

to commence implementation of the agreement reached in Geneva last June by Dr. Dryden and Academician Blagonravov. Since our two Governments have now confirmed this agreement, I believe such a step to be appropriate and desirable.

I am asking Dr. Dryden to communicate with Academician Blagonravov in order to establish mutually

agreeable dates for convening working groups to begin this agreed co-operative program.

I hope, with you, that this first step will be a fruitful one, and that it will lead to other such steps.

(Signed) James E. WEBB
Administrator,

National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/881

Letter dated 8 December 1962 from the representative of the United States of America to the Chairman of the First Committee

[Original text: English]
[8 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 principles relating to the exploration and use of outer space" be circulated as a document of the First Committee.

(Signed) Albert GORE

DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES RELATING TO THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961,

Recognising the common interest of all mankind in furthering the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

Believing that the exploration and use of outer space should be for the betterment of mankind and to the benefit of States irrespective of the stage of their economic or scientific development,

Considering the great importance of international co-operation in this field of human activity,

Believing that such co-operation will contribute to the development of mutual understanding and to the strengthening of friendly relations among nations and peoples,

Commends to States for their guidance in the exploration and use of outer space the following declaration of principles:

1. Outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States, on the basis of equal rights, in conformity with international law;

2. In the exploration and use of outer space and celestial bodies, States are bound by the relevant rules of international law and the relevant provisions of international treaties and agreements including the Charter of the United Nations;

3. Outer space and celestial bodies are not subject to national appropriation;

4. States shall render all possible assistance to the 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. Space vehicle personnel who make such a landing shall be safely and promptly returned to the launching authority;

5. States shall return to the launching authority any space vehicle or part that has landed by reason of accident, distress or mistake. Upon request, the launching authority shall furnish identifying data prior to return;

6. A State or international organization from whose territory or with whose assistance or permission a space vehicle is launched bears international responsibility for the launching, and is internationally liable for personal injury, loss of life or property damage caused by such vehicle on the earth or in air space;

7. Jurisdiction over a space vehicle while it is in outer space shall be retained by the State or international organization which had jurisdiction at the time of launching. Ownership and property rights in a space vehicle and its components remain unaffected in outer space or upon return to the earth.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/L.320 AND ADD.1*

Canada and United States of America: draft resolution

[Original text: English]
[29 November 1962]

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1721 (XVI) on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space,

Bearing in mind that the application of scientific and technological advances in outer space, particularly in the fields of meteorology and communications, can bring great advantages to mankind and contribute to the economic and social progress of the developing countries as

* Document A/C.1/L.320/Add.1, dated 3 December 1962, indicated that Canada had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

envisaged in the United Nations Development Decade programme,

Having considered the report (A/5181) submitted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in response to resolution 1721 (XVI),

I

1. Endorses the recommendations set forth in the report concerning the exchange of information;

2. Notes with appreciation that a number of Member States have already, on a voluntary basis, provided in-