

Note by the Secretary-General

[Original text: English]
[17 December 1966]

By operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution I submitted by the First Committee in document A/6621, the General Assembly would decide that a United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space should be held at Vienna in September 1967.

By operative paragraph 2, the Assembly would endorse the detailed recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/6431) concerning the terms of reference, activities, draft agenda and organization of such a conference. Furthermore, by operative paragraph 6, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in co-operation with the interested specialized agencies, to make, within the ceiling of expenditure established for the conference, the necessary organizational and administrative arrangements.

From the discussions in the First Committee, it is clear that the ceiling referred to in regard to expenditures 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/6431, annex V). These estimates ranged from \$225,850 to \$576,850, 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 2116 (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 twenty-first session of the General Assembly (A/6350) 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/6395). 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 1415th 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

bodies) as sub-items of item 30 (International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space).

7. On 15 December, a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.393) was submitted by Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Rwanda (A/C.1/L.393/Add.1).

The operative part of the draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"1. Decides that a United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses 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 the objectives of the conference shall be to examine the practical benefits of space programmes on the basis of scientific and technical achievements, and the opportunities available to non-space Powers for international co-operation in space activities, with special reference to the needs of the developing countries;

"4. Invites the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Committee on Space Research of the International Council of Scientific Unions and intergovernmental space organizations 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 within its terms of reference, and in co-operation with the interested specialized agencies, to make, within the ceiling of expenditure established for the conference, the necessary organizational and administrative arrangements;

"6. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session a report on the preparations for, and the organization and proceedings of the conference."

8. On 15 December, an amendment to draft resolution A/C.1/L.393 and Add.1 was submitted by Australia, Belgium, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (A/C.1/L.394), subsequently joined by Madagascar (A/C.1/L.394/Add.1), under which a new operative paragraph 4 would be inserted reading as follows:

"4. Invites States Members of the United Nations, States members of the specialized agencies, States Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice and States that the General Assembly de-

cides specially to invite, to participate in the Conference".

and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the draft resolution would be renumbered 5, 6 and 7.

9. On 15 December a sub-amendment to the amendment in document A/C.1/L.394 and Add.1 was submitted by Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia (A/C.1/L.395), under which the proposed new operative paragraph 4 would be amended to read:

"4. Invites all States to participate in the Conference".

10. On 15 December a draft resolution was submitted by Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay (A/C.1/L.396), subsequently joined by Greece, Nigeria and Rwanda (A/C.1/L.396/Add.1) and Liberia and Mauritania (A/C.1/L.396/Add.2).

The operative part of the draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"1. Commends the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

"2. Requests the Depositary Governments to open the Treaty for signature and ratification at the earliest possible date;

"3. Expresses its hope for the widest possible adherence to this Treaty;

"4. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space:

"(a) To continue its work on the elaboration of an agreement on liability for damages caused by the launching of objects into outer space and an agreement on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles, which are on the agenda of the Committee;

"(b) To begin at the same time the study questions relative to the definition of outer space and the utilization of outer space and celestial bodies;

"(c) To report on the progress of its work to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session."

11. On 16 December, a draft resolution was submitted by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, France, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Sweden, the United Arab Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (A/C.1/L.397), subsequently joined by Belgium and Liberia (A/C.1/L.397/Add.1). The operative part of the draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"1. 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 sounding rocket launching facilities, and education and training;

"2. Welcomes the intention of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to increase the usefulness of its activities in the exchange of information on outer space matters by preparing expanded reports annually on a specific date;

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

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

"5. Reiterates its request, contained in section III, paragraph 1, of resolution 2130 (XX), to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and making use of the available resources of the Secretariat and in consultation with the specialized agencies and in co-operation with the Committee on Space Research, the preparation and consideration of suggestions for programmes of education and training of specialists in the peaceful uses of outer space to assist the developing countries;

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

"7. Endorses the guidelines adopted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to be applied where international support or sponsorship is requested for the training of specialists of Member States in the specialized fields of space science and technology;

"8. 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;

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

"10. Notes with appreciation that certain 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 others to take the same action;

"11. Recommends that those responsible for the development of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station, and in particular the Member States associated with the construction and operation of the facility, the United Nations Development Programme and the specialized agencies concerned, should extend all the assistance necessary to continue the development of that station;

"12. Notes also 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;

"13. Suggests that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space examine means to increase its usefulness as a centre of information for Member States, particularly the developing countries and those with small space programmes;

"14. Notes with appreciation the reports submitted by the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Union on 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;

"15. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work as set forth in the present resolution and in previous General Assembly resolutions and to report to the Assembly at its twenty-second session."

12. 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.393 and Add.1). The sub-amendment was rejected by 44 votes to 31, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Iraq, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia.

Against: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Austria, Central African Republic, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Dahomey, Ecuador, Finland, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Sweden, Tunisia, Venezuela.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on the amendment (A/C.1/L.394 and Add.1) to the twenty-eight-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.393 and Add.1). The amendment was adopted by 56 votes to 15, with 18 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Against: Algeria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Guinea, Hungary,

Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, United Arab Republic, Venezuela.

14. The Committee next voted on the twenty-eight-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.393 and Add.1), as amended. The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously (see paragraph 19 below, draft resolution I). 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, Kenya, 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, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

15. 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).

16. At the 1493rd 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.1 and 2) proposing the addition, at the end of operative paragraph 4 (b), of the words "including the various implications of space communications". The amendment was accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution.

17. At the same meeting, the forty-three-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.396 and Add.1 and 2), as amended, was adopted without objection (see paragraph 19 below, draft resolution II).

18. The seventeen-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.397 and Add.1) was adopted without objection (see paragraph 19, draft resolution III).

Recommendations of the First Committee

19. The first Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

[Text adopted by the General Assembly without change. See "Action taken by the General Assembly" below.]

Draft resolution II

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

[Text adopted by the General Assembly without change. See "Action taken by the General Assembly" below.]

Draft resolution III

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

[Text adopted by the General Assembly without change. See "Action taken by the General Assembly" below.]

DOCUMENT A/6627

Financial implications of draft resolution I submitted by the First Committee in document A/6621

Report of the Fifth Committee

[Original text: English]
[19 December 1966]

1. At its 1172nd meeting, on 19 December 1966, the Fifth Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1111) on the financial implications of draft resolution I submitted by the First Committee in document A/6621, concerning the convening of a United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space at Vienna in September 1967. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions presented orally that Committee's report on the matter.

2. The Fifth Committee decided to advise the General Assembly that, should it adopt the First Committee's recommendation, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$350,000 would be required under section 2 (Special meetings and conferences) of the 1967 budget.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At its 1499th plenary meeting, on 19 December 1966, the General Assembly adopted unanimously draft resolutions I, II and III submitted by the First Committee (A/6621, para. 19). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Supplement No. 16*, resolutions 2221 (XXI), 2222 (XXI) and 2223 (XXI), respectively.

CHECK LIST OF DOCUMENTS

NOTE. This check list includes the documents mentioned during the consideration of agenda items 30, 89 and 91 which are not reproduced in the present fascicle.

Document No.	Title or description	Observations and references
A/6352	Letter dated 16 June 1966 from the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Secretary-General, transmitting a draft treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, the Moon and other celestial bodies	Mimeographed. For the draft treaty, see A/6431, annex III, appendix I, B
A/AC.105/L.24	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: note by the Secretariat transmitting the fifth report by the International Telecommunication Union on telecommunication and the peaceful uses of outer space	Mimeographed. For the report, see <i>Fifth Report by the International Telecommunication Union on Telecommunication and the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space</i> (ITU, Geneva, 1966)
A/AC.105/L.26	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: note by the Secretariat transmitting suggestions of Member States regarding the draft agenda of the proposed 1967 international conference on the peaceful uses of outer space	Mimeographed
A/AC.105/L.29	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: review of the activities and resources of the United Nations, of its specialized agencies and of other competent international bodies relating to the peaceful uses of outer space	Ditto
A/AC.105/L.30	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: report of the Advisory Panel for the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station	Ditto
A/AC.105/L.31	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: note by the Secretariat transmitting the fifth report by the World Meteorological Organization on the advancement of atmospheric sciences and their application in the light of developments in outer space	Mimeographed. For the report, see <i>Fifth Report on the Advancement of Atmospheric Sciences and their Application in the light of Development in Outer Space</i> (Secretariat of WMO, Geneva, August 1966)
A/C.1/941	Letter dated 9 December 1966 from the representative of Liberia to the Secretary-General, transmitting excerpts from an address delivered on 8 December 1966 by the President of the Republic of Liberia	Mimeographed
A/C.1/944	Statement made by the representative of Poland at the 1491st meeting of the First Committee, on 16 December 1966	Mimeographed; for summary, see A/C.1/SR.1491, paras. 5-12
A/C.1/L.393 and Add.1	Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Yugoslavia: draft resolution	See A/6621, para. 7
A/C.1/L.394 and Add.1	Australia, Belgium, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: amendment to document A/C.1/L.393 and Add.1	See A/6621, para. 8
A/C.1/L.395	Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia: amendment to document A/C.1/L.394 and Add.1	See A/6621, para. 9
A/C.1/L.396 and Add.1-2	Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay: draft resolution	See A/6621, para. 10
A/C.1/L.397 and Add.1	Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, France, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution	Adopted without change. See A/6621, para. 19
A/C.1/L.398	Chile, Mexico and United Arab Republic: amendment to document A/C.1/L.396 and Add.1-2	See A/6621, para. 16