United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL RECORDS
NEW YORK, 1966

ANNEXES
TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

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, pages 140 to 146th meetings; and ibid., Plenary Meetings, 149th and 149th meetings.
** Since 1960, this question has been discussed by the General Assembly at the following sessions: fifteenth session (agenda item 25), sixteenth session (agenda item 25), seventeenth session (agenda item 27), eighteenth session (agenda item 28) and twentieth session (agenda item 33).

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 of 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 enclosed letter circulated as an official document of the United Nations.

(Signed) N. Fedosenko
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 of 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 circular orbit and...
became an artificial satellite of the Moon. With these scientific experiments and the further significant advance was made in man's exploration and conquest of the Moon and of the other planets of the solar system. The first flights of the spacecraft Luna and the missions of the Lunar 10 satellites opened a new era in the exploration of space and convincingly demonstrated the now realities 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 this 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 it is safe to predict that this exploration will enrich mankind with new data on the secret laws of nature.

The conquest of the Moon and other celestial bodies must not be taken as a mere extension, and thus the scientific and technological progress and development of a country, a nation, or mankind. For this reason, the United States Government has the right to regard its achievements in this sphere as a basis for claims to dominance over the Moon and other celestial bodies. It is therefore not excluded that these achievements for activities directed against other States.

In the Soviet Government's view, it has now become evident that it is impossible to determine the fundamental principles of international law in accordance with which States would be able to take practical measures for the conquest of the Moon and other celestial bodies, and that the steps which must be taken to prohibit the use of the Moon and other celestial bodies for military purposes must be determined on the basis of the fundamental principles of international law.

The following principles, and particularly the principles of universal legal co-operation and mutual assistance, would be necessary for the formulation of the fundamental principles of international law:

1. The Moon and the other celestial bodies should be open for exploration and use by all States, with due regard for the relevant interests of States and for a fair distribution of the utilization of the Moon and other celestial bodies.

2. The Moon and other celestial bodies should be open to all States for peaceful purposes, without any restrictions.

3. The Moon and other celestial bodies should be under the international law of armed conflict.

4. The Moon and other celestial bodies should be subject to the international law of armed conflict.

The principles of universal legal co-operation and mutual assistance would be necessary for the formulation of the fundamental principles of international law.

The exploration and use of the Moon and other celestial bodies shall be carried on under the international law of armed conflict.

The principles of universal legal co-operation and mutual assistance would be necessary for the formulation of the fundamental principles of international law.

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 the exploration and use of outer space, and to refer the question to the United Nations for its consideration. In 1961, after the first space flight, the United States Government sent its experts to the United Nations to consider the question of cooperation in outer space and to establish and develop cooperation with other countries in this field.

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, this was the first call on the international community to refrain from placing in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kind of weapons of mass destruction or installing such weapons on celestial bodies [resolution 1848 (XVIII)].

The Government of the Soviet Union, desiring to place the achievements of science and technology in the exploration and use of outer space 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 this research, proposes to add to the draft agreement on the exploration and use of outer space, which could be based on the following principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space:

1. The Moon and other celestial bodies should be open for exploration and use by all States, with due regard for the relevant interests of States and for a fair distribution of the utilization of the Moon and other celestial bodies.

2. The Moon and other celestial bodies should be open to all States for peaceful purposes.

3. The Moon and other celestial bodies should be under the international law of armed conflict.

The principles of universal legal co-operation and mutual assistance would be necessary for the formulation of the fundamental principles of international law.

The exploration and use of the Moon and other celestial bodies shall be carried on under the international law of armed conflict.

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