee carried out a careful examination of each of those items, in spite of the limitations of time resulting from the relatively great amount of attention which was inevitably devoted to the very final stage of its contribution to the preparations for the coming UNISPACE Conference. None the less, in general terms, relatively well-established views remained with little change, reslting in a delay in major progress in the Sub-Committee's work relating to its standard items. The limitations of time are no doubt responsible, but certainly other factors were involved. In this connexion, it is surely not unfair to voice the strong concern expressed not only in this Committee but also in other bodies equally pertinent to our activities at the rather diminishing pace of our work in some of the areas treated in the two Sub-Committees.

26. Returning to the specific items before the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, I report that that body, after reviewing the past, current and future activities of the United Nations Space Applications Programme, commended the

work accomplished by the Expert on Space Applications and approved his proposals for specific activities for 1983. With regard to the support extended for the successful completion of the activities recently carried out, the Sub-Committee expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Argentina, Bulgaria, France, Italy and Indonesia, as well as to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), for serving as hosts to the six seminars held in 1981. The Sub-Committee also welcomed the offers of the Governments of Canada, Ecuador and Italy, as well as ECA, to serve as hosts to seminars scheduled for 1982. Furthermore, it expressed its gratitude to he Governments of Austria, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden for having offered fellowships and grants in support of the Space Applications Programme.

27. In this connexion - and even at this rather late stage - I should like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Abiodun on his appointment to the post of Expert on Space Applications. I am sure that he will continue with vigour and imagination the work carried out by his predecessors. On behalf of the Committee, I wish Mr. Abiodun every success in his work.

28. In another area of the Sub-Committee's work no progress was witnessed - that is its deliberations on the question of remote sensing. But work to improve the compilation of the list of remote sensing applications has gained a promising start with prompt co-operation from a number of countries. I consider it timely that the Sub-Committee has once again stressed the importance of the greatest possible international co-operation and participation and the fundamental need of assistance to developing countries in benefiting from remote-sensing technologies.

29. On the question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, the Group's work was suspended this year after it had made a significant contribution in providing the technical basis for the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee on this issue.

30. The review of these and other items treated by the Sub-Committee leaves us with an impression that the Sub-Committee has reached a stage of serious self-reflection and that the generally moderate pace of its work has prompted a great many valuable suggestions on the manner in which it might proceed in the future. Work in this Committee will, I hope, provide momentum for the Sub-Committee's future work, as well as perhaps for the work of UNISPACE-82, so as to give new impetus in an area which certainly furnishes rich fields of activity.

31. As in past years, the Sub-Committee also met in its capacity as the Advisory Committee to the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Advisory Committee has presented the results of what I believe is productive work in the form of the report contained in document A/CONF.101/PC/6, which we shall consider later when we meet in our capacity as the Preparatory Committee, in its final session. The Advisory Committee's report clearly indicates that the draft final report of the Conference was its major preoccupation, which will also be the case with the Preparatory Committee as it considers the revised version of the report prepared by the Secretary-General of the Conference.

32. Let me now briefly touch on the Legal Sub-Committee's work at its twenty-first session. The Sub-Committee had only one priority item this year, namely, the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles relating to remote sensing. The Sub-Committee proceeded with its

deliberations on this item by establishing a Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. Cede of Austria. The Working Group discussed the texts of draft principles contained in annex I of the Sub-Committee's report, giving special attention to the principles relating to the sensed States' access and to the dissemination of remotely sensed data. However, basic differences on the outstanding issues still have to be resolved.

33. In considering the next item - the possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space - the Sub-Committee established a Working Group under Mr. Carlos Bueno of Brazil. The Working Group focused its attention in particular on the question of assistance to States affected by accidental re-entry of a space object with a nuclear power source aboard. I am pleased to note that an intensive discussion in the Working Group, including the consideration of several working papers, has contributed to the further clarification of views and it was generally agreed that, apart from the special responsibilities of the launching State and in the context of international humanitarianism, all States should be prepared to offer assistance to the affected State to the extent of their capabilities.

34. At this year's session, the Sub-Committee also continued consideration of matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and other space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit. As section III of its report indicates, the wide range of differing views expressed in the Sub-Committee has once again proved to be persistent, defying the identification of an area of general agreement.

35. Finally, I wish to make reference to an additional item on our agenda which was considered in past years by the Legal Sub-Committee. I have in mind the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. In its resolution 36/35, the General Assembly called upon this session of the Committee to attempt to complete work on this item so that the Assembly could consider the adoption of a draft set of principles at its thirty-seventh session. I trust we shall make a genuine effort to fulfil the mandate given us by the General Assembly, and I myself shall be at the disposal of the Committee to assist in any way I can to ensure the accomplishment of that task. In this connexion I should like to draw attention to paragraphs 50 to 56 of the report of the last session of this Committee (A/36/20), which deal with the matter as the Committee left it last year. Particular note should be taken of annxes II and III of the report, which contain the texts on which negotiations were based.

36. This is, I believe, roughly and in a shortened version, the state of affairs from which this twenty-fifth anniversary session of the Committee proceeds in order to make a new contribution, I hope, to further progress in the peaceful uses of outer space. This has never been an easy task, neither at the beginning nor during the busy and rich formative years of the Committee. As we meet we are witnessing not only the splendours of space achievements, with all the optimism they create, but also an era of tension in world affairs which makes our task even more important but all the more delicate and responsible.

37. Let us therefore hope that the creative and peaceful potential of space co-operation has not disappeared, that what is perhaps one of the last refuges of the world, relatively free of tension and confrontation, can be maintained and that, as behoves celestial powers, much good rather than much evil can come from these sublime heights.