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became an artificial satellite of the Moon. With these scientific experiments a further significant advance was made in the question 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 of the successful exploration of the Moon and other celestial bodies. It is still difficult at the present time to enumerate all the spheres of human knowledge which will be further developed as a result of the successful exploration of the Moon and other celestial bodies, but there is no doubt that this exploration will enrich mankind with new data on the secrets of nature.

The conquest of the Moon and other celestial bodies, however, raises not only purely technical and scientific problems, but also fundamentally important questions in what direction and on what basis States will conduct their activities in this sphere, which 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.

One state has the right to regard its achievements in this sphere as a basis for claims to domination over the Moon and other celestial bodies or to use those achievements for activities that are not in the interests of other States. In the Soviet Union Government's view, it has now become essential to begin the formulation of rules of international law in accordance with which States will conduct their affairs 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 an agreement to bring about a complete disarmament, for the limitation of the armaments race and the relaxation of international tension. The development of the use of the Moon and other celestial bodies for military purposes would be a major step in this direction, and would be calculated to ensure peace 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 our practical measures for their conquest would help to promote broad international co-operation in various aspects of the exploration and the study of other celestial bodies and thereby further mutual understanding and strengthen friendly relations among States and peoples.

The conquest of the Moon will promote the faster that States should 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. Cooperation of this kind has consistently been advocated by the Soviet Union, which has always regarded and still regards its interests in space as inextricably linked with the interests of all 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 successful manned flight, the Soviet Union again took steps to 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 basic principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space (General Assembly resolution 1962 (XVI) on the "principles governing 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

On the instructions of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I have the honour to transmit herewith for your information the following principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and peaceful 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. FECHENKO
Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations

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
Inspirer by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's entry into outer space,
Recognising the common interest of all mankind in the peaceful 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 exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes
Believing that such co-operation will contribute to the strengthening of friendly relations between States and peoples,
Recalling resolution 1962 (XVI), entitled "Declaration of Legal Principles Governing Activities in the Exploration and Conquest of the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies", which was adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 October 1963,
Recalling resolution 1984 (XVII), calling upon the United Nations to refrain from placing in orbit around the Earth objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction or on or in any installation of such weapons on celestial bodies, which was adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 October 1963,
Taking account of United Nations General Assembly resolution 110 (11) of 3 November 1962, 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,
Considered 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, should be carried out for the benefit of all mankind, 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 objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, 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 weapon and the conduct of military manoeuvres on celestial bodies shall be forbidden. The use of military personnel for scientific research on the legal status of 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.
Article III

The parties to the Treaty shall carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation in the exploration of space.

Article IV

The rights and obligations of the United States Parties to the Treaty concerning the exploration and use of outer space, including objects launched or constructed on a celestial body, and of their component parts, are subject to the jurisdiction and control of the United States, as well as to the jurisdiction and control over such object, and any person employed therein, if it is in outer space or on a celestial body, the United States, through its representatives in such outer space, including objects launched or constructed on a celestial body, and of their component parts, is affected by the laws of the United States, or by its return to the Earth. Such objects, component parts located beyond the limits of the Earth, or objects launched or constructed on a celestial body, shall be returned to that State Party, which shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to their return.

Article V

States Parties to the Treaty shall regard astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space, and shall ensure that their safety is not endangered by acts of accident, distress, or emergency landing on the territory of another State Party or on the high seas. When astronauts make such a landing, they shall be safely and promptly returned to the State of registry of their space vehicle.

Article VI

States Parties to the Treaty shall bear international responsibility for national activities, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, for the prevention of such activities on the part of any national of any State Party to the Treaty, States Parties to the Treaty shall require that their nationals and those of other States Parties to the Treaty, States Parties to the Treaty shall have priority in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and shall also have priority in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, which may be caused to interfere with activities of States Parties to the Treaty in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, provided that such agreements do not conflict with the provisions of this Treaty.

Article VII

Each State Party to the Treaty that launches or procures the launching of an object into outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and each State Party from whose territory or facility an object is launched, is internationally liable for damage to any other State Party to the Treaty or to its natural or juridical persons by such object or its component parts on the Earth, in air space, or in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies.

Article VIII

A State Party to the Treaty on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried shall retain jurisdiction and control over such object, and any personnel thereof, while it is in outer space or on a celestial body, the United States, through its representatives in such outer space, including objects launched or constructed on a celestial body, and of their component parts, is affected by the laws of the United States, or by its return to the Earth. Such objects, component parts located beyond the limits of the Earth, or objects launched or constructed on a celestial body, shall be returned to that State Party, which shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to their return.

Article IX

In the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, States Parties to the Treaty shall be guided by the principles of cooperation and mutual assistance and shall conduct their activities with due regard to the interests and concerns of other States Parties to the Treaty, States Parties to the Treaty shall have priority in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and shall also have priority in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, which may be caused to interfere with activities of States Parties to the Treaty in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, provided that such agreements do not conflict with the provisions of this Treaty.

Article X

In order to promote international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in conformity with the purpose of this Treaty, the States Parties to the Treaty shall consult among themselves with a view to having the dispute resolved by negotiation, inquiry, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement or other peaceful means of their own choice.

Article XI

1. Each State Party to the Treaty concerning the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and each State Party from whose territory or facility an object is launched, is internationally liable for damage to any other State Party to the Treaty or to its natural or juridical persons by such object or its component parts on the Earth, in air space, or in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies.

2. The document A/6932 of the United States of America: request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the twenty-first session.

Letter dated 17 September 1966 from the representative of the United States of America to the International Space Station-General.

I have the honor to request on behalf of the Government of the United States of America the inclusion of this document in the agenda of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Treaty governing the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies." We are presenting this agenda item, taking into account the fact that agreement has not yet been reached in the Committee on