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Chairman: Mr. MATSCH (Austria)

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [25]

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AGENDA ITEM 25

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/4141)

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee is about to take up the last item on its agenda: "Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" (A/4141).

Members of the Committee are no doubt aware that close consultations have been taking place among delegations principally concerned with this item. My information is that these private talks have yielded positive results which will shortly be presented to the Committee. The Chair of course welcomes this development which will undoubtedly facilitate the deliberations of the Committee on this item. Nevertheless, because the question is of the greatest importance to many Member States, they may wish to express their views in the course of the debate. Already seventeen delegations have been inscribed to speak. The Chair would urge only that those who do wish to intervene should now signify their intention to the Secretary so that we can make arrangements for an adequate discussion of the item.



Mr. LODGE (United States of America): Two years ago the first man-made earth satellite was placed in orbit. A succession of satellites has followed. These have advanced man's scientific knowledge and have demonstrated new techniques for communications and meteorology. Some space probes have escaped beyond orbits around the earth. Notably, the Soviet Union has reached the moon, and some probes have crossed far beyond. Animals have penetrated outer space as passengers aboard space vehicles and have returned safely; man will doubtless follow soon.

The events of the past two years are starting to make clear the promise and the problems concerning man as he ventures into outer space. These beginnings challenge man's political and technological inventiveness. It is a prime task of Governments and of the United Nations to see to it that political progress keeps pace with scientific change. Unless this is done the world runs the serious risk of relying on political institutions and arrangements that are outmoded and inadequate.

In surveying what has happened so far in man's activities relating to outer space and in planning for the future, we ought to inquire very candidly into the reasons for international co-operation in outer space and into the purposes which the United Nations can serve in this connexion. I believe there are several important reasons and purposes for co-operation through the United Nations.

First, outer space is not the concern of one nation or of only a few. It is of interest to all. Fairness to man is that there be an equitable sharing of benefits that may be derived from all operations in this new realm and of the burdens in carrying them on as well. Outer space cannot be anyone's private preserve. The idea of partnership in outer space has secured acceptance by Member States of the United Nations without regard to their developing social and political philosophies. United Nations discussions during the last two years has emphasized the principle of openness and availability of outer space. International co-operation through the United Nations is surely an appropriate means for putting this principle into practice.

Secondly, co-operation among nations will inevitably be necessary for accomplishing many desirable projects in outer space. For example, if such projects require world-wide tracking or telemetering equipment or launching sites in certain geographical locations, or if their cost is too high for any one nation to bear, they will be literally impossible without international co-operation. For still other space activities, such as radio and television satellites, even though international co-operation may not be absolutely necessary, it will be required for maximum efficiency and usefulness.

In general, joint enterprises in outer space will prove more effective than the efforts of any single nation, since each nation can contribute what it has in abundance or does best at any given time. Already other countries have their contributions to make and will develop greater capabilities in the future. If the knowledge of the more advanced nations is diffused, the abilities of all nations can be developed more quickly and brought into play. Through organized international co-operation, the contributions and capabilities of each country can be made most effective.

There is a very practical reason for international co-operation in outer space. Without it the manifold activities being progressively undertaken would begin to conflict and to frustrate each other. For example, the radio spectrum for space communications could become overcrowded and hopelessly confused.

There is still another reason to which we should pay the most serious attention: the cloud of an infinitely devastating nuclear war hangs over all nations. Men have learnt how to accomplish world-wide destruction. Will they be able to forbear from aggressive use of force, bringing all-out nuclear war in its train? The United Nations and its machinery were expressly designed to prevent such a catastrophe.

Governments continue to seek means for bringing unlimited competition in armaments under control and for instituting effective measures of disarmament. Working together on the challenge of outer space can provide Governments with experience in regulating space activities that may prove valuable in the area of disarmament as well. In sum, international co-operation in the exploration of outer space offers an avenue along which nations may approach mutual understanding and peace. Working together on the great challenge of



explorations beyond the confines of earth can create a new perspective in which national boundaries and national rivalries recede in importance. Common efforts in the conquest of space can forge a community of interests. Where a community of interests is strong enough, there is unity of spirit and harmony in action. A new opportunity now presents itself for the operation of these forces; we should give it generous scope.

The General Assembly has before it the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was established at the thirteenth session. This Committee, under the able chairmanship of Mr. Matsudaira, has done valuable work. The United States fully endorses the Committee's careful and constructive report contained in document A/[illegible]. I should now like to outline some suggestions as to the next steps to be taken by the United Nations in following up the Committee's work.

(Mr. Lodge, United States)

The Ad Hoc Committee, in the conclusions to that part of its report written in response to paragraph 1 (c) of resolution 1348 (XIII), proposed the establishment of a General Assembly committee composed of representatives of Member States to perform three kinds of functions. These are the following:

1. Study of practical and feasible measures for facilitating international co-operation, including those indicated by the Ad Hoc Committee in its report under paragraph 1 (b) of last year's resolution.

2. Consideration of means as appropriate for studying and resolving legal problems which may arise in carrying out programmes for the exploration of outer space.

3. Review as appropriate of the subject matter entrusted by the Assembly to the Ad Hoc Committee in resolution 1348 (XIII).

Now today, along with a group of other co-operating States, we have submitted a draft resolution which will be soon on the table -- I do not have the document number -- designed to set up a committee. The members of that committee would be Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Soviet Union, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom and the United States.

The purpose of this committee would be as follows:

A. To review as appropriate the area of international co-operation and study practical and feasible means for giving effect to programmes in the peaceful uses of outer space which could be appropriately undertaken under United Nations auspices, and

B. To study the nature of legal problems which may arise from exploration of outer space.

As indicated by the Ad Hoc Committee in the concluding paragraph of its report, we think it is clearly appropriate for the specialized agencies of the United Nations to continue to pursue lines of endeavour within their competence in regard to outer space activities. We think that those agencies will naturally wish to include in their reports to the United Nations information on their activities in connexion with outer space. It may be that the General Assembly from time to time will wish to address requests or recommendations to one or more of these agencies for specific undertakings in the outer space field.



(Mr. Lodge, United States)

I should like now to comment briefly on the composition of the proposed United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Last year, despite earnest efforts, we were not able to reach unanimous agreement in the General Assembly on the membership of the Ad Hoc Committee. Subsequently, some members of that Committee declined to participate in its deliberations. That was regrettable. We have sought this year to find a composition which would command agreement on all sides. Through many weeks of patient negotiations the United States has sought this objective. Agreement with the Soviet Union has at length been reached. I hope that the fruits of this agreement will justify the work and the concessions which all parties made in reaching it. The United States delegation trusts that the agreement is a favourable augury for international co-operation through the United Nations.

What substantive activities should the new Committee first consider. Without wishing to attempt a definitive listing of activities, the United States would like to outline its views on steps in two broad areas which were mentioned by the Ad Hoc Committee and in which early concentration of effort should prove constructive. The first of these areas is that of international scientific and technical co-operation. The second is that of appropriate regulation of man's activities in outer space. With respect to facilitating international scientific co-operation, no more appropriate initial step could be taken than to review and exchange experience with respect to the outer space activities conducted today. The Soviet Union's proposal that an international conference to this end be held under the auspices of the United Nations offers a promising starting point.

The United States has welcomed this proposal as a sign of the Soviet Union's willingness to share with the rest of the world the data resulting from its distinguished achievement in outer space. An international conference would be in keeping with the emphasis placed by the Ad Hoc Committee on the desirability of openness in the conduct of outer space activities. The conference would serve as a valuable meeting ground for scientists actively engaged in outer space actitivities and others actively interested in the results of these activities. It would usefully supplement exchanges already initiated by the international scientific community, in particular the activities of the Committee on Space Research of the International Council of Scientific Unions, which has for some

(Mr. Lodge, United States)

time been planning a space science symposium to be held in January 1960. To be significant, of course, such a space conference must go beyond mere repetition of the limited exchanges already had or scheduled within the scientific community. Thus the United States believes that the scope of the proposed conference should include not only space sciences, so well covered by exchanges in scientific forums, but also engineering, technicological aspects, propulsion, vehicles, guidance problems and many other subjects of interest to nations which have not yet begun their own space programmes.

The new committee then should, the United States thinks, give early attention to arrangements for convening an international conference of Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies. Members of this Committee will note that the draft resolution submitted by the co-sponsoring delegations does not contain any provision specificying who will particpte in the scientific conference. That matter of participation is covered in an amendment which will be submitted by the delegation of Belgium. That amendment would insert at the appropriate place the words "of interested Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies", so that the amendad paragraph will read as follows:

> "Decides to convene in 1960 or 1961, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international scientific conference of interested Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies for the exchange of experience in the peaceful uses of outer space." (A/C.1/L.248)

The United States supports this amendment and we hope that this Committee will incorporate it in the draft resolution by a decisive majority, in accordance with United Nations precedents on the calling of an international conference. This is the language which one might say is standard practice.

There are other possibilities for international scientific co-operation which can profitably be explored by the new United Nations Committee. The establishment and operation of world data centres during the International Geophysical Year gave organization and unity to the scientific world in its quest for knowledge about the universe. This development constituted an important political phenomenon. The world data centres have continued to process and disseminate information obtained from space activities since the conclusion of the International Geophysical Year. The Ad Hoc Committee's report calls attention to the need for extending the number and scope of such centres.



(Mr. Lodge, United States)

We think the new Committee could usefully study this question, consulting with the appropriate mechanisms of the scientific community and provide recommendations on support of an expanded system for collection and distribution of data. It is to be hoped that participating countries will agree to the prompt and automatic transmission to the world data centres of all scientific information obtained by space craft and related data necessary for scientific understanding.

Then the Ad Hoc Committee pointed out that instrumentation of a scientific payload as a co-operative endeavour would provide a means of bringing more deeply into space research and engineering those scientists who would not otherwise have the opportunity of performing experiments in space. Several projects of this type are already underway among the world's scientists, and we believe that it would be fruitful for the new Committee to give thought to the potentialities of this promising and growing form of co-operation.

The United States, for its part, is always prepared to discuss the possibility of making available equipment and facilities for launchings of this character. The United States would like to see international co-operation in space activities carried beyond the activities of pure research, to facilitate the conduct of international programmes calling for joint efforts in areas of practical application of space science.

(Mr. Lodge, United States)

The value of improved weather forecasting and of the creation of additional and more effective channels for world-wide communication is evident. Another beneficial field of application is navigational satellites. We should like to see a careful international study made of the best plans for adapting these various possibilities of the new sciences to practical application for the benefit of all peoples.

The international community should at this time, we believe, give attention to the consideration of appropriate steps to regulate man's activities in outer space. I do not mean by this to suggest that now is the time to attempt any general codification of space law. As stated in the ad hoc Committee's report, a comprehensive code is neither practicable nor necessary in the present stage of knowledge and development of space activities. The ad hoc Committee stated in paragraph 9 of its report, under Part I, D of the 1958 resolution, that the law has begun to recognize or develop a rule that outer space is, on conditions of equality, freely available for exploration and use by all, in accordance with existing or future international law or agreement. The United States supports this view.

The concept of freedom of outer space, however, does not mean that we can overlook the many practical problems arising from the operation of space vehicles which were pointed out by both scientific and legal experts of the ad hoc Committee. Therefore, it seems clear that the new Committee should turn its attention to possible practical measures for dealing with practical problems. We believe that the new United Nations Committee should study means for providing an appropriate system of identification for all objects placed in orbit around the earth. The new Committee might also usefully consider means that might be adopted either for the removal of spent satellites from orbit, or at least termination of their radio transmissions when their usefulness has ended. Only this autumn an unmanned space probe of the moon was made. It is not too early to start thinking now about the regime which ought to be applied to international relations with respect to celestial bodies. In this regard the United States believes that man's entry into outer space is a concerted undertaking of the earth as a whole, and that scientific progress should proceed in harmony among the nations.



(Mr. Lodge, United States)

Our mentioning these selected topics is not to suggest that other legal problems identified in the ad hoc Committee's report should be neglected. Quite the contrary. In some cases, as with the allocation of radio frequencies, we hope and expect that the work of an existing agency, the International Telecommunications Union, will proceed to a satisfactory conclusion. In other cases, as with the problem of liability for injury or damage caused by space vehicles or the problem of re-entry and landing of space vehicles, the new United Nations Committee may wish to give early attention to specific procedures or means for starting to cope with these matters.

The United States, along with other countries, has long recognized the potential uses of outer space for hostile purposes. Nearly three yaars ago we proposed the study of means to ensure the use of outer space for peaceful purposes only. I wish to repeat that the United States remains ready to study the outer space sector separately and does not insist it be treated as part of a more inclusive programme of disarmament. We recognize the vital importance of progress in disarmament negotiations. It is for that reason that we have undertaken, along with a group of other countries, to enter into renewed discussions in the near future, hopeful as we are of reaching significant agreements on disarmament which can lead, in the end, to a safer and happier world. We realize from experience that the making and carrying out of effectual agreements to disarm are painstaking and time-consuming. We do not wish to see international co-operation on the peaceful uses of outer space delayed because of this fact.

Let me conclude by my saying that the nations of the world look into the future, and as they look into the reaches of outer space they confront an unprecedented opportunity. The fate of human activities in space, and indeed the fate of the people of the earth, lies in the hands of the community of nations. The occasion is new, the challenges unprecedented; let us rise to the occasion.

Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): All mankind well remembers the memorable date of 4 October 1957, when the Soviet Union, for the first time in the history of the human race, launched the Sputnik of the earth and, so to say, cut through the first window into the cosmos. Subsequent launchings of Sputniks and space rockets threw the door open wide

(Mr. Kuznetsov, USSR)

to the universe and opened up a new important era in the development of science and technology and the use of these accomplishments to the benefit of man. People have now at their disposal previously unavailable means which ensure the possibility of better exploring our planet and of having a look into the solar system and into remote regions of outer space. The feats of the scientists who created the first explorers of the universe will be eternally engraved on human memory.

In this connexion, one cannot fail to remember K.E. Tsiolkovsky, an outstanding Soviet scientist, who, as it is generally acknowledged, was the pioneer in creating jet engines and in working out varying projects of man's flight into outer space. For almost fifty years he worked on this problem, and he is rightly considered the initiator in studying and exploring cosmic space. In 1903 Tsiolkovsky published a classic study in which he outlined the fundamental theory of jet propulsion. At that time he created a model of the rocket which was the prototype of the modern rocket. In 1911, almost fifty years ago, he predicted:

"The human race will not remain eternally earthbound but, in its pursuit of light and space, it will, first timidly, penetrate beyond the limits of the atmosphere and then will conquer all space around the sun.

"Rockets rotating around the earth with all facilities for the existence of human beings can serve as a base for the further expansion of mankind."

The works of Tsiolkovsky were confirmed and complemented by similar scientific studies published later in other countries, in France by Peltrid in 1913, in the United States by Goddard in 1919, in Germany by Obert in 1923, and by other scientists.

In Czarist Russia no support was given to the creator of the theory of jet propulsion. He was considered as a dreamer and breeder of projects. The Soviet Government treated him quite differently. The scientist was given all the necessary conditions for conducting experiments and for verifying theoretical calculations and conclusions. On the basis of the works of Tsiolkovsky, the scientific and research base for the successful development of rocket technology was created in the Soviet Union.



(Mr. Kuznetsov, USSR)

In 1933 Tsiolkovsky said:

"Now I am firmly convinced that also another dream of mine, interplanetary travel, theoretically proved by me, will come true.

"For forty years I have been working on jet propulsion and I thought that the voyage to Mars would start only after many hundreds of years. But time-limits change. I belive that many of you will witness the first travel beyond the atmosphere..."

Hardly anyone doubts now that the dream of the pioneers, utterly devoted to science in studying cosmic space -- Tsiolkovsky and the like -- will be realized in the near future.

Only two years ago the first earth satellite was launched, and much has been accomplished since then. Incredibly rapid, almost fantastic scientific and technical progress is taking place in the field of developing rockets capable of penetrating outer space as well as in the field of creating perfect instruments for guiding rockets, registering natural phenomena in outer space and transmitting data on such phenomena to the earth. Now there already exists the practical possibility of solving such tasks as long-term weather forecasting, the ensuring of long-distance radio communication, the creation of space stations and guided cosmic missiles, the ensuring of all-weather navigation, etc.

The rapidity of scientific and technological progress in this field inspires confidence that the day is not far off when a long-cherished dream of mankind will be realized and man will circle the earth in orbit and return safe and sound. Next in line is the flight of man to other planets of the solar system and then beyond its frontiers.

The Soviet Union attaches great importance to the study of outer space for peaceful purposes and to the development of international co-operation in this field. Our country is successfully carrying out a broad programme in launching artificial earth satellites and space rockets.

The launching of the first earth satellite permitted the carrying out of a great number of investigations and the study of various phenomena in the upper strata of the earth's atmosphere and in the adjoining strata of outer space. The Soviet Government has conveyed, as a gift to the United Nations, a model of the first sputnik which, with the kind assistance of the Secretary-General, is now on exhibition in the United Nations Building.

(Mr. Kuznetsov, USSR)

The experiment with the dog Laika, conducted on the second sputnik, was the first important test in solving the problems related to man's flight beyond the limits of the earth's atmosphere. Experiments conducted in the Soviet Union with animals which were sent in geophysical ballistic rockets gave valuable data relating to the effects of the conditions of cosmic flight on a living organism.

The third sputnik, launched on 15 May 1958, has already revolved for over one and a half years around the earth and completed over 8,000 revolutions. It is a complex, automatic experimental station equipped with many scientific instruments. The radio transmitter of the sputnik, working on solar batteries, continues to function steadily up to the present time.

On 2 January 1959, a space rocket was launched in the Soviet Union, which successfully went into orbit and now revolves around the sun. The rocket became the first artificial planet of the solar system. During the launching of this rocket, for the first time radio communication was established at a distance of 600,000 kilometres from the earth. The rocket made it possible to conduct important studies of radiation in the vicinity of the earth and in outer space, studies of interplanetary gas, study of the magnetic field of the earth, and a number of other measurements.

On 12 September last, the Soviet scientists launched a space rocket from the earth to another celestial body, the moon. A container, with scientific and measuring equipment and a pennant with the emblem of the Soviet Union, was delivered to the moon's surface. The launching of the second space rocket furnished important data for science. Thus it was established that there is no noticeable magnetic field near the moon; likewise absent are the radiation belts which are observed around the earth.

Finally, on 4 October last, on the second anniversary of the launching of the first sputnik and in conformity with the programme of exploring cosmic space and preparing for interplanetary flights, the third space rocket with an automatic interplanetary station was launched. As a result of the launching of this rocket the following important scientific and technical problems were successfully solved:

The flight of a cosmic object along a complicated and previously calculated orbit was achieved;

The task of orienting an object in space was accomplished;



(Mr. Kuznetsov, USSR)

Radio telemechanical communication and the transmission of television images at cosmic distances were achieved;

For the first time photographs of the hidden side of the moon, previously inaccessible to observers, were received.

The photographing of the moon was conducted according to an arrangement whereby the cameras were trained by turning and maintaining the entire automatic interplanetary station in the required direction. The orientation system was installed on board the station. This system was switched on, after the station had come close to the moon, at the moment when the station was in its prescribed position in relation to the moon and the sun, a position ensuring the necessary conditions for orientation and photographing. At that time the station's distance from the moon was 60,000 to 70,000 kilometres.

The photographing began at a command signal given after the lenses had been focussed on the moon. The subsequent process of photographing and processing the film was done entirely automatically according to a set programme. The television system transmitted pictures to the earth over a distance of up to 470,000 kilometres. Thereby, the possibility of transmitting pictures of a high degree of accuracy through cosmic space, at extra-long distances, without any essential specific distortion in the process of radio-wave propagation, has for the first time been confirmed experimentally.

(Mr. Kuznetsov, USSR)

The system of guidance of the interplanetary station from the earth and all its instruments functioned faultlessly, accomplishing the set operations in strict accordance with the arranged plan.

The fact that it was possible to obtain a television picture of the hidden side of the moon from the interplanetary station opens up vast prospects for studying the planets of our solar system. Now, with the launching of space rockets, it has become possible to send to the earth not only data related to physical characteristics of the interplanetary medium but also photographs of the celestial bodies which they pass on their way. Astronomy has received previously unavailable means and opportunities for the studying of celestial bodies.

The launching of the first earth satellites and space rockets will be inscribed in the annals of history as the greatest triumph of the human mind, as the miracle of our time.

Important successes in the studying of outer space have been scored in the United States. The Soviet people welcome the achievements of American scientists and the business-like co-operation established during the International Geophysical Year between the scientists of the Soviet Union, the United States and other countries.

The grandiose tasks which mankind places before itself with regard to the harnessing of outer space and the very nature of this problem persistently require a broad international co-operation in this field. Indeed, the exploration of outer space is international in its very character, and requires a co-operative effort by all who are engaged in these activities. In this case, the question is not of the exploration of various regions of the earth which are of interest for this or that country or for a group of countries, not even of the exploration of our planet as a whole, but of immense regions of the Universe which go far beyond national boundaries and affects the interests of all mankind.

Further, it is known that the launching of space vehicles is a complicated and expensive matter which requires a high level of development of many branches of science and technology. Forthcoming new explorations undoubtedly will be still broader and more grandiose, and consequently, still more complicated and expensive. If each country tries to solve all scientific and other problems involved separately,



(Mr. Kuznetsov, USSR)

and alone, this can only lead to the unnecessary duplication of the same experiments and to unjustifiable waste of materials and manpower. In the meantime, if co-operation between States is established, this will enable available possibilities to be more effectively and rationally utilized and the tasks related to the exploration of outer space to be more speedily solved.

Recently a vivid example of fruitful international co-operation in the field of science was provided by the holding of the International Geophysical Year, during which, as a result of the appropriate division of the work between the scientists of many countries, vast complex studies of the earth and adjoining regions of outer space were carried out. No one country could have achieved such results alone. The Soviet Union occupies a worthy place in organizing international co-operation and it has completely fulfilled its obligations under the programme of exploration approved in connexion with the International Geophysical Year.

A considerable contribution to science was made by the studying of the earth's atmosphere and of the influence on it of solar and cosmic radiation, which was carried out with the help of high-altitude rockets and artificial earth Satellites. The Soviet scientists obtained abundant data on the structure, composition and characteristics of the earth's atmosphere, ionosphere, conditions of the propagation of radio waves, on the study of the earth's magnetic field, micrometeorite streams, on the conditions of the survival of living organisms during cosmic flight, and so on.

With the help of artificial earth satellites, such important discoveries were made as the existence of the radiation belts around the earth and the extra-ionospheric current ring, and direct measurements were made of the density and concentration of charged particles in the upper layer of the atmosphere and interplanetary space. Soviet and American physicists have put forward a number of interesting hypotheses on the origin of the radiation belts. However, much in this question still remains unclear. A large quantity of scientific data will have to be accumulated for a considerable length of time to determine the exact laws governing the phenomena under study.

(Mr. Kuznetsov, USSR)

Explorations by means of space rockets and artificial satellites are greatly contributing to the development of astronomy, making possible the ascertainment of spatial distribution of matter and energy in the universe, and the exploration of the irradiation of celestial bodies and newly discovered nebulae. Continuous observation of solar irradiation beyond the limits of the earth's atmosphere will make it possible to solve the mystery of physical phenomena which occur on the sun.

Many results obtained by the Soviet scientists have already been published in scientific magazines and special publications. The Soviet Union intends, as the data are being processed, to make them available to world science. Replying to the question by an American journalist, the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Mr. N.S. Khrushchev, said:

> "We consider the launching of the rocket into outer space and the sending of our pennant to the moon as our victory. And by the word 'our' we mean the countries of the whole world, that is, we mean that this is your achievement as well, and the achievement of all people living on the earth."

In connexion with the question now under consideration, the Soviet delegation has circulated in the United Nations some information material relating to the launching of satellites and space rockets. We hope that this material will be of interest to the delegations.



(Mr. Kuznetsov, USSR)

An important role in organizing international co-operation for exploring outer space can be played by COSPAR -- the Committee on Space Research -- established by the national scientific institutions of a number of countries under the aegis of the International Council of Scientific Unions. The recent agreement on setting up the leading organ of COSPAR, based on the principle of equal representation of all participants, makes it possible to hope that COSPAR will become an important centre for uniting the scientists' efforts and for co-ordinating their work in the sphere of exploring outer space.

An important role in the development of international co-operation and the exploration of outer space can and must be played by the United Nations. Proceding from this, the Soviet Government at the beginning of 1958 submitted for the consideaation of the United Nations a broad programme of international co-operation in the field of exploring outer space and using it for peaceful purposes.

However, the United Nations has not as yet utilized its possibilities in organizing international co-operation in this field. The United Nations has been unable so far to set up a truly international organ which would ensure equal co-operation for all countries. And it is not the fault of the Soviet Union that such an organ does not yet exist. Our delegation does not propose to dig in the past and analyse the causes of the situation which obtains. We only consider it important to emphasize that only then could one speak of truthful and businesslike co-operation in exploring outer space when such co-operation is based on the principle of equal rights of all participants, when equal conditions are created for all those who desire to make their contribution to this common cause and when no one claims a privileged position.

The Soviet delegation notes with satisfaction that such an approach has met with understanding on the part of our partners in the negotiations at the current session on the composition of the United Nations committee on the peaceful uses of outer space. A mutual desire for reaching agreement was shown as a result of which it became possible to bring the positions of the sides closer together and to work out a draft resolution on this question which is being submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly.

(Mr. Kuznetsov, USSR)

In respect of the composition of the committee on outer space proposed for United Nations approval, the Soviet delegation would like to state the following. We considered that the committee should be composed of a smaller number of countries and that it would have been desirable for us to have representatives of a larger number of socialist countries on it. However, seeking to reach agreement on this important question, the delegations of the socialist countries agreed to support the committee's composition as proposed in the draft resolution which is the result of mutual concessions.

It is requested in the draft resolution that the committee be entrusted with the task of studying practical measures for the implementation of the programmes of international co-operation, with the organization of mutual exchange and the dissemination of information on the exploration of outer space. The Committee is also entrusted with co-ordinating national scientific research programmes in the field of the study of outer space and rendering all possible assistance and co-operation in their implementation. The carrying out of these responsible tasks will undoubtedly promote the development of international scientific co-operation and will create favourable conditions for a more rapid study and exploration of outer space.

Recognizing the great importance of the peaceful uses of outer space and striving to promote the development of broad international co-operation in this field, the Soviet Union is in favour of having the fruits of the scientific work both of the Soviet scientists and of the scientists of other countries become the property of all mankind.

Proceding from this and taking also into account the great interest displayed in all countries in the problem of the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes, the Soviet Government has submitted a proposal for the convocation of an international scientific conference on the exchange of experience on the peaceful uses of outer space.

We note with satisfaction that this propoaal has met with the unanimous support of other delegations in the Assembly. A draft resolution on the convening of such a conference in 1960-61 has been submitted for the consideration of this Committee.



(Mr. Kuznetsov, USSR)

The proposed conference will be devoted to the excahnge of scientific data and expereince. It will provide the scientists of the whole world with the opportunity of exchanging the results of their research. At this broad international forum plans will be discussed for further progress in solving the greatest task of our time, the task of harnessing outer space for the benefit of all men.

As regards the amendment submitted by the delegation of Belgium, the Soviet delegation deems it essential to make the following statement. The Soviet Union cannot agree to the proposal that the participants of the international scientific conference for the exchange of experience in the paaceful uses of outer space should be only Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies. The international scientific conference on outer space should be open for participation to all States that wish to take part in it and to make their contribution to this important subject. There can be no doubt that genuine international co-operation in the study of outer space can only occur in the event that all States concerned take part in it. In fact, even the experience of today's statement by the representative of the United States makes it clear that the very character and the grandiose scale of the problem, which goes far beyond the confines of our planet, militates in favour of the urgent necessity of combining the efforts of all countries and peoples.

At the same time, we are being urged to adopt a decision which would be discriminatory in respect of certain States, since it would seek to close the doors of the conference to those States that are not Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies.

In this connexion, one cannot fail to take account of the fact that the countries which are not Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies find themselves outside these bodies for reasons altogether outside their control, and it would be unjust to deprive them of the possibility of taking part in this new venture of the joint study of outer space.

It goes without saying that the Soviet Union, which is in favour of the broadest international co-operation in the study of outer space, is unable to support the Belgian amendment and will vote against it.

(Mr. Kuznetsov, USSR)

The resolution on the [illegible] conference envisages that the conference shall be convened under United Nations auspices. The newly established Committee on Outer Space should, with the assistance of the United Nations Secretariat, carry out a thorough preparation for such a broad scientific conference.

The Soviet Union, on its part, will make every effort so that the tasks set forth in the resolution shall be completely implemented. We express the hope that the above-mentioned resolution will command the support of the General Assembly.

The adoption and carrying out of this resolution will constitute a great step forward on the road of developing international co-operation in the field of peaceful uses of outer space. At the same time it will promote the creation of a favourable atmosphere for the solution of other unsettled international problems in the interests of the strengthening of universal peace.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair would like to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that two documents have been distributed within the last half hour: document A/C.1/L.247 containing the twelve-Power draft resolution, and document A/C.1/L.248 containing the Belgian amendment.

I now invite the Belgian representative to introduce his amendment.

Mr. NISOT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): The Belgian amendments A/C.1/L.248, relates to part B of the resolution. Part B of the resolution calls for the convening of a scientific conference, but it does not say who shall take part in the proceedings of that conference. This is a gap which the Belgian amendment seeks to fill. The amendment specifies that the conference shall be open to Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies. This is the customary formula in the United Nations. Even while it is extremely broad, it has sufficient precision to enable the Secretary-General to convene the conference, as the resolution calls upon him to do.

Mr. SANDLER (Sweden): Mr. Chairman, I feel bound to start by asking your indulgence. I am well aware that you are entitled to rule me out of order at the very beginning of my intervention. The reason is that I should like to touch first of all upon a question which is not on the agenda of this Assembly



(Mr. Sandler, Sweden)

meeting. My intention is to preface my statement on outer space by a short reference to Antarctica. As a hopeful sign for the future, the agreement concluded outside this Organization about the South polar region is of the utmost importance.

The treaty on Antarctica, in itself such an immensely valuable achievement with indeed gratifying and promising consequences in the disarmament field, has also in certain respects opened the way for an agreement on outer space. And that is my excuse for having abused your confidence in beginning to speak on another issue than that on our agenda for today.

Now, I am coming to the question under consideration. We are here to talk about outer space. But do we know what we are talking about? I opened the report from the Ad Hoc Committee with some slight hope of finding an answer there.

In every serious exchange of views it is legitimate to insist on the prerequisite, that is, the definition of the subject under discussion. I thought that was something we should begin with. I read page after page of this very interesting report. Each page deals with the matter of outer space. But only on one of the very last pages do I find the report getting down to the question of what exactly is meant by this term. And the answer is somewhat disappointing. Because that answer was: "We cannot say as yet". And, further, the report indicates the belief:

> "that the determination of precise limits for air space and outer space did not present a legal problem calling for priority consideration at this moment". (A/4141, page 68, paragraph 28)

And it goes on to note:

> "that the solution of the problems which it had dentified as susceptible of priority treatment was not dependent upon the establishment of such limits." (Ibid.)

Of course, there seems to be no difficulty of including interstellar space and to a vast degree also inter-planetary space in the scope of the term "outer space". But for us, citizens of the Earth, it is of special interest to know when we reach this region named outer space, in lifting us higher and higher up from the surface of our planet.

(Mr. Sandler, Sweden)

Now, we are, for reasons perfectly understandable, advised to show patience in this respect. Since it is of paramount importance for each sovereign State to know the exact limits within which its rights and responsibilities are to be upheld and respected, the situation today is not very reassuring. Let me express the hope that space research -- which certainly can be continued without such a definition -- may as soon as possible give us more precise indications as to the lower level of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, first things have to come first. Therefore, I have referred to this point before commenting on the values of the Ad Hoc Committee's report. Let me at once say that this was for me the only disappointing feature of the whole report. Its contents have given me a rather pleasant surprise; I find them indeed gratifying and of more far-reaching value than could be expected from such a preliminary study.

The report has not only produced an all-round definition of problems which ought to be studied, and listed those international organizations and bodies which might have interest in and could play a useful part in space research; it also contains valuable suggestions or conclusions concerning international co-operation in this field.

On page 30 the report calls attention to a great number of such conclusions. Many of them are of a highly technical character. As far as a layman can judge, they are of considerable importance as an entry into the vast complexities of this new problem. It is not my intention to deal now with these technical points in the report.

I have to concentrate my intervention, in order to save time, on features of more general political interests, especially the part the United Nations may be called upon to play.

On the basis of the specific conclusions already mentioned, the report contains the following general conclusions:

"(1) There is a need for a suitable centre related to the United Nations that can act as a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

(2) Progress, plans and needs in connexion with the peaceful uses of outer space should be reviewed again by the United Nations in about a year." (A/4141, page 60)



(Mr. Sandler, Sweden)

The purpose of the first point will be served in deciding now to set up a United Nations Committee to deal with the co-ordination of the co-operative efforts of the whole field. The terms of reference of this Committee, will, I assume, pay due regard to the second point. If such a review should be done already next year, that is in my view a question on which the Committee should be its own judge.

(Mr. Sandler, Sweden)

A suitable composition of this Commission is of course a necessary precondition for a useful work. Its membership has to include, first of all, the real space Powers of today and also other members who are able to assist otherwise in the space research.

Here I come back to Antarctica. The signing of this treaty was made possible above all by the close co-operation and mutual efforts of the two biggest Powers. Their attitude in that connexion provides a most promising model for co-operation of the same kind in space research and in arriving at agreements on necessary regulations for the conduct of movements in space. This model is now, in fact, a most gratifying reality.

As concerns organizational arrangements to be made or initiated by the United Nations, the report discusses the creation of a specialized agency and has come to the conclusion that the task now envisaged would not appear to request the establishment at the present time of a United Nations agency. (Page 72)

At the same time, the Committee considers that it would not be suitable to ask any existing autonomous inter-governmental organization to undertake over-all responsibility in the outer space field. (Page 74) I concur in both these conclusions.

In the report other suggestions are also indicated about the use of the United Nations machinery, inter alia, the idea to organize a small unit within the Secretariat for this purpose. Such a possibility may be left open. I think it may be wise to draw attention to the last words in the report, which are as follows:

> "Because the precise character of such a Secretariat unit can be developed only in the light of experience and after consultation with the various bodies involved, it may be desirable to provide a means whereby the Secretary-General can avail himself of the advice...of those directly concerned in this field." (A/4141, page 75)

In my view, it should not be necessary for the draft resolution to provide specifically at this time for any such means either for the Commission or for the Secretary-General. In saying this, I have assumed it to be generally understood that both the Commission and the Secretary General are entitled to avail themselves of the advice and suggestions of already existing bodies inside or outside of our Organization.



(Mr. Sandler, Sweden)

It is only common sense that the daughter organ of ICSU, namely, COSPAR, may be used for these purposes. To have recourse to the opinion of our functioning Scientific Committee should also be a possibility. It would be rather easy for the Member States represented in that Committee to have alternate representatives nominated, if necessary.

My delegation is quite willing to support a decision to call in due time a scientific conference for space research questions. We have had very good experience with regard to the conferences held on problems connected with the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The new conference should, of course, be carefully planned and the preparations ought to be made by the co-ordinating committee to be set up.

Finally, there are two very important statements in the report that I wish to underline especially. In view of the experience we have already had of space vehicles passing over different territories, the Committee has said the following which has already been quoted by the representative of the United States:

> "The Committee, bearing in mind that its terms of reference refer exclusively to the peaceful uses of outer space, believes that, with this practice, there may have been initiated the recognition or establishment of a generally accepted rule to the effect that, in principle, outer space is, on conditions of equality, freely available for exploration and use by all in accordance with existing or future international law or agreements." (Ibid., page 64)

This conclusion is of primary importance now when we are embarking upon accelerated space research. The implementation of this thesis further leads to the acceptance of a principle of fundamental character mentioned several times in the report, to which the Swedish delegation gives its full adherence: "Space activities should be conducted in an open and orderly way."

Mr. VAKIL (Iran): This Committee is again seized with the item on the peaceful use of outer space -- a relatively new area for our consideration, but none the less an all-important one. There can be no denial of the common interest of all mankind in outer space, nor of the need for avoiding present national rivalries and for promoting the development of this dimension to the fullest for the benefit of all.

(Mr. Vakil, Iran)

Perhaps never before has the need for international co-operation been so strong, and my delegation firmly believes that our Organization is at the heart of all efforts in that direction. Indeed, while we are impressed by the degree of man's control over nature and his scientific achievements, we have to be mindful of the inadequacy of our political and legal institutions for dealing with problems which have been created by our scientific advances.

At its thirteenth session, the General Assembly, in resolution 1348 (XIII), established an ad hoc Committee of eighteen members to study many aspects of the use of outer space. We sincerely regret that five members of the Committee did not find it possible to participate in its deliberations. The absence of the representative of the USSR was notably felt since the great scientific contribution made by that nation in outer space would have been immensely valuable to the Committee. The agreement which has just been announced in respect of the composition of a new committee is therefore a matter of gratification to my delegation.

We now have before us the report (A/4141) of the Ad Hoc Committee dealing with, inter alia,

First, programmes for the peaceful use of outer space which could appropriately undertaken under United Nations auspices to the benefit of States irrespective of the state of their economic or scientific development;

Secondly, related legal problems; and

Thirdly, future organizational arrangements to facilitate international co-operation in this field within the framework of the United Nations.

The Committee, of which my country was a member, concentrated on limited steps towards the development of the peaceful uses of outer space which could be taken at the present stage, and did not take a position on the long-range measures.



(Mr. Vakil, Iran)

In the scientific field, the report lists eight technical areas in which agreements might be sought, including use of radio frequencies, removal of spent satellites, re-entry and recovery of space vehicles, return of equipment, identification of the launching country, and biological, chemical and radiation contamination caused by returning space vehicles. Also listed are twelve fields in which joint projects might be carried out.

In the legal field, the Committee adopted a cautious approach, declaring that premature codification might prejudice subsequent efforts to develop the law of outer space based on a more complete understanding of practical problems involved. It did, however, comment on a number of legal problems. These included freedom of outer space for exploration, liability for injury caused by space vehicles, allocation of radio frequencies, the question of the delimitation of outer space, and questions relating to exploration of celestial bodies.

In terms of continuing action, the Committee has presented a number of suggestions on the types of long-term organizational arrangements which are possible within the framework of the United Nations.

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee is a valuable contribution towards true international co-operation in the field of outer space. In fact, it is the first step taken by the United Nations in this direction.

Without wishing to go into a detailed examination of this item, may I say that we endorse the report of the Ad Hoc Committee and its conclusions. The substance of the report establishes a basis for new and more consolidated efforts for international co-operation in developments in outer space. Fundamental to any such effort is the recognition that "space activities must to a large extent be an effort of planet earth as a whole", as advocated by the report. Man's entry into outer space has opened new horizons for the activities of the human race.

The attitude of the Iranian Government on this matter may be summarized as follows.

Since space activities do not recognize international boundaries, it is necessary to approach the entire question of outer space from the universal point of view, seeking international co-operation and avoiding such attitudes as may lead to friction among States.

(Mr. Vakil, Iran)

All exploration in space has to be confined exclusively to peaceful purposes, and for the benefit of all nations, whatever the stage of their economic and scientific development -- a concept which has already been stressed by General Assembly resolution 1348.

In order to carry out the programmes of exploring outer space in an orderly manner, it seems inevitable that attempts be made from the very outset to formulate general international norms governing such activities. Indeed, not only can the existing rules of international law not be entirely applicable in outer space, but they are far from being adequate to meet the present and future situations which may arise. Unless the law of space develops along with scientific progress in this field, anarchy and lawlessness may result.

We know that the problems connected with this new field are numerous and complex, but experience has shown that there is a tendency to postpone the solutions of problems that are new and difficult. It should be realized that it takes a long time, normally a period of years, to reach agreements on new issues in relations among States. Therefore, it seems to my delegation that at least a beginning should be made towards formulating basic rules of the law of outer space.

In this respect, the United Nations bears greatest responsibility. We believe that there is a need for immediate action by our Organization. Accordingly, we fully endorse that a permanent machinery for international co-operation, along the lines suggested in the report of the Committee, has to be established, within the framework of the United Nations. Such machinery would have the function of co-ordinating international space activities, on the one hand, and assuring the promotion of the use of outer space for the benefit of all mankind.

It is in the light of the above observations and in the hope of seeing a flourishing international co-operation develop from the most initial stages in this new field that my delegation approaches the item of outer space. We sincerely hope that the deliberations in our Committee will lead to positive steps along this road.



Mr. PLIMSOLL (Australia): The Australian Government welcomes the agreement that has been reached today by the representatives of the United States and of the Soviet Union, which has resulted in an agreed text for a draft resolution being put before us. I think the United Nations and the international community generally should be very grateful to both Mr. Lodge and Mr. Kuznetsov for the very intricate and practical way they have carried out their negotiations and have confronted us with this agreed text, because the world is now standing at the edge of a vast field of human endeavour and it is most important that it should be approached by the world as a whole and not by a world that is divided into two camps. In order to achieve that, it was worth going to a great deal of effort; it was worth making considerable concessions, if necessary. The result of these negotiations has been this agreed text. When we look at that text we find that in point of fact it is the sort of thing that we can all support on its merits, and it is something that the Australian delegation will support.

Our colleague from Sweden has already drawn to our attention the agreement that has been reached in the past month over the Antarctic and he has pointed to that as a parallel or a precedent for the work that might be done in outer space. It may be that, in some of the public discussions of outer space and the Antarctic, analogies have been drawn that may not be completely valid, but there is one thing that in particular seems to link the Antarctic with outer space as a guide for our discussions here, and that is that in both those fields -- in the Antarctic and in outer space -- we are going into a new area where as yet there are really no vested interests, no fixed positions from which countries cannot withdraw. We are entering a virgin field, and it is at this stage -- before the positions of countries are frozen, before interests are established from which no one can withdraw -- it is at this stage that we have to get some sort of international agreement, some sort of international precedents, some pattern for co-operation. That has been done for us in the Antarctic in the past month, and the draft resolution now before us offers prospects in the same direction in outer space. Therefore we welcome the establishment of this United Nations Committee with a wide and representative basis of membership.

(Mr. Plimsoll, Australia)

Outer space is something in which the Australian Government and people take a considerable interest. It is something in which we ourselves play quite a part. Yet I think that all of us round the table with the exception of the United States and the Soviet Union must feel rather humble when we think of what our own efforts can be in comparison with the great achievements that they have already made. Mr. Kuznetsov has given us a very interesting outline of what has been achieved in getting a satellite round the earth and then getting to the moon. We have also witnessed the United States progress in expanding the whole field of scientific achievement and knowledge of what lies between us and the moon. All this is going into the international pool of knowledge. Compared with what those two countries are doing, a country like Australia must occupy a very modest place.

Yet even smaller countries can play some part in the international endeavour, perhaps not in putting their own satellites into the air but in doing co-operative work with other countries and in helping to track and report on the satellites and other bodies put into the atmosphere by the great Powers. Australia, for example, has a purely accidental advantage because it is in the southern hemisphere, which opens to our observation areas of the heavens -- particularly, for example, the Milky Way, which is so important in the current work. These things are opened up to us by an accident of geography in that we are in the southern hemisphere.



(Mr. Plimsoll, Australia)

We have also a background of scientific interest and experience in this field. For example, Australia did a lot of pioneering work in radio-astronomy, and we are one of the seven countries in the world that are actively engaged in launching rockets and conducting fundamental research in their use. In Woomera, for example, we have the only fully equipped rocket range in the Southern Hemisphere. It is a place where conditions are significantly different from the Northern Hemisphere.

We also have considerable equipment for tracking space vehicles and have had substantial experience, for example, with the Baker-Munn cameras, minitrack equipment and telemetric equipment. We have been participating with the United Kingdom in a programme of launching Skylark rockets for high altitude research. This is part of the wider programme of high altitude research, launched internationally by COSPAR, and we have made observations in the upper atmosphere of pressures, of temperatures of winds, of ion densities, of air glow. As a matter of fact, last week an Australian team fired two Skylark rockets from Woomera as part of World Rocket Week. This activity, we believe, which is conducted in association with the United Kingdom, which in many cases is doing the major part of it, should be of value in establishing variations of upper atmosphere measurements throughout the world.

Our co-operation in international scientific work in peaceful research in the outer atmosphere is done as part of an international effort in association particularly with the United Kingdom, but also with the United States and through COSPAR, and sometimes directly with the Soviet Union.

I say that to give some background on Australia's interests, and from that I might pass to some comments on the report which we have before us from the Ad Hoc Committee. That is the report which the Australian Government endorses, and I would make one or two comments on it. The first is that the Ad Hoc Committee approached its task under some handicap, but also under some obligation imposed by that handicap. The handicap was that there were three countries of the world that chose not to be represented at the meetings of the Committee. The responsibility that faced that Committee, and which that Committee successfully met, was nevertheless to present a report that would be a constructive step forward and which would not stand in the way of an ultimate, wider agreement.

(Mr. Plimsoll, Australia)

I think that we should be grateful to the Ad Hoc Committee today in that the report that we have has not in any way been an impediment to the wider agreement which we have now achieved. The report, in fact, has opened up lines of subsequent inquiry; it has shown to us some of the things that ought to be looked at. It has laid down certain principles.

I think that the new body, whether it formally takes note of the report or not, will find that the general background that has been given by the report -- just as this Committee will benefit from the background of the report -- will be a step forward in an international agreement that has included all the countries around this table.

The second point I would make is that we agree with the general approach of the Committee. We agree generally with what it has laid down, and we feel also that it is wise for the United Nations not to be too precipitous or over-ambitious at this stage. We are going into a new field. We do not know quite where we are going to be led, and it is wise for us to keep an open mind.

There are many points on which those of us around this table -- each of us probably have pretty fixed ideas at the moment as to what we would like to see turn out should there be a section of the Secretariat or should there be something else, and as to what should be the role of the Committee in relation to other international bodies; for example, in relation to COSPAR and in relation to the international conference. On that the Australian Government is inclined to feel that at this stage it would be best for COSPAR to co-ordinate the international activity and research rather than for the United Nations committee to take a prominent part in that field. That is our present position.

It may be that as the United Nations Commission continues its work, as the views of other countries are brought forward -- in particular, as the views of the two most prominent countries in outer space work are presented -- this position will be modified. Almost certainly, new positions will be taken up in the next few years in the light of experience. But, as I say, our present reaction is that COSPAR should be the body primarily concerned with co-ordinating international activity and research.



(Mr. Plimsoll, Australia)

The United Nations Commission has a particular duty in the dissemination of knowledge, in the dissemination of research on outer space, and I use the word "dissemination" in the widest sense, not merely putting out publicity and press releases, but in doing something to see that the necessary agencies and media of information exist throughout the world not just in documents, but in terms of organizations and people, and to see that the various international agencies such as the International Telecommunications Union and so on are fitted into some total picture.

We agree, however, with the Ad Hoc Committee's report that it is not timely, that it would be wrong at this stage, to establish a special specialized agency or something of that nature.

We also welcome the proposal for a conference on the peaceful uses of outer space. Such a conference could lead to a great opening-up of horizons, and all sorts of imaginative things could come to our notice. Scientists in the various countries could be stimulated. It may be that in the field of outer space a conference of this nature could lead to a great step forward such as that which came out of the first international Conference on Atomic Energy.

So we feel that in the present situation there is a need for somebody to rationalize and co-ordinate what is being done in outer space. We feel that it is essential that it should include the two great Powers which are pioneering work in outer space -- and that is done for us by the draft resolution. We believe that we should, on the whole, feel our way forward without taking up too rigid positions at this stage.

Because what I have said is set out in this draft resolution, it will have the support of the Australian delegation.

Mr. GIBSON BARBOZA (Brazil): Not a few persons -- even within this Organization -- felt last year that the General Assembly of the United Nations was intruding into the realm of fantasy or of science fiction by discussing the necessity of early attention being paid to the problems arising from the exploration of outer space. It appears that one year later this number is being increasingly persuaded otherwise by the tremendous accomplishments in this new endeavour of man to unveil the unknown. Today, the exploration of outer space

(Mr. Gibson Barboza, Brazil)

is a down-to-earth task. Needless to say, mankind is just beginning to penetrate into the misty field of a new science. But this is definitely a science where the resources of modern technology offer real if infinite possibilities towards progress of geometric proportions.

The thirteenth session of the General Assembly was thus well-advised to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.



(Mr. Gibson Barboza, Brazil)

For if we wish to keep our political and juridical institutions abreast of the sometimes appalling scientific discoveries of our time, this is a problem that calls for the most urgent consideration.

Without losing sight of the realities resulting from the scientifically and financially advantageous position of some States over others, we submit that all Members of our Organization can, and should, contribute to this task of discovering a universe by joining efforts not only toward finding the best possible means of performing the work, but also toward the establishment of the rule of law in this new field. Let us acknowledge the fact that a country's limited economic and scientific capabilities do not always correspond to that particular country's possiblilities of contributing to the solution of juridical and political problems. And let us not forget that even in the purely scientific aspects of the exploration of outer space, the geographical position of a country may not be such a negligible factor. To remain on this pragmatic side of the question, we also submit that it would be against the interests of all nations if the exploration and subsequent exploitation of outer space should be employed to serve the purpose of widening the already existing gap between the more advanced States and the less developed ones.

For all these reasons, the Brazilian delegation, today as in the past, is deeply interested in the earnest consideration of this problem by the United Nations. In the same manner as the other countries which attended the meeting this year of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, we have deplored the absence from our work of those Members who did not deem it possible to participate in it. We also expressed the earnest hope that in the future the difficulties which gave rise to this attitude would be overcome. And, as well as other countries which took part in the deliberations of the Committee, we tried to contribute to the drawing up of a report from which all political implications would be excluded, thereby paving the way toward the general acceptance of this altogether exploratory and preliminary work.

I believe that we have not failed to carry out our intent. This can be easily verified by studying the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, document A/4141, which is now under consideration by this Committee. Of course, we fully support the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

(Mr. Gibson Barboza, Brazil)

The time has come for an understanding on this important problem. The thawing out of the dangerous icebergs of international tension is beginning to appear as a promise of spring in this long winter imposed on mankind. Let us profit from this opportunity. Let us not lag behind in this new and daring enterprise of mankind. Even the political contingencies of the present seem petty, viewed in the perspective of a limitless universe. Let us not recoil in fear, but rather let us confidently enter this brave new world.

The Brazilian delegation considers it indispensable that the United Nations accept the responsibility of studying on a permanent basis the legal problems which may arise from the exploration of outer space with a view to suggesting possible juridical solutions to those problems, as well as drawing up programmes of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration of outer space. Public opinion has sufficiently matured to be aware of the need of co-ordinated action to give articulate form to the study and solution of these questions. Day by day one can note symposia, publications, conferences by scientists and jurists all over the world demanding the prompt establishment of international co-operation in this field. We believe that the United Nations are the legitimate forum for that. Only within this Organization and guided by the principles of our Charter can we attain our goal of universal, wholesome co-operation in this matter. It would be hard to see any other way of tackling the problem without running headlong into the pitfalls of political controversies.

Consequently, we are happy to co-sponsor the draft resolution A/C.1/L.247 before this Committee. We are confident that it will provide a sound basis for a truly universal co-operation in the field of peaceful exploration of outer space. The Brazilian delegation hopes that speedy progress will be made in this domain so that we may soon see materialize that lofty principle already proclaimed by the United Nations, namely, that the benefits deriving from the exploration of outer space shall be shared by all States, irrespective of their stage of economic or scientific development.



Mr. AMADEO (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The consideration of the question of the peaceful uses of outer space is taking place this year under the aegis of an agreement that cannot but please all of those of us who are desirous of achieving international co-operation and are willing to work for it. In point of fact, the Members of our Organization, especially the Powers that have achieved the greatest progress in this field, have managed to agree on a single formula that will sum up the result of all our debates. We should like to stress this most happy event, which we trust will be followed by other equally fruitful agreements.

We would also like to pay tribute to those who are mainly responsible for the agreements which have been arrived at, namely the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union. Both parties have had to give in on many of their points of view to bring these differing viewpoints closer together. But this effort has not been in vain: the result is the presentation of a single draft resolution which, we trust, sums up the unanimous feeling of this Assembly.

(Mr. Amadeo, Argentina)

In the statement we made last year we stated that the utilization of outer space is of interest to the entire international community. It is true that thus far very few have succeeded in penetrating cosmic space, but sooner or later all countries will be able to achieve it. For this reason, it is important that a body speaking on behalf of the entire world, such as the United Nations, play a role in this matter and promote the greatest possible co-operation among its members in this most important field of activity.

As a result of last year's debate an ad hoc Committee was set up for the purpose of proposing to the fourteenth Assembly a programme of action on the matter. My country had the honour of being made a member of that Committee, and this is the reason for our intervention in the present debate.

I shall not enter into an examination of the divergencies of view which resulted in the absence from the Committee of a number of its member countries, especially of that country which, up to the present, has carried out the most spectacular achievements in outer space. The agreement which was happily arrived at requires us to let bygones be bygones as far as those differences are concerned and to concentrate our attentions on the task before us.

My delegation has constantly concerned itself with the establishment of a system of international co-operation that will permit wide participation in outer-space activities by all Members of our Organization, so that those which possess the necessary scientific capacity but lack as yet an adequate technical and economic base may be able to enjoy the same conditions for utilizing their capability. As a matter of fact, on the scientific and intellectual level there exist in the world enormous potentials of intelligence and energy. These reserves are not utilized because countries with limited economic resources -- and they are in the majority -- cannot by themselves carry out in a continuous manner the necessary efforts to adequately utilize them.

For this reason my delegation maintains that some system should be established, within the framework of the United Nations, that will permit the centralization not only of the preparation of international programmes integral in nature, but also the recruiting and distribution of the proper resources, assistance, means and technical equipment of all Member States and members of the specialized agencies. Thus, international co-operation -- a term vague in itself -- will acquire a real



(Mr. Amadeo, Argentina)

and effective form. It is not a question, we wish to point out specifically, of setting up a system under which some give and others receive assistance; it is a matter of establishing a system of reciprocal aid in which some supply capacity and ability and others provide the implements and the technical and economic means which will permit the capacity and ability to function.

In the juridical field, Argentina supported in the Committee, and continues to support, the adoption of general principles of law to regulate the carrying-out of programmes for spacial exploration. We insist, in particular, on the necessity of making it immediately clear that there is a juridical equality of States, and that outer space be declared res communis omnium with the same status as that of the open seas.

It is true that the report does not contain specifically the formula of res communis omnium, but it does indicate the possibility of accepting the rule that all, in principle, are free to utilize outer space on an equal footing and to explore and use it in conformity with international law and international agreements, present or future.

In the opinion of my Government, it is fundamental that this rule be solemnly established as soon as possible. If we bear in mind the long struggle that was necessary for the final consolidation of the great principle of freedom of the seas, we shall see that in this new field of human activity from the very beginning a fundamental juridical basis must be established to safeguard that same principle of freedom. Far be it from our minds to attempt, absurdly, to slow down the activity which the great Powers have shown and are showing in this field. We believe, however, that this same activity can be carried out with greater freedom and without giving rise to needless mistrust if we come to an agreement on the principle that in outer space there are no areas which may be individually appropriated and that all of it is at the disposal of those who may be able to traverse it.

I should like here to make a rapid survey and reference to the statements made by the representatives of Sweden and Australia with regard to Antarctica and the analogy between it and outer space. We certainly accept that analogy with regard to the recent signing of the Washington treaty, if the analogy refers to the agreement which has happily been arrived at between the interested countries.

(Mr. Amadeo, Argentina)

But we should have to make one fundamental reservation if it were a case of assimilating the status of outer space -- which as far as we are concerned must be incapable of individual appropriation by any State or group of States -- to the territory of Antarctica, over which my country possesses rights of sovereignty which have been specifically established and recognized.

Some States have been of the opinion that the ad hoc Committee should limit itself to an analysis of the concrete legal cases without establishing any juridical theory of general nature. We understand the serious reasons, practical in nature, that determine this opinion. We realize that the limited character of our present knowledge with regard to outer space renders it advisable that we be cautious in laying down rules which later may prove inapplicable. But we also believe that the principle of common use should be affirmed before the appearance of divergent judgements on this subject creates conflicts impossible of solution.

As we predicted a year ago, the Committee has functioned in the same impartial spirit that underlay the resolution which created it. The absence of certain delegations has not in the slightest influenced its work by giving it a political tone. Quite the contrary, the finest part of the report is that it is completely objective and most prudent. There is no reference in it, direct or indirect, that might in any way harm the interests nor hurt the feelings of any country or group of countries. For this reason we dare to hope that its conclusions will earn the unanimous approbation of the Assembly.

The report which we are presenting recommends, as we said, the creation of an international centre for co-operation in the study of matters dealing with outer space. Last year the Italian delegation offered the city of Rome as headquarters for a body of this type. Just as that time, Argentina today favours that suggestion enthusiastically and promises to vote favourably for it. Italy and its glorious capital have such entitlement to shelter a scientific centre of such exalted status that it would offend the intelligence of our hearers to describe it in detail.

We are likewise in agreement with the idea expressed here that regional centres be set up in various parts of the world from which observations in outer space could be made with wider perspectives, since they can be carried out in more suitable locations.



(Mr. Amadeo, Argentina)

In conclusion, we wish to express our hope that the agreement arrived at will redound to the benefit of the new enterprises that will extend to infinity the dimensions of man's dominion in the universe. May God grant that this dominion may always be one of peace and progress.

Mr. BISBE (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): Since we are now arriving at a happy conclusion of the work of the First Committee and considering the last item on our agenda, we must congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for your impartial and felicitious presidency over our debates.

It was the Governments of the Soviet Union and the United States which submitted the question of outer space for inclusion in the agenda of the last session of the General Assembly, although it is true that they did so with different modalities. From the discussion that then took place, resolution 1348 (XIII) was adopted, which set up the Ad Hoc Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space. This Committee, composed of eighteen Powers, was entrusted with the drawing up of a report on the different matters which we are now discussing.

With the awe-inspiring success of the Soviet Union on 4 October 1957, when it put into orbit the first artificial satellite, incalculable possibilities were opened to human conquests by means of scientific efforts. The greatest and the most fantastic utopias are gradually becoming realities. Science is achieving the most unbelievable concepts of the authors of science fiction and the novelists of outer space.

It is necessary to admit, with sadness, that this advance and progress has to a large extent been the consequence of the arms race. The missiles and rockets with which the Soviet Union and the United States have launched artificial satellites into outer space are far from being purely and simply scientific instruments for exploration. This is recognized by all Powers, especially by the two great Powers which have opened the way to the era of outer space. In submitting this item at the last session of the General Assembly, the Soviet Government warned us that the danger for humanity did not lie in such rockets and missiles, but in the atomic and hydrogen bombs that they might carry. In the explanatory memorandum submitted by the United States delegation with regard to this item, it is stated, "The potential uses of outer space for destructive purposes are only too apparent". (A/3902, page 2)

So far as the Cuban delegation is concerned, this is the most important aspect of the entire question. Rockets capable of launching satellites into cosmic space would not have been constructed merely for the purpose of obtaining



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meteorological data or the perfecting of systems of communication by radio over great distances. The opposite is the truth. They were constructed as instruments that could carry powerful nuclear warheads. Today, we know that the Power which is able to dominate outer space would also be able to dominate all the other nations of the world. Therefore, it is still that desire for domination, the indefatigable engine behind the arms race, that has led to an effort to dominate the earth from outer space rather than to obtain knowledge about outer space.

If it is noble to try to limit the utilization of outer space solely for peaceful purposes, it is necessary to open our eyes wide and to recognize that missiles primarily are instruments of war. Naturally, just as we know that there are aeroplanes which are used for purely peaceful purposes, so we ought to know that missiles and rockets can be used purely for peaceful purposes. But we cannot divorce these powerful missiles from the armaments race because they have put into orbit satellites and planets, and have even reached the moon. If nuclear arsenals were destroyed and if we succeed in prohibiting the manufacture of nuclear weapons, then the missile would be an instrument for scientific exploration only and space ships would be reduced to the concept of Jules Verne, that is, to vehicles for peaceful travel in outer space. However, that is not the fact that confronts us. In spite of the fact that the Second World War was declared at an end, we have not ceased to be at war. Missiles are simply another stage in the arms race. The Soviet Union, with its intercontinental missiles, still threatens the rest of the world, and the United States is taking advantage of their advances by surrounding the Soviet Union with a zone of military bases from which they can launch their middle-range missiles and rockets.

So far as we are concerned, missiles primarily are the best means of transporting nuclear warheads. The Cuban delegation repeats its demand and its appeal that all existing nuclear weapons be destroyed and that an absolute prohibition of their manufacture be arrived at. We have repeatedly said that the cessation of nuclear tests cannot suffice, nor can measure adopted for avoiding the greater dissemination of nuclear weapons satisfy us. We have to uproot the evil if we are to avoid the destruction of civilization and the annihilation of humanity as a consequence of a nuclear conflict. We have to decide to liquidate, once and

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for ever, nuclear weapons. This must be, as was the famous Carthaginem esse delendam of Cato the Elder, the obvious conclusion to which consideration of the question of disarmament must lead us. What must concern us is not the missile or rocket in itself, but the nuclear or thermonuclear warhead that it can transport. When there are no atomic or hydrogen weapons, the missile and the rocket will merely be a simple instrument for the exploration or conquest of outer space. Without the danger of a world conflagration with nuclear weapons, the question of the peaceful uses of outer space will acquire for scientists its true dimensions.

Is it not true that fantastic amounts are spent in these investigations and in this work, whilst the economic assistance required by under-developed countries is stinted? Do not these expenditures respond to the desire for universal domination which may or may not be justified by principles and motives of political ideology that relentlessly is pushing the great Powers to the point of winning a war without a war and that might well lead us, at any moment and under any different circumstances, into the most catastrophic of all wars?

The report that we are now discussing satisfactorily fulfils the expectations we had when the Ad Hoc Committee was set up. It is a very constructive report, and I believe we would quite warranted in congratulating the Committee. It would be superfluous to give even a small idea of the contents of this report, since we all have the document before us.

The Cuban delegation notes with satisfaction that the differences of view have been overcome, especially with regard to the integration of the Ad Hoc Committee, and that the two great Powers, as another proof of the spirit of conciliation that prevails today, once again will co-operate in the development and discussion of the complex questions raised by this subject of the peaceful uses of outer space. We also support the idea of holding an international scientific conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, for the exchange of information concerning the peaceful uses of outer space.

However, if we read carefully the document we are now considering, we nevertheless come up against the dangers inherent in the existence of these instruments of exploration and their uses for destructive purposes.



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This point of view must be borne in mind by all. The Committee finds that:

"The development of vehicles which make possible the scientific study of outer space has, to a large extent, been the outcome of military objectives and therefore problems of national security have prohibited the free exchange of information." (A/4141, paragraph 16)

Again we have this double use of missiles: artificial satellites that can carry instruments for exploration, such as magnetometers, spectrometers, and so forth, or they can carry nuclear warheads for destruction. Yet the Committee finds that the technology of such vehicles has advanced hand-in-hand in many countries and that at present more engineering problems have arisen than scientific ones.

It is extremely interesting to read the discussion that took place on the juridical nature of outer space. In his insatiable desire for progress, man must obviously create new situations that have to be fitted into the juridical framework. Sometimes the juridical norm follows the event and can merely take note of it. Artificial satellites have crossed over the territory of many States, and since no protests have been heard it has been understood and agreed, as a basic principle, that in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space all States are on an equal footing and can make use of outer space, in accordance with the norms of international law and agreements signed in the past or those that may be signed in the future. The concept that emerged from the Paris Convention in 1919 and the Chicago Convention in 1944 merely took into account the airspace over nations, because that was the only space that had been crossed by planes at the time. The concept that each State has sovereignty over the airspace above its territory, usque at sidera, has now been substituted by new circumstances, by the concept of the free navigation of outer space by all nations. Outer space now belongs to all, and this settles the question of sovereignty over the planet, and it must be considered not as res nullius, object of appropriation of sovereignty on the part of a specific State, but as res communis omnium, that is, belonging to all States.

Unusual perspectives are thus opened to the peaceful uses of outer space. In the field of meteorology, weather conditions can be forecast and we can extend these from a few days to a few weeks ahead, and even more. We shall be

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able to progress in our systems of radio communications. Various types of satellites can be launched, and by means of these auxiliary satellites for navigation we can set up a system of long-range navigation which can be used in any weather conditions to assist vehicles travelling both on the surface of the earth as well as in outer space. We shall thus arrive at producing vehicles for outer space which will carry human beings, but there is still a long way to go.

We cannot deny the spirit of adventure and the courage of the human species. We must realize that we have managed to conquer outer space, but with the weapons of war. The item of outer space, without denying the peaceful uses of outer space, must be recognized here. We must also stress the fact that there is a desire for disarmament, a desire for agreement that will make it possible for countries to coexist in peace. We cannot make of political ideology walls that cannot be crossed, and yet we must not exaggerate our optimism. A thaw has taken place, but the situation may freeze over again. Perhaps behind the friendly gestures of today there are still many hidden resentments. Much has yet to be done beyond the conversations and beyond the multilateral conferences. Man must overcome himself. He has to learn to dominate his own appetite. If this has not been achieved in the millenia of history, it is difficult even in this supersonic age for us to achieve it in a short time.

This is the fundamental question, because, to conclude my statement, I do not think I could have selected a better statement than one made by Albert Einstein, one of the men whose scientific genius gave us to a large extent the era in which we are living -- that peace cannot be obtained by force, that peace can only be achieved by understanding, and that understanding must fall on the side of those human virtues that have not been able to grow along the same rhythm as material progress.

Sir Pierson DIXON (United Kingdom): The year which has passed since this Committee last considered the arresting questions connected with the exploration of outer space and the peaceful uses to which man can put these hitherto unknown regions and dimensions, has seen considerable advances both in technical achievements and in the practical arrangements required for dealing



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with the new problems encountered. The spectacular successes recorded by the Soviet Union and the United States represent real triumphs for man's ingenuity, and help to stimulate the work going on in other countries, including my own.

Though on a less sensational scale, we in the United Kingdom have also taken significant steps during this year which are indicative of our direct interest in the peaceful uses of outer space.

In the first place, my Government has announced a British programme of space research. This may be said to have started with our programme of developing vertical sounding rockets which was included in the British scientific contribution to the International Geophysical Year 1958-1959. The Prime Minister, Mr. MacMillan, announced on 12 May that a programme for the design and construction of instruments to be carried in earth satellites had been approved and that work would begin at once. Design studies are also being put in hand for the adaptation for use in space research of the British military rockets which are now under development. This will put us in a position, should we decide to do so, to make an all-British effort in regard to outer space.

However, the emphasis in our activities this year has been especially on international co-operation in matters concerning outer space. For example, we have engaged in consultations and experiments with other Commonwealth countries, since we considered that there may well be scope for joint action with them or with other countries.

A most important development for us has been the inauguration of a programme of scientific experimentation in conjunction with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration. This organization has taken an outstanding step towards international collaboration in the exploration of outer space by offering to launch satellites for other countries. The United Kingdom is very glad to be associated, at this early stage, in this constructive international enterprise, and I am glad to have this occasion to pay a tribute to the generous gesture made by the United States in the interests of international understanding and world scientific progress.

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I can assure the Committee that my Government is also most anxious, in pursuing its space programme, to maintain the closest multilateral co-operation. I will not take the time of the Committee to mention the conferences and special studies in which we have been glad to participate this year. On the non-governmental level, British scientists play a full part in the deliberations of the Scientific Committee on Space Research. Among other activities, that Committee does an excellent job in collecting information about satellites and sounding rockets, maintaining channels of information and international exchange of data, and advising on space activities. In passing, I might say that I was very glad indeed to learn a day or two ago that the new charter of COSPAR has been agreed, since this offers the welcome prospect that the Soviet Academy of Science will resume its participation in the serious scientific research carried on by that expert body. Members of this Committee will probably be aware that the Executive Board of the parent body of COSPAR, the International Council of Scientific Unions, recently decided to keep COSPAR in being after the end of this year.

Finally, I can say how glad the United Kingdom Government was to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space. That Committee produced a report which my Government considers to be an excellent document which should help very considerably in the future consideration of the problems arising from man's exploration of outer space. It is a non-controversial study and I think I can say that it has already helped to define the subject with which we are dealing. The United Kingdom Government are in general agreement with the conclusions of the report -- both negative and positive.

Here I should like to take the time of the Committee for a moment to pay a tribute to the Chairman of this Committee, the representative of Japan, to its Vice-Chairman, the representative of Argentina, and its Rapporteur, Mr. Wisot, and also to the Chairmen of the two sub-committees which considered the scientific and legal aspects of the question, Dr. Rose of Canada and Professor Ambrosini of Italy. Under their guidance the participating members of the Committee handled this very complex subject expeditiously and produced a comprehensive, factual and valuable report. This is free of controversy and



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thus accurately reflects the atmosphere which obtained in the Committee. At the same time, I should like once more to express the thanks and appreciation of my delegation to the members of the Secretariat, led by the Secretary of the Committee, for the great interest which they displayed in the work of the Committee, and for the very valuable work which they did in assisting the Committee's proceedings and in preparing a part of the report which gives us a first objective and comprehensive account of what the various United Nations and other international bodies have already accomplished in the way of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

I now turn briefly to the future, and to what is probably the most important part of the business before us. I say this because my Government attaches great importance to establishing now sound arrangements within the framework of the United Nations which will ensure sound consideration in the future of the nature of problems and activities concerning outer space.

First, I would like to say that the United Kingdom Government support the view, reached in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, that no autonomous inter-governmental organization for the co-ordination of international co-operation on this subject should be formed at present, and that existing bodies concerned with certain aspects of outer space should not be asked to undertake over-all responsibility in these matters. On the other hand, we also agree, and I quote from the report,

> "that it would be appropriate for existing specialized agencies to continue to pursue lines of endeavour within their competence in regard to outer space activities". (A/4141, page 76) paragraph 22)

and hope that these agencies will include information on their activities in this connexion in their reports to the United Nations.

I turn now to the arrangements which are set out in the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.247. We are happy to be among the sponsors of this draft resolution, the more so since this document enshrines an agreement on the composition of a committee which should enable progress in this field to be made on a fuller international basis than was possible last year.

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I should like to extend our congratulations and thanks to the representatives of the United States and of the Soviet Union whose patient efforts in negotiation have resulted in this satisfactory outcome which should be of great service to the world community. In our view, international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space is too important to become a controversial issue between States, and we are anxious that we should not again miss a great opportunity to internationalize activities of the utmost importance, as unfortunately we did in the case of atomic energy.

The tasks to be undertaken by the new committee envisaged in this draft resolution are set forth in some detail in operative paragraph 1 of part A of the resolution. When we hope, the Assembly establishes the Committee, I think it probable that in order to carry out effectively the duties with which it is to be charged, it will wish to appoint technical and legal sub-committees. The technical sub-committee should, we think, consider the aspects of space research which, because of their nature, require international co-operation between Governments rather than unofficial co-operation between scientists. The task of the legal sub-committee would, perhaps, be to keep the legal aspects of the matter under review and, from time to time, make recommendations as to the action which should be taken concerning any problems which appear to it to be ripe for solution.

There is also before us a proposal originated by the representative of the Soviet Union, to hold an international conference of scientists at governmental level under United Nations auspices. Now, the amendment to that part of the resolution, which has been proposed by the representative of Belgium, follows the formula adopted in relation to the Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and I suggest that it would be appropriate also for this somewhat analogous conference. I hope therefore that the amendment will be adopted.

I should like to take this opportunity to welcome the intention of the proposal to hold this conference. The exploration of outer space and its exploitation for peaceful uses, which present the world with a unique opportunity, should ideally be undertaken as a co-operative enterprise by all the inhabitants of our planet working as a team. While we should naturally like to see details



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of their proposals before committing ourselves, we are pleased that the Soviet Union should, as we understand it, be prepared to give the benefit of their experience to an international conference of this kind.

In conclusion, I would like to express the pleasure of my delegation at the prospect of constructive co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space which is now foreshadowed. I am confident that the Members of the United Nations, and all mankind, will benefit from this. We in the United Kingdom will continue for our part to contribute so far as we are able to the development of man's development of neighbouring areas of the universe and are glad of every opportunity to do so in co-operation with other nations.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Ecuador on a point of order.

Mr. CORREA (Ecuador)(interpretation from Spanish): It is not exactly a point of order which I want to raise. I want to point out an error in the translation of the document (A/C.1/L.247) we have before us that has caused some concern to the Spanish speaking delegations. If this error is clarified before we adjourn the meeting future difficulties may be avoided.

In paragraph 1 of the English text of the operative part of draft resolution A, after the enumeration of the countries which will be the members of the Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, there are the words "whose members will serve for the years 1960 and 1961." These words have been omitted from the Spanish text.

Therefore, while I ask the Secretariat to include these words in a revision to the Spanish text, I should like to point out to my Latin American colleagues that this omission has occurred.

The CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat will attend to the error and the revision in the Spanish text will be issued.

There are still seventeen speakers remaining on the list. There may be some additional explanations of vote before we vote on the draft proposals before the Committee. In the circumstances, the Chair suggests that we meet this evening to hear as many speakers as we can so that, at a short meeting tomorrow morning, we might complete the item. I understand that this suggested programme would not conflict with the proceedings in the plenary. In this connexion, I have been asked to announce that tonight's meeting of the plenary has been cancelled. Therefore, if there is no objection from the Committee, I shall assume that there is agreement that we should reconvene at 8.30 this evening to continue the debate.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.