By operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution I submitted by the First Committee in document A/6621, General Assembly would decide that a United Nation conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space should be held at Vienna in September. By operative paragraph 2, the Assembly would see the detailed recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/643) concerning the terms of reference, draft agenda and organization of such a conference. Furthermore, by operative paragraph 6, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, the assistance of the Chairman of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in cooperation with the interested specialized agencies, to make, on the ceiling of expenditure established for the conference, the necessary organizational and administrative arrangements.

From the discussions in the First Committee, it clear that the ceiling referred to in regard to expenditure for the conference was that envisaged in paragraph 15 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in the amount of between $300,000 and $350,000.

A statement of the financial implications of the holding of a conference at Headquarters or at the United Nations Office at Geneva was submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space by the Secretary-General (A/643, annex V). These estimates ranged from $225,850 to $376,850, depending upon the decisions to be taken with regard to the form and content of the published proceedings.

4. In the light of the decisions taken by the First Committee as contained in the draft resolution, the Secretary-General will, in consultation with and with the assistance of the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, review the estimates of expenditure for the conference so as to ensure that the necessary arrangements for holding it can be made within the expenditure ceiling recommended. In this regard, the question of the form and content of the published proceedings will need to be carefully considered.

5. Accordingly, should the draft resolution be adopted by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General would need to seek an additional appropriation for 1967 in the amount of $350,000 under section 2 (Special meetings and conferences). The Secretary-General would further assume that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2166 (XX), any additional expenditure involved in holding the conference at Vienna, over and above the cost of holding it at Geneva, would be borne by the host Government.

DOCUMENT A/6621

Report of the First Committee

[Original text: English and Russian] [17 December 1966]

The item "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the forty-first session of the General Assembly (A/6295) on the basis of resolution 2130 (XX) of 21 December 1965.

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" was included in the provisional agenda at the request of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, transmitted to the Secretary-General in a letter (A/6341) dated 30 May 1966 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations.

The inclusion of an additional item entitled "Treaty governing the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies" requested by the Government of the United States of America in a letter (A/6392) dated 17 September 1966 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

4. At its 162nd and 163rd meetings, on 21 and 22 September, the General Committee recommended the inclusion of the three items in the agenda and their allocation to the First Committee (A/6335). On the proposal of its sponsor, the wording of the item referred to in paragraph 2 above was changed to read: "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".

5. At its 145th plenary meeting, on 24 September, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee and allocated the three items to the First Committee for consideration and report.

6. The Committee considered the three items at its 1491st, 1492nd and 1493rd meetings, on 16 and 17 December 1966. It agreed to consider items 89 (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) and 91 (Treaty governing the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial
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Agenda items 30, 89 and 91

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1. "Decides that a United Nations conference on the exploration of outer space should be held at Vienna in September 1967;"

2. "Endorses the detailed recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session (A/6431), concerning the terms of reference, objectives, draft agenda and organization of such a conference, including the composition and terms of reference of the panel of experts;"

3. "Endorses in particular the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that such a conference shall be held at Vienna in September 1967; it will examine the practical benefits of space programmes on the basis of scientific and technical achievements, for international co-operation in space activities, with special reference to the needs of the developing States;"

4. "Invites the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the panel of experts to attend the conference as observers;"

5. "Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the panel of experts, to convene and act as a panel of experts, with the interest of the specialized agencies with which it will consider, within the limits of expenditure established for the conference, the necessary organizational and administrative arrangements;"

6. "Recommends the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session a report on the preparation of the conference and the organization and proceedings of the conference;"

7. "On 15 December, a draft resolution (A/C.1/ L.395) was submitted by Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United States of America and the United Arab Republic, subsequently joined by Madagascar (A/C.1/L.395/Add.1), under which a new operative paragraph was inserted, as follows:"

8. "Endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning exchange of information, encouragement of international programmes, international cooperation in the field of outer space activities and training;"

9. "Welcomes the intention of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to increase the usefulness of its activities, particularly the exchange of information on outer space matters by preparing expanded documents on thematic subjects;"

10. "Notes with appreciation that a number of Member States have assisted the information programme of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space by providing ample descriptive material on their national space programmes, and urges all Member States to contribute this information to the greatest extent feasible and practicable;"

11. "Welcomes the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue to establish a working group to consider the need, feasibility and implementation of a navigation services satellite system;"

12. "Revises its request, contained in section III, paragraph I, of resolution 2190 (XX), to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and making use of the available resources of the Secretariat and in consultation with the specialized agencies, to cooperate with the Committee on Space Research, the Consultative Assembly and the training and space flight training of specialists in the peaceful uses of outer space to ensure the greatest benefits;"

13. "Expresses the desire that these considerations be reported upon to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session;"

14. "Endorses the guidelines adopted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to be used in procedures where international co-operation is requested for the training of specialists of Member States in the specialized fields of space science and technology;"

15. "Urges that space activities be carried out in such a manner that States may share in the adventure and the practical benefits of space exploration regardless of the stage of their economic or scientific development;"

16. "Commends the co-operative space programmes in effect between many Member States and recommends such programmes to the attention of all States;"

17. "Notes with appreciation that Member States have continued to contribute to the goals of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as laid down in its reports, by establishing and strengthening educational and training programmes, and urges all States to take the same action;"

18. "Recommends that those responsible for the development of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Station in India report to the United Nations in particular the Member States associated with the Thumba Station operation of the facility, the United Nations Development Programme and the Committee concerned, should extend the assistance necessary to continue the development of that station;"

19. "With appreciation that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI), the Secretary-General continues to maintain a public registry of objects launched into orbit or beyond on the basis of information being furnished by Member States;"

20. "Supports the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning an expanded role for the Committee in its title as the principal centre of information for Member States, particularly the developing countries and Member States in Africa;"

21. "Notes with appreciation the reports submitted by the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Union and their activities in the field of outer space and invites these organizations to make progress reports to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1967;"

22. "Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue to prepare, as necessary, reports on the present resolution and in previous General Assembly resolutions and to report to the Assembly at its twenty-second session;"

23. "At its 1491st meeting, on 16 December, the Committee voted on the sub-amendment (A/C.1/L.395) to the amendment (A/C.1/L.394 and Add.1) to the twenty-eight-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.395 and Add.1). The sub-amendment was rejected by 44 votes to 31, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:"

Against: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominica, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Laos, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigéria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Austria, Canada, Central African Republic, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Dahomey, Ecuador, Finland, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Uganda, United Nations, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Agains: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominica, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Laos, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigéria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Against: Argentina, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Guinea, Hungary,
Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia.


14. The Committee next voted on the twenty-eighth draft resolution (A/C.1/L.396 and Add.l), as amended. The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously (see paragraph 19 below, draft resolution II).

15. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Romanian Soviet Socialist Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

16. The representative of Indonesia stated that if he had been present during the voting, he would have voted in favour of the draft resolution, in favour of the sub-amendment (A/C.1/L.395) and against the amendment (A/C.1/L.394 and Add.1).

17. At the 1993rd meeting, Chile, Mexico and the United Arab Republic submitted an amendment (A/C.1/L.398) to the forty-three-power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.396 and Add.2 and Proposing the adoption, at the end of operation, of the principle of "free and open trade", or words to the effect that: "in the broad spirit of the United Nations charter, the General Assembly urges all the Governments to adopt action to achieve the ultimate goal of universal peace and prosperity.

18. At the 219th meeting, the forty-three-power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.396 and Add.1) was adopted without objection (see paragraph 19 below, draft resolution II).

19. The seventy-power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.396 and Add.1) was amended by the Committee at its 224th meeting (see paragraph 9 below, draft resolution III).

1. The present document was adopted by the Committee on 19 December 1966.

2. The Committee decided to accept the General Assembly's recommendations, an additional appropriation in the amount of $330,000 would be required under section 2 (Special meetings and conferences) of the 1967 budget.

3. The present document was adopted by the Committee on 19 December 1966.