

19. The adoption of this proposal of the Soviet Government would greatly reduce the danger of war in which nuclear weapons would be used; it would constitute a major step toward the complete and unconditional prohibition of atomic and nuclear weapons

with their elimination from armaments; and it would promote the development of broad and effective co-operation among States in cosmic research for peaceful purposes.

DOCUMENT A/3902

United States of America: request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the thirteenth session

[Original text: English]
[2 September 1958]

LETTER DATED 2 SEPTEMBER 1958 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to request the inclusion on the agenda of the thirteenth General Assembly of an item of an important and urgent character entitled:

"Programme for international co-operation in the field of outer space".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure an explanatory memorandum is attached.

(Signed) Henry Cabot LODGE
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America
to the United Nations

Explanatory memorandum

1. Perhaps no event in history has caught the imagination of all mankind more than the development of the new universal frontier through the launching of earth satellites by the Soviet Union and the United States as part of the programme for the International Geophysical Year. The United States is pleased that these first steps to project man's life and knowledge into outer space have been taken under the auspices of this co-operative scientific programme.

2. Outer-space developments are a matter of international concern, because the exploration and eventual exploitation of outer space will affect the life of every human being. Moreover, the nature and immensity of the challenge facing us and the interest it holds for scientists make it clear that activities in outer space can and must be carried out with the appropriate international co-operation and co-ordination within the framework of the United Nations.

3. It is clear that the potentialities for good or evil that will arise from the exploration of outer space are enormous. The potential uses of outer space for destructive purposes are only too apparent. On the other hand, the potential uses of outer space for peaceful purposes in science and engineering, in medicine, in meteorology, in communications, in transportation, etc., can enrich the lives of all men. Urgent steps are therefore needed to lay a solid basis for international co-operation in development of the peaceful uses of outer space. Such steps can be taken while parallel efforts are being made to conclude meaningful agreements on the disarmament aspects of outer space.

4. The General Assembly, as the body most representative of the interests of mankind, should begin to make the necessary steps to further those interests by declaring itself on the separability of the question of the peaceful uses of outer space from that of disarmament; by giving its support to the principle of the peaceful utilization of outer space; by expressing itself in principle to be in favour of the establishment of appropriate international machinery; and by preparing for further careful consideration of this vital but complex matter through the establishment of a representative ad hoc committee to make the necessary detailed studies and recommendations as to what specific steps the Assembly might take to further man's progress in this field and to assure that outer space will be used solely for the benefit of all mankind.

5. To this end the United States requests that the item "Programme for international co-operation in the field of outer space" be placed upon the agenda of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly as an important and urgent matter and will submit a draft resolution to the General Assembly for its consideration.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/L.219

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution

[Original text: Russian]
[7 November 1958]

The General Assembly,

Moved by the desire to promote by every possible means the strengthening of universal peace and security,

Desiring to place the achievements of science and engineering at the service of mankind's peaceful needs and to ensure conditions for the development of co-

operation among all States in the study of cosmic space for peaceful purposes only,

Considering that, in solving the problem of banning the use of cosmic space for military purposes, the legitimate security interests of all States should be taken into account in equal measure,

Recognizes the necessity for concluding for these ends an agreement to prohibit the launching of rockets

into cosmic space for military purposes and to eliminate all foreign military bases on the territories of other countries, such agreement to be based on the following principles:

1. A ban on the use of cosmic space for military purposes and an undertaking by States to launch rockets into cosmic space only under an agreed international programme;

2. The elimination of foreign military bases on the territories of other States, primarily in Europe, the Near and Middle East, and North Africa;

3. The establishment within the framework of the United Nations of appropriate international control over the implementation of the obligations set forth above;

4. The establishment of a United Nations agency for international co-operation in the study of cosmic space which could have the following functions:

(a) To work out an agreed international programme for launching intercontinental and space rockets with the aim of studying cosmic space, and to supervise the implementation of this programme;

(b) To continue on a permanent basis the cosmic-space research now being carried on within the framework of the International Geophysical Year;

(c) To serve as a world centre for the collection, mutual exchange and dissemination of information on cosmic-space research;

(d) To co-ordinate national research programmes for the study of cosmic space and to render all possible assistance and help towards their realization.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/L.219/REV.1

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: revised draft resolution

[Original text: Russian]
[18 November 1958]

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the great importance of international co-operation in the study and exploitation of cosmic space for peaceful purposes,

Considering that such co-operation will promote mutual understanding and the strengthening of friendly relations among peoples,

Recalling in this connexion the successful beginning of such co-operation within the framework of the International Geophysical Year,

1. Recommends the establishment within the framework of the United Nations of an international committee for co-operation in the study of cosmic space for peaceful purposes;

2. Recommends the establishment of a preparatory group consisting of Argentina, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, to draft the programme and rules of the proposed committee;

3. Recommends that the preparatory group, in its work of preparing the programme and rules, should proceed on the basis that the committee should have the following functions:

(a) To continue on a permanent basis the cosmic-space research now being carried on within the framework of the International Geophysical Year;

(b) To organize the mutual exchange and dissemination of information on cosmic-space research;

(c) To co-ordinate national research programmes for the study of cosmic space and to render all possible assistance and help in their realization;

4. Requests the preparatory group to report on the results of its work to the General Assembly at its fourteenth session;

5. Recommends that the committee, after it has been established, should decide on an appropriate form of agreement providing for a close relationship with the United Nations.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/L.220

~~Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Denmark, France, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution~~

[Original text: English]
[13 November 1958]

~~The General Assembly,~~

~~Recognizing the common interest of mankind in outer space and that it is the common aim that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only,~~

~~Bearing in mind the provision of Article 2, paragraph 1 of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that "the Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members",~~

~~Wishing to avoid the extension of present national rivalries into this new field,~~

~~Desiring to promote energetically the fullest exploration and exploitation of outer space for the benefit of mankind,~~

~~Conscious that recent developments in respect of outer space have added a new dimension to man's existence and opened new possibilities for the in-~~