



- Agenda item 30:* International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**
- Agenda item 39:* Conclusion of an international treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, the Moon and other celestial bodies
- Agenda item 91:* Treaty governing the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies

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* For the discussion of this item, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, First Committee*, 1491st to 1493rd meetings; and *ibid.*, *Plenary Meetings*, 1498th and 1499th meetings.

** Since 1960, this question has been discussed by the General Assembly at the following sessions: fifteenth session (agenda item 22), sixteenth session (agenda item 21), seventeenth session (agenda item 27), eighteenth session (agenda item 28) and twentieth session (agenda item 31).

DOCUMENT A/6341

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the twenty-first session

[Original text: Russian]
[31 May 1966]

LETTER DATED 30 MAY 1966 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from A. A. Gromyko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, containing a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, as a separate and important question, of the item "Conclusion of an international agreement on legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and conquest of the Moon and other celestial bodies".

I should be glad if you would arrange to have the attached letter circulated as an official document of the United Nations.

(Signed) N. FEDORENKO
Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations

LETTER DATED 30 MAY 1966 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On the instruction of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics I request the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, as a separate and important question, of the item "Conclusion of an international agreement on legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and conquest of the Moon and other celestial bodies".

As you know, great new scientific and technological successes have been achieved this year in the exploration of the Moon.

The Soviet Union successfully launched the automatic station Luna 9, which for the first time in history made a soft landing on the Earth's natural satellite. The Soviet automatic station Luna 10 was for the first time successfully placed in a circumlunar orbit and

became an artificial satellite of the Moon. With these scientific experiments a further significant advance was made in man's exploration and conquest of the Moon and of the other planets of the solar system. The flights of the Luna 9 and Luna 10 stations opened a new era in the exploration of space and convincingly demonstrated the real possibility of man's conquest of the Moon in the very near future—a feat which will undoubtedly be the outstanding event of our century.

It is still difficult at the present time to enumerate all the spheres of human knowledge which will be further developed through the exploration of the Moon and other celestial bodies. But there is no doubt that this exploration will enrich mankind with new data on the secret laws of nature.

The conquest of the Moon and other celestial bodies, however, raises not only technical and scientific problems but also the question in what direction and on what basis States will conduct their activities in this sphere. This is a question of exceptional importance for all States.

The Soviet programme for the exploration of the Moon and other celestial bodies is designed exclusively to serve science. The Soviet Government considers that the conquest of the Moon and other celestial bodies should be carried out in the interests of peace and progress exclusively, for the benefit of all mankind. No one State has the right to regard its achievements in this sphere as a basis for claims to dominion over the Moon and other celestial bodies or to use those achievements for activities directed against other States.

In the Soviet Government's view, it has now become essential to begin the formulation of rules of international law in accordance with which States would take practical measures for the conquest of the Moon and other celestial bodies, and above all to take steps to prohibit the use of the Moon and other celestial bodies for military purposes.

It is quite obvious that plans for the military use of the Moon and other celestial bodies cannot in any way be justified by reference to the national security interests of States and are intended merely to serve the purposes of aggression, the purposes of preparing for global war.

The Soviet Union, as is known, is consistently working for the conclusion of an agreement on general and complete disarmament, for the limitation of the armaments race and the relaxation of international tension. To prohibit the use of the Moon and other celestial bodies for military purposes would be a major step in that direction, and would be calculated to ensure peace on earth and the security of peoples. At the same time, the prohibition of any military use of the Moon and other celestial bodies and the establishment of a solid foundation of international law on which States would carry out practical measures for their conquest would help to promote broad international co-operation in various aspects of the exploration and use of the Moon and other celestial bodies, and thereby foster mutual understanding and strengthen friendly relations among States and peoples.

The conquest of the Moon will proceed the faster the more countries make their contribution to the necessary investigations and experiments. That means that equal opportunities should be opened to all States. In taking advantage of these opportunities, States should conduct their activities with due regard for the relevant interests of other States. Co-operation of this kind

has consistently been advocated by the Soviet Union which has always regarded and still regards its successes in space exploration as achievements not of the Soviet people alone but of all mankind as well.

As early as 1958 the Soviet Government proposed the conclusion of an international agreement providing for co-operation in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space, and referred the question to the United Nations for its consideration. In 1961, after the first manned space flight, the Soviet Union again took steps designed to establish and develop co-operation with other countries in the conquest of space.

On the basis of the USSR's proposals, the United Nations in 1963 adopted a declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space [*General Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII)*]. Thanks to the Soviet Union's efforts, a resolution was adopted calling on all States to refrain from placing in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction or installing such weapons on celestial bodies [*resolution 1884 (XVIII)*].

The Government of the Soviet Union, desiring to place the achievements of science and technology in the conquest of the Moon and other celestial bodies at the service of peace and progress and to make it possible for all States to benefit by the practical results of research and make their own contributions to such research, proposes the conclusion of an international agreement, which could be based on the following principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and conquest of the Moon and other celestial bodies:

1. The Moon and other celestial bodies should be open for exploration and use by all States, without discrimination of any kind. All States enjoy freedom of scientific research in regard to the Moon and other celestial bodies on equal terms and in accordance with the fundamental principles of international law.

2. The Moon and other celestial bodies should be used by all States exclusively for peaceful purposes. No military bases or installations of any kind, including facilities for nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction of any type, should be established on the Moon or other celestial bodies.

3. The exploration and use of the Moon and other celestial bodies shall be carried on for the good and in the interest of all mankind; the Moon and other celestial bodies shall not be subject to appropriation or territorial claims of any kind.

4. In the exploration of the Moon and other celestial bodies, States shall be guided by the principles of co-operation and mutual aid and shall carry out their activities with due regard for the relevant interests of other States and with a view to the maintenance of international peace and security.

An agreement based on principles of that kind would ensure the necessary climate for the peaceful exploration and conquest of the Moon, would prevent any possibility of this sphere of human activity being made a source of international dissension, and would create favourable conditions for the future concretization of the international legal aspects of State activities relating to the conquest of other celestial bodies.

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics counts on the General Assembly to give its attention at its twenty-first session to the question

of the "Conclusion of an international agreement on legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and conquest of the Moon and other celestial bodies".

I should be glad if you would regard this letter as an explanatory memorandum as provided in rule 20 of the

procedure of the General Assembly, and circulate it as an official United Nations document.

(Signed) A. GROMYKO
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union
of Soviet Socialist Republics

DOCUMENT A/6352/REV.1

Letter dated 4 October 1966 from the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Secretary-General

[Original text: Russian]
[5 October 1966]

On the instructions of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I have the honour to transmit herewith a revised draft treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, the Moon and other celestial bodies, for consideration at the current twenty-first session of the General Assembly under the relevant agenda item proposed by the Soviet Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the aforementioned draft treaty circulated to all delegations as an official United Nations document.

(Signed) N. FEDORENKO
Permanent Representative of the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics
to the United Nations

adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 October 1963,

Taking account of United Nations General Assembly resolution 110 (II) of 3 November 1947, which condemned propaganda designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression, and considering that the aforementioned resolution is applicable to outer space,

Convinced that a treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, will further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Have agreed on the following:

Article I

The exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind.

Outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for exploration and use by all States without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law, and there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies.

There shall be freedom of scientific investigation in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and States shall facilitate and encourage international co-operation in such investigation.

Article II

The Parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner.

The Moon and other celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes by all Parties to the Treaty. The establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications, the testing of any type of weapons and the conduct of military manoeuvres on celestial bodies shall be forbidden. The use of military personnel for scientific research or for any other peaceful purposes shall not be prohibited. The use of any equipment necessary for peaceful exploration of the Moon and other celestial bodies shall also not be prohibited.

REVISED DRAFT TREATY ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES IN THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE, THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES

The Governments . . . , hereinafter referred to as the Parties to the Treaty,

Inspired by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's entry into outer space,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Believing that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried on for the benefit of all peoples irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development,

Desiring to contribute to broad international co-operation in the scientific as well as the legal aspects of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Believing that such co-operation will contribute to the development of mutual understanding and to the strengthening of friendly relations between States and peoples,

Recalling resolution 1962 (XVIII), entitled "Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space", which was adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 December 1963,

Recalling resolution 1884 (XVIII), calling upon States to refrain from placing in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction or from installing such weapons on celestial bodies, which was