

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,

Recognizing 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-

formation on their national space programmes, and urges other States and regional and international organizations to do so;

3. *Urges* all Members States and appropriate specialized agencies to give whole-hearted and effective support to the international programmes mentioned in the report and already under way, including the International Year of the Quiet Sun and the World Magnetic Survey;

4. *Notes* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space considers that the creation and use of sounding rocket launching facilities under United Nations sponsorship would contribute to the achievement of the objectives of resolution 1721 (XVI) by furthering international collaboration in space research and the advancement of human knowledge, and by providing opportunity for valuable practical training for interested users;

5. *Notes* the recommendation that Member States should consider the establishment under United Nations sponsorship of a sounding rocket facility, or facilities, on the geomagnetic equator, in time for the International Year of the Quiet Sun;

6. *Endorses* the basic principles suggested by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the operation of such facilities under United Nations sponsorship;

7. *Affirms* that such facilities, when established and operated in accordance with these principles, shall, upon request of the host Member State, be eligible for United Nations sponsorship;

## II

1. *Notes with appreciation* the prompt initial response of the World Meteorological Organization to the request of the General Assembly, as embodied in resolution 1721 C (XVI), that it report on a programme to advance atmospheric science research and to develop improved weather forecasting capabilities in the light of developments in outer space;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen weather forecasting services and to encourage their scientific communities to co-operate in the expansion of atmospheric science research;

3. *Recommends* that the World Meteorological Organization, in consultation with other United Nations agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations, should develop in greater detail its plan for an expanded programme to strengthen meteorological services and research, placing particular emphasis upon the use of meteorological satellites and the expansion of training and educational opportunities in these fields;

4. *Invites* the International Council of Scientific Unions through its member unions and national academies to develop an expanded programme of atmospheric

science research which will complement the programmes fostered by the World Meteorological Organization;

5. *Invites* United Nations agencies concerned with the granting of technical and financial assistance, in consultation with the World Meteorological Organization, to give sympathetic consideration to requests from Member States for technical and financial assistance to supplement their own resources for these activities, including the improvement of meteorological networks;

6. *Requests* the World Meteorological Organization, following its Congress in April 1963, to report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-sixth session, on steps taken relating to these activities;

## III

1. *Notes with appreciation* the prompt initial response of the International Telecommunication Union to the request of the General Assembly, as embodied in resolution 1721 D (XVI), that it report on those aspects of space communications in which international co-operation will be required;

2. *Believes* that communication by satellite offers great benefits to mankind as it will permit the expansion of radio, telephone and television transmissions, including the broadcast of United Nations activities, thus facilitating contact among the peoples of the world;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of international co-operation to achieve effective satellite communications which will be available on a world-wide basis;

4. *Observes* that the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union has invited member States to submit information on:

(a) Technical progress and developments in space telecommunications;

(b) Subjects which they regard as appropriate for international co-operation in order to achieve the objectives set forth in resolution 1721 D (XVI);

(c) Which of those subjects, if any, should be included on the agenda of the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference to be held in October 1963;

5. *Notes* that the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, in the light of the replies, will report on these questions to the next meeting of its Administrative Council in March 1963 in order that the Council may complete the agenda for this Conference;

6. *Considers* it of the utmost importance that this Conference make allocations of radio frequency bands sufficient to meet expected outer space needs;

7. *Requests* the International Telecommunication Union to report to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-sixth session on progress made relating to its outer space activities.

## DOCUMENT A/C.5/961

### Financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee in document A/5341 Note by the Secretary-General

[Original text: English]  
[11 December 1962]

1. Under the terms of the draft resolution adopted by the First Committee (A/5341, para. 8), the Com-

mittee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is requested to continue urgently its work.