Article III
Outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.

Article IV
The Parties to the Treaty shall carry on activities in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Basis of Reciprocity of the United Nations, and the principles of peaceful coexistence as well as the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article V
States Parties to the Treaty shall regard as non-binding any agreements or arrangements entered into by them in respect of their activities in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, which are not consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article VI
The provisions of this treaty shall apply to the activities of States Parties to the Treaty in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, as well as to any objects launched into outer space, including objects placed in orbit around the Earth.

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, is responsible and liable for such object and any object carried thereby. In case of outer space objects not under the control of a State, the State responsible for having placed the objects in outer space is responsible and liable for such objects.

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 person thereof, while it is in outer space or on a celestial body of another State Party, and shall be entitled to the rights associated with such control, including the right to remove such object from outer space and to return it to the Earth.
the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, so that the General Assembly may have before it as an agenda item the treaty proposal of the United States Government of 16 June 1966, brought up to date by modifications that take into account the Legal Sub-Committee’s work.

The General Assembly will thus have clearly before it in this general subject: a) the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the United States proposal for a “Treaty Governing the Exploration and Use of Outer Space,” including the Moon and other celestial bodies; and b) the report of the United Nations entitled “Conclusion of an international agreement on legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of the Moon and other celestial bodies.”

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have my letter, together with the enclosed explanatory memorandum and proposed treaty, circulated as an official document of the United Nations.

(Signed) Arthur J. Goldberg
Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. During the past year considerable attention has been devoted to the need for and development of a treaty, or series of treaties, concerning activities in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies. In May 1966 the United States and interested Governments had private consultations on this subject with one another and with such distinguished persons as Mr. Waldheim, Chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. On 16 June the United States circulated to members of the Committee a draft treaty entitled “Treaty Governing the Exploration and Use of Outer Space,” including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.” On the same day the Soviet Union circulated a draft treaty on this subject.

2. In the interest of making the most rapid possible progress, the United States proposed that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space be convened on 12 July to take up this important and urgent matter. Although the Soviet Union did not express any public opposition to the formulation of such a treaty in General Assembly, the Soviet Union and other Governments have since indicated that the proposal of the United States is probably the best method of bringing together the various elements of this subject as a basis for further work.

3. It has thus been possible for the Legal Sub-Committee and the parent Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to bring work on this matter to a successful conclusion notwithstanding the clear desire of most members to conclude this treaty with its important provisions banning weapons of mass destruction from outer space and assuring free access by to the Moon and other celestial bodies.

4. The urgency of this matter is made apparent even on a rapid stride in space. The United States and other observers are already engaged in the General Assembly that discussions in Geneva and New York have not only been necessary the presentation to the General Assembly of amendments to the United Nations on the inclusion of the agenda of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 53 of the General Assembly, an item entitled “Treaty governing the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies.”

5. The treaty proposed by the United States incorporates the United States proposal of 16 June 1966 and the proposals of the Legal Sub-Committee during its fifth session. The text of the proposed treaty is attached.

DRAFT TREATY GOVERNING THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE, INCLUDING THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES

The Contracting Parties,
Recalling General Assembly resolution 626 (XVI) entitled “Declaration of Legal Principles Governing Activities in Outer Space and the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,” adopted unanimously by the General Assembly on 13 December 1963,
Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the establishment of international co-ordination and use of space for peaceful purposes,
Desiring to contribute to broad international co-operation in all matters relating to the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,
Anticipating the substantial contributions to scientific knowledge that will flow from international co-operation in the scientific investigation of outer space and celestial objects,
Agreed as follows:

Article 1

The exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out in accordance with the principles and general purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Article 2

The States Parties to the Treaty undertake to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or other 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. The establishment of military forces or military bases on the Moon and other celestial bodies, and the conduct of military operations thereon, shall be prohibited. The present Treaty does not prohibit the use of any type of personnel or equipment for scientific research or any other peaceful purpose.

Article 3

Outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.

Article 4

The States 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 peaceful international co-operation and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding.

Article 5

All stations, installations, equipment and space vehicles on the Moon and other celestial bodies shall be open to inspection by representatives of other States Parties to this Treaty on a basis of reciprocal treatment. Such representatives shall be afforded the opportunity to visit and take part in the maintenance of such stations, installations, equipment and space vehicles in order that appropriate consultations may be held and that maximum precautions may be taken to ensure safety and to avoid interference with normal operations in the facility to be visited.

Article 6

The States Parties to the Treaty take note of the desirability of the fullest exchange of information concerning the scientific results of their activities on celestial bodies and, to the extent feasible and appropriate, activities related to the other Parties to the Treaty or the Special Consultative Status of the United Nations and to the international scientific community.

Article 7

The States Parties to the Treaty shall regard astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space and shall refrain from acts likely to cause accident, distress or emergency to the astronauts or other personnel of the other State Party or on the high seas. Where astronauts make contact with objects on other celestial bodies, they shall be safely and promptly returned to the State of registry of their spacecraft.

In carrying on activities in outer space and on celestial bodies, the astronauts of one State Party shall render all possible assistance to the astronauts of other States Parties.

Article 8

The States Parties to the Treaty shall immediately inform the other Parties to the Treaty or the Secretary-General of the United Nations of any phenomena they discover in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, which could constitute a danger to the life or health of astronauts.

Article 9

Each State Party to the Treaty that launches or operates space vehicles in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and each State Party from whose territory or facility an object is launched or falls from outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, to another State Party to the Treaty or to its natural persons by such objects or its component parts on the territory of another State Party to the Treaty in its outer space or in its space vehicles Xi

Article 10

The States Parties to the Treaty shall bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, for other such activities are carried on by governmental agencies or by governmental entities, and for assuring that national activities are carried out in conformity with the provisions set forth in the present Treaty. The activities of non-governmental enterprises in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall require authorization and continued supervision by the State concerned. When activities are carried on in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, by an international organization, responsibility for compliance with this Treaty shall be borne by the international organization and by the States Parties to the Treaty participating in such organization.
jurisdiction and control over such object, and over any personnel thereof, while in outer space or on the Moon or other celestial body. Ownership of objects launched into outer space, including objects landed or constructed on a celestial body, and of their component parts, is not affected by their presence in outer space or on a celestial body or by their return to Earth. Such objects or component parts found beyond the limits of the State Party to the TREATY who registered them are considered to be returned to that State, which shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to their return.

Article 12
Any dispute arising from the interpretation or application of this Treaty shall be settled by agreement between the Contracting Parties. If agreement cannot be reached within one year from the date of receipt of the Secretary-General of the General Assembly, the question shall be submitted to the International Court of Justice for decision.

Article 13
The provisions of this Treaty are adopted without prejudice to the negotiation of future specific agreements on the peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies.

Article 14
This Treaty shall be signed for signature by States Members of the United Nations or of any of the specialized agencies or parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and by any other State invited by the General Assembly of the United Nations to become a Party. Any such State which does not sign this Treaty may accede to it at any time.

Article 15
This Treaty shall be subject to ratification or approval by signatory States. Instruments of ratification or approval and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 16
This Treaty shall enter into force upon the deposit of the second instrument of ratification, approval or accession. It shall enter into force as to a State ratifying, approving or acceding thereafter upon the deposit of its instrument of ratification, approval or accession.

DOCUMENT A/6831
Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

[Original text: English [22 September 1969]

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I. INTRODUCTION
1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space met at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 12 April 1969. The President of the Committee, Mr. Kurt Waldheim (Austria), Mr. Theophil F. L. Tantcheff (Canada) and Vincenzo Gaetani of the Technical Assistance Division (United Nations) announced that the Committee had met on 9 September, in chair with Mr. Mihail Hagaescu (Romania). Mr. Roy E. Payton (United States) and Dr. José Geraldo de Carvalho Soares (Brazil), as Rapporteur of the Committee's final report. The working papers of the Committee's meetings were circulated as documents A/AC.105/45.

Meetings of sub-committee and the Working Group
2. The fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee was convened at United Nations Office, Geneva, on 18 August under the chairmanship of Mr. D. F. Martyn (Australia). The Subcommittee held eleven meetings and concluded its work on 27 April 1966. The Subcommittee's report was circulated as a document A/AC.105/31.

3. The fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee was convened at the United Nations Office, Geneva, on 12 August under the chairmanship of Mr. Manfred Laubscher (Switzerland). The session was suspended on 4 August as was resumed at United Nations Headquarters from 12 to 16 September. The Subcommittee's report was circulated as document A/AC.105/35.

4. The Working Group of the Whole, established Pursuant to resolution 16831 on the establishment of a committee of experts to examine the desirability of establishing an international conference to be held in 1967 on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, met at United Nations Headquarters from 15 January to 6 March 1969. The officers of the Committee as officers of the Working Group. The Working Group's first and second reports were circulated as documents A/AC.105/25 and A/AC.105/34.

Eighth session of the Committee
5. At its 48th meeting, on 19 September 1966, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

- Election of Vice-Chairman
- Report of the Chairman
- Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
- Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and related matters (A/AC.105/31)
- Report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/32)
- Report of the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/34)

6. In addition to the documents listed in the agenda, the following documents were submitted for the information of the Committee: (a) a report by the Secretary-General on a draft study on the costs of outer space research under the auspices of the United Nations, including potential costs and costs savings for the United Nations and others (A/AC.105/C.1/L.15); (b) a note by the Secretary-General on the resources and training of specialists in the peaceful uses of outer space; (c) a report by the United Nations on space exploration and training (A/AC.105/C.1/L.15); (d) a review of national and international space activities (A/AC.105/78); (e) a report by the Working Group of the Whole on space exploration and training established by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions (A/AC.105/L.27); (e) a report furnished by COSPAR concerning the work of the Consultative Committee, the distribution of sounding rocket launching facilities (A/AC.105/L.138); (f) a review of the activities and reports of the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and of other competent international bodies relating to the peaceful uses of outer space (A/AC.105/31/A.1); (g) the report of the Advisory Panel for the Third Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) on its first session (A/AC.105/L.31); (h) a statement by the Secretary-General on the financial implications of the proposed international conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (A/AC.105/L.31).

7. The opening statement by the Chairman is reproduced in annex I.

8. The Committee adopted its report to the General Assembly at its 45th meeting, on 19 September 1966.

9. The Committee's recommendations and decisions are set out below.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
10. The Committee endorsed the recommendations set out in paragraphs 15 to 36 of the Sub-Committee's report and reproduced in annex II.

Report of the Legal Subcommittee
11. The Committee took note of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee. The report is reproduced in annex III.

Report of the Working Group of the Whole
12. The Committee endorsed the recommendations set out in paragraphs 3, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 15 of the Working Group's second report (A/AC.105/44). The Working Group's recommendations are reproduced in annex IV.

13. The representative of Mexico proposed that the words "examination of the desirability of establishing a permanent center for information and consultation within the United Nations Secretariat" should be added to item 8 (International co-operation for space research and application), in the draft agenda recommended by the Working Group. The Committee agreed to refer the proposal to the General Assembly for further consideration.

14. With regard to the site of the conference, the Committee agreed that the conference should be held at Vienna in the first part of September 1967, prior to the opening of the twenty-second session of the General Assembly.

15. The Committee agreed that the cost of the conference, the exact amount to be determined after consultations with members and with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Financial Affairs, and the cost of the conference, the exact amount to be determined after consultations with members and with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Financial Affairs, and the cost of the conference, the exact amount to be determined after consultations with members and with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Financial Affairs, the statement of financial implications by the Secretary-General is reproduced in annex V.

16. With regard to the organization of the conference, the Chairman announced, following consultations with members, that the panel of experts referred to in paragraphs 8 of the Working Group's report would be composed of representatives of the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Italy, Japan, Romania, Sweden,