

State or States or international organization responsible for launching.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: DRAFT PROPOSAL ON LIABILITY FOR SPACE VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Recognizing that there may occur personal injury, loss of life or property damage as a result of space vehicle accidents, Recognizing that States and international organizations responsible for the launching of space vehicles should be liable internationally for such injury, loss or damage, Believing that there should be agreed rules and procedures applicable to such cases,

1. *Requests the Secretary-General to constitute a small advisory panel of legal experts drawn from various geographic areas;*

2. *Requests the advisory panel thus constituted to prepare a draft of an international agreement dealing with the liability of States and international organizations for injury, loss or damage caused by space vehicles;*

3. *Commends to the advisory panel for its guidance the following principles:*

(a) *States or international organizations responsible for the launching of space vehicles should be liable internationally for personal injury, loss of life or property damage caused thereby, whether such injury, loss or damage occurs on land, on the sea or in the air;*

(b) *A claim based on personal injury, loss of life or property damaged caused by a space vehicle should not require proof of fault on the part of the State or States or international organization responsible for launching the space vehicle in question, although the degree of care which ought reasonably to have been exercised by the person or entity on whose behalf claim is made might properly be taken into account;*

(c) *A claim may be presented internationally to the State or States or international organization responsible for the launching of a space vehicle causing injury, loss or damage without regard to the prior exhaustion of any local remedies that may be available;*

(d) *The presentation of a claim should be made within a reasonable time after the occurrence of injury, loss or damage;*

(e) *The International Court of Justice should have jurisdiction to adjudicate any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of the international agreement on liability in the absence of agreement between the States concerned upon another means of settlement;*

4. *Requests the advisory panel to transmit the draft international agreement to the Legal Sub-Committee at an early date.*

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UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC: DRAFT CODE FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,

Having in mind that the Members of the United Nations, according to the Charter, are determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recognizing that it is imperative in the interest of mankind that activities in outer space should be exclusively devoted to the peaceful uses of outer space,

Recognizing further that the General Assembly, in its resolution 1721 (XVI), has urged that the United Nations should be a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space,

Noting the interrelationship of the technical and legal aspects of any activity in outer space,

Conscious of the impact of consolidating the efforts of Member States in promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space,

Believing that, to reach this end, it is necessary to have as guidance a framework which defines the future of its activities,

I

Decides that the Committee should be guided in its work by the following principles:

1. *The activities of Member States in outer space should be confined solely to the peaceful uses;*

2. *In their policies toward outer space Member States should promote international and peaceful co-operation;*

3. *Member States bear special responsibility emanating from their obligations to secure the safety of space for astronauts in outer space;*

4. *Member States agree to provide every possible assistance to personnel of space vehicles who may be the subject of accident or experience conditions of distress or who may land by reason of accident, distress or mistake;*

5. *Member States shall undertake to return to the State or international organization responsible for launching space vehicles these space vehicles and their personnel;*

6. *One of the main objectives in international peaceful co-operation in outer space is to develop special programmes in which the developing countries can participate with a view to promoting world-wide interest in outer space;*

7. *Member States agree to make full use of the facilities and experience of all international organizations, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations which have activities in outer space;*

8. *Member States will exert every possible effort to provide the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, with all information necessary for the promoting of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space;*

9. *Member States shall undertake to give all possible assistance to the United Nations and its affiliated organizations to undertake joint programmes of training and research to promote science and technology in outer space;*

II

Decides to establish a sub-committee to examine the best practical procedure in order to put into practice the aforementioned principles.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/879

Letter dated 4 December 1962 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee

[Original text: English]
[4 December 1962]

In connexion with the debate on agenda item 27 (International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space), I have the honour to request that the attached "Draft declaration of basic principles governing the activities of States pertaining to the exploration and

use of outer space," be circulated as a document of the First Committee.

(Signed) A. H. CAMPBELL
For Sir Patrick DEAN

Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the United Nations

DRAFT DECLARATION OF BASIC PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES PERTAINING TO THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE

1. Outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States in conformity with international law. This freedom shall include free navigation by means of space vehicles, the establishment of space stations and other like devices, the conduct of scientific research, and the landing on and exploration of celestial bodies, and shall be exercised by all States with due regard to the interests of other States in the exploration and use of outer space, and to the need for consultation and co-operation between States in relation to such exploration and use.

2. Outer space and celestial bodies are not capable of appropriation or exclusive use by any State. Accordingly, no State may claim sovereignty over outer space or over any celestial body, nor can such sovereignty be acquired by means of use or occupation or in any other way.

3. In the exploration and use of outer space and celestial bodies States are bound by international law and by the provisions of the United Nations Charter and other international agreements which may be applicable.

4. All States shall, for themselves and for their nationals, have equal rights in the exploration and use of outer space. These rights shall be exercised in accordance with international law and with the principles affirmed in this declaration.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/830

Letter dated 5 December 1962 from the Permanent Representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to the Secretary-General

[Original text: English and Russian]
[5 December 1962]

We have the honour herewith to submit documents relating to an agreement reached on co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space as a result of meetings between Dr. Hugh Dryden of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Academician A. A. Blagonravov of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

We request that these documents be circulated to all Members of the United Nations as an official United Nations document.

(Signed) Adlai E. STEVENSON
Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations

(Signed) V. ZORIN
Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations

STATEMENT DATED 8 JUNE 1962 BY ACADEMICIAN A. A. BLAGONRAVOV OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND DR. HUGH L. DRYDEN OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

The representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have conducted discussions on the question of co-operation in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes during the period 29 May to 8 June 1962. The agreed upon recommendations are described in the attached documents, the texts of which have been checked by us in both languages and are identical.

(Signed) A. A. BLAGONRAVOV

(Signed) Hugh L. DRYDEN

Summary of understandings

Introduction

1. Following the exchange of views between Nikita S. Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers

of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America, regarding co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, the USSR and United States representatives designated for the purpose have discussed in some detail the possibilities of co-operation in meteorology, a world geomagnetic survey, and satellite telecommunications.

2. In the field of meteorology, it is important that the two satellite launching nations contribute their capabilities toward the establishment of a global weather satellite system for the benefit of other nations.

3. The compilation of a map of the magnetic field of the earth with the aid of satellites is extremely important both for the further successful exploration of space and for advancing the science of earth magnetism.

4. Telecommunications by means of satellites is expected to lead to a considerable improvement of communications facilities all over the world and can be the most important contribution to the extension of contacts and friendship among nations. Communication satellites can also be used for domestic needs within a single country.

5. The USSR and United States representatives have arrived at the following understanding which they agree to refer to their Governments for consideration.

Meteorology

6. It is agreed that this program falls naturally into two stages, an experimental and an operational stage.

7. The first stage will extend approximately from the present time through 1963-1964 during the development of experimental weather satellites by both the USSR and the United States.

8. In this first stage, the two countries will arrange for the establishment of communication links adequate for the transfer, from each to the other, of the data gathered by each nation from its own experimental meteorological satellites. These communication links would connect the World Weather Centres at Moscow and Washington. A Joint Working Group of technical