



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



LIMITED

A/C.1/PV.1292
5 December 1962

ENGLISH

Seventeenth Session

FIRST COMMITTEE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWELVE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 5 December 1962, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. ADEEL

(Sudan)

1. Organization of the Committee's work (continued)
2. International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Union; report of the Economic and Social Council, Chapter VII, section IV [27] (continued)

Note:

The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will appear in mimeographed form under the symbol A/C.1/SR.1292. Delegations may submit corrections to the summary record for incorporation in the final version which will appear in a printed volume.

62-28052

1
a-
th
2-

y
at
e
a
ie

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will recall that at the end of our meeting yesterday afternoon a procedural proposal was submitted by the delegation of Ghana to the effect that the meetings scheduled for today be devoted to a discussion of agenda item 28, the question of Korea, to take a decision on the aspect of the invitations to the representatives of the two Koreas. I propose now to put this proposal to a vote.

I call upon the representative of the United Kingdom on a point of order.

Mr. CAMPBELL (United Kingdom): It might perhaps be convenient to the Committee if you, Mr. Chairman, were to read out again the precise proposal upon which we shall be voting.

The CHAIRMAN: The proposal reads as follows:

"... My delegation proposes that this Committee should ... take up the question of the invitation to be sent to the representatives of the two Koreas tomorrow." (A/C.1/PV.1291, p.48)

"Tomorrow", of course, in that connexion refers to today. As I explained yesterday, if this proposal is carried it would, in effect, mean an adjournment of the debate on outer space for today and its resumption tomorrow.

A roll call vote has been requested.

A vote was taken by roll call.

Hungary, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Hungary, Indonesia, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Yugoslavia, Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea.

Against: Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Federation of Malaya, France, Greece, Haiti.

Abstaining: India, Israel, Jordan, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Sudan, Syria, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Afghanistan, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, Cyprus, Finland, Guatemala.

The proposal was rejected by 30 votes to 19, with 25 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now resume -- I recognize the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. MORCZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): First of all as I understand the decision that has just been taken, it related only to the present meeting, or the two meetings of today. Formally, this does not signify that this question cannot be put at any meeting other than the meetings of today, so that we may solve the problem and have the Committee examine the question of invitations to be addressed to the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to participate in the discussion on the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea. This is the first thing I wanted to make clear so there should be no misunderstanding. Secondly, I must explain my vote.

My delegation voted in favour of the proposal of Ghana because that proposal is reasonable and an honest approach to the item on the agenda on the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea, which was included on the agenda with the assenting vote of the United States. It is now quite obvious that that delegation, when it votes in favour of the inclusion of that item, or by not objecting to it and finally voting in favour of it, acted in a hypocritical fashion. On the one hand it voted in favour of the inscription and on the other hand, with the assistance chiefly from its allies and military blocs, takes all the measures possible in order to subvert this matter and prevent the international discussion of that item, and to prevent our Organization from examining the question of the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea: which troops continue to torture and to repress the Korean people and to illegally occupy South Korea. The sense of that ...

The CHAIRMAN: I apologize to the representative of the Soviet Union. I recognize the representative of the United States on a point of order.

Mr. ROMAN (United States of America): I think it must be obvious, Mr. Chairman, that the representative of the Soviet Union is again trying to ride rough-shod over an opinion expressed by this Committee. The Committee has voted not to take this item up today. The representative of the Soviet Union not only has launched a campaign of invective, but has also indicated that his manners are as bad as was his argument. I ask that the Chairman ask him to cease this discussion of what in effect are the merits of the case in the Korean question.

The CHAIRMAN: With regard to the first half of the statement of the representative of the Soviet Union, of course the Committee is master of its own procedure and there is nothing to prevent the Committee from taking up this question at any time in the future.

AGENDA ITEM 27

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (A/5181, 5229, 5237; A/C.1/879; A/C.1/L.520 and Add.1; REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CHAPTER VII, SECTION IV; A/5203) (continued)

Mr. BELAUNDE (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): Coming back to the calm and lofty atmosphere of outer space, I wish to apologize to the representative of the United Kingdom since, in my analytical discussion yesterday of the draft declarations of principles on outer space, I failed to mention the draft Declaration of Basic Principles submitted by the United Kingdom yesterday which has been distributed in document A/C.1/879. I regret to say I was unaware of the existence of that document at the time, so its omission in my statement was of course, not intentional.

(Mr. Belaunde, Peru)

With regard to this document, I would like to pay tribute to the delegation of the United Kingdom, since it has there outlined the most important principles that should be considered in formulating laws for outer space. To a certain extent these principles coincide with those formulated by the United States. They also coincide with some of those of the Soviet Union, which, on the basis of the document I referred to yesterday, are nine in number. I objected to only four of these latter, so I do consider that to a certain extent there is agreement among the three great Powers -- the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union -- on these principles. The only thing I find to deplore, perhaps, is that we do not find a clear enunciation of the jurisdiction to be exercised by the international community and of the need for an international authority. However, I quite understand that in such delicate matters juridical evolution must take place slowly and by stages, and it is already a great step forward that in five fundamental principles agreement has been reached among the great Powers, agreement which will permit further steps forward later on.

I know well the brilliant and impressive record of political life in the United Kingdom. I believe sincerely that if in the ancient world the most notable and far-reaching event was the decree of Caracalla which granted Roman citizenship to all inhabitants of the Empire, in the modern world the most far-reaching political event, aside from the founding of the United Nations, is the transformation of the British Empire into a commonwealth of nations, with recognition, thus, of the principle of self-determination for all the countries forming that Commonwealth and of their absolute sovereignty and independence. By the same token, I hope that the United Kingdom, accustomed and disciplined as it is to accept the principle of Commonwealth and community jurisdiction as standing above national jurisdiction, will be able to accept the idea that outer space falls four-square within the jurisdiction of the international community, and that therefore, at the appropriate time, by agreement on the international level an executive body must be established for the resolution of possible conflicts that may arise in enterprises undertaken in outer space.

This is all I wished to say.

Mr. HASEGANU (Romania)(interpretation from French): In the course of the time that has elapsed since the sixteenth session of the General Assembly, the science and technology of the conquest and exploration of outer space have registered brilliant achievements. The launching on 11 and 12 August 1962, by the Soviet Union, of two satellite space-ships, Vostok III and Vostok IV, was undoubtedly the most important of these events. Their flight opened a new era in the exploration of outer space -- that of group flights of long duration in space-ships.

The 2.6 million kilometres travelled by Vostok III in a period of ninety-five hours, and the 2 million kilometres covered by Vostok IV in seventy-one hours have given opportunity for a check to be made on the behaviour of the human organism in outer space during flights of long duration and have given to the astronauts a chance to manoeuvre and control their complex rocket ships during flight and landing, to approach each other during flight to within very small distances and to communicate both with each other and with scientific stations located on the earth.

Important achievements in this field were carried out by the United States of America by the launching into space of three cosmonauts -- Glenn, Carpenter and Schirra -- as well as by the launching of the communication satellite "Telstar" and other satellites to be used in meteorological research.

Recently, on 1 November 1962, the Soviet Union launched, for the first time, a heavy artificial satellite from which a space rocket was launched in the direction of the planet Mars. Among other plans expected to be carried out by this automatic space-station, Mars I, there is also the intention of photographing the planet Mars.

The delegation of the People's Republic of Romania attaches tremendous importance to the achievements in science and technology of these States as well as to those of other States which have attempted or are preparing to carry out explorations of outer space for peaceful purposes. These achievements once more underline, for all States, the necessity of finding suitable solutions for the problem of international co-operation in the field of outer space.

(Mr. Haseganu, Romania)

There is one point that must be borne in mind, and that is that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, set up pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1472 (XIV) of 1959, this year held two sessions, one in the month of March and the other in September. The two Sub-Committees -- the Technical and Scientific Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee -- held sessions in the months of May and June. At the same time, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Union displayed a healthy activity in this field. Examination of the reports presented gives us the opportunity to estimate the activity of all these bodies in the course of the period which has just elapsed.

The delegation of the People's Republic of Romania, as a member of the Committee, would like to express its point of view in the hope that the difficulties which still hamper the work of these bodies will be surmounted. Our opinion is that, at the present session, new efforts must be deployed in order to bring together the positions of States in the field of spatial co-operation and thus to establish a solid foundation for the Committee's activity in the future.

As everyone knows, last June the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee held its first session in Geneva where, thanks to the spirit of co-operation among the delegations, the Committee succeeded in elaborating a series of useful recommendations concerning the future spatial activity of States. At its meeting in September 1962 in New York, the Committee unanimously adopted these recommendations. We should like most particularly to express our appreciation of recommendations adopted by the Committee concerning exchanges of information in national research programmes and exploration of outer space, as well as the recommendations concerning the encouragement of international programmes of scientific co-operation during the "Year of the Quiet Sun". At the same time, we wish to stress the value of the recommendation on the establishment of international installations for launching sound rockets in the region of the Equator.

(Mr. Haseganu, Romania)

It is true that, as science and technique develop, questions which call for international co-operation in this field will become increasingly numerous. In accordance with this report, at the present session some delegations have expressed interest in the study of the magnetic pole of the earth, at the same time emphasizing that the creation of a system of satellites designed for telecommunications on a world level would be both possible and desirable.

The preparation and achievement of such wide-scale projects will be possible, however, only if co-operation is indicated by all States.

The reports presented by WMO and ITU have given rise to great interest because of the studies that have been made with regard to the application of meteorological and telecommunications spatial projects. Without going into detail, we note the interest of many countries whose agricultural production is quite important to their national economy -- as is the case in my own country -- in the practical utilization of scientific research in meteorology as it concerns grain production. Furthermore, the studies undertaken by ITU, and particularly the measures which are to be taken at the 1965 Conference to allocate radio-electric frequencies for work dealing with outer space, give rise to particular interest for all those States which wish to widen international co-operation in this field.

The Government of the People's Republic of Romania attaches great importance to the scientific and technical co-operation of States concerning the question of outer space. A series of surveys undertaken by Romanian experts in astronomy, cosmic rays, ionosphere, biology and spatial medicine have led to satisfactory results in this field. At present the specialized scientific institutions of Romania are arranging a vast network of meteorological observations, and Romanian scientists hope for co-operation in that regard with WMO.

If, in the scientific and technical field, such good results have been obtained, and if sufficient promise is given for the future, unfortunately we cannot speak in the same terms of co-operation with regard to the legal aspect of spatial activity. It is the results of the development of science and spatial technique which, on the juridical level, raise specific legal problems which the States must ultimately settle. The most important of these

(Mr. Haseganu, Romania)

legal problems, and the one which requires an urgent solution, is without doubt the adoption of principles of law which will regulate the spatial activities of States. As everyone knows, at its sixteenth session the General Assembly adopted resolution 1721 (XVI) on 20 December 1961, setting forth and commending the following general principles:

"(a) International law, including the Charter of the United Nations, applies to outer space and celestial bodies;

"(b) Outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States in conformity with international law and are not subject to national appropriation;"

It is true that these two principles are of great importance for the international co-operation of States because they constitute a first expression of juridical norms which must regulate spatial activity. But, beginning with these principles provided by a resolution of the General Assembly, we must go further; that is to say, we must elaborate a declaration which will have a binding legal force for States. That declaration must contain the norms of conduct required in order to allow the aims of the United Nations in the field of outer space to be achieved and to prohibit in outer space any arbitrary activity on the part of States. There can be no challenging the fact that the absence of such regulations will lead to confusion and anarchy, and perhaps to disputes and controversies which would be new sources of international tension.

(Mr. Haseganu, Romania)

The fundamental principles set forth in the General Assembly resolution are of a very general nature. They are obviously susceptible to different interpretations by the States concerned and, along this line of reasoning, suffice it to examine the principles setting forth the freedom of exploration and use of outer space by States.

While setting forth the freedom of exploration and use of outer space, resolution 1721, however, does not define the sphere of application of the principle, namely, the limits within which a State can explore or use outer space without infringing upon the legitimate rights of another State to use or explore this domain itself. In the absence of such limits, any State may create in outer space conditions that will make impossible the activities of another State that may be interested in the peaceful exploration of space.

Similarly, this principle does not give us the line of demarcation between licit and illicit activities of space exploration, such, for example, as activities intended to collect information on the territory of other States which are prohibited by all international law. Because of this vagueness in the resolution, there are differences of opinion regarding the interpretation of the principle by different States as well as regarding the way in which States may make use of such an interpretation, especially that principle of the freedom to explore outer space, and apply it to their activities.

It is certainly not far-fetched to imagine the number of differences that may crop up in the next few years when science and the techniques of the conquest of outer space have led to achievements which at present are not even dreamed of. This is why it is imperative that States take urgent measures in order to liquidate the delay in the juridical regulation of outer space in relation to the development of science and techniques in this field of activity.

In order to achieve this end, in the Geneva meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Soviet delegation proposed a draft declaration of juridical principles that might serve the States as a basis for discussion in the preparation of the future principles of outer spatial law. In the course of the meetings of the Committee, the United Arab Republic proposed a draft code

(Mr. Haseganu, Romania)

for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Despite the opposition raised to the idea of such a declaration in the past, we nevertheless note today that that idea has gained ground and that the delegation of the United Kingdom has also submitted a similar declaration.

Since the Romanian delegation has not had sufficient time to study that draft, we reserve our right to come back to it later if necessary. However, the Romanian delegation believes that a declaration of principles on the peaceful uses of outer space should prohibit any and all States from taking such measures as might slow down the study and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes on the part of any and all other States.

Such a solution is called for by the need to define clearly the principle of the free use of outer space. It is also imperative that the declaration should strengthen the provisions prohibiting the use of artificial satellites for espionage purposes by gathering information over the territory of another State.

The introduction of such a provision would tend to do away with the existing divergence of views on this matter and would also contribute to the achievement of international co-operation on a sound and healthy basis while, at the same time, respecting the sovereignty of all States. Finally, in order to define very precisely the responsibilities of States in actions and in measures that are taken in outer space, the declaration must provide that activities in outer space are exclusively within the purview and jurisdiction of States. States must preserve all their sovereign rights over objects launched by them into outer space. It is by such a provision that we can avoid, very effectively, the abuses or pernicious use of outer space.

The Romanian delegation feels that the principles outlined above constitute the minimum of rules of conduct, in default of which no fruitful co-operation among States can be expected or achieved. At the same time, we certainly appreciate the fact that a series of provisions contained in the draft code proposed by the United Arab Republic can round out, in the course of the elaboration of the declaration, the principles contained in the draft submitted by the Soviet delegation.

(Mr. Haseganu, Romania)

What is essential is that precise and efficient provisions be elaborated, of such a nature as to lead, in the future, to a binding juridical system, regulating spatial activities and ensuring wide-scale international co-operation.

In the course of the juridical activities of the Committee, the question was raised of the conclusion of an international agreement, especially with regard to the safeguarding of astronauts and cosmic vessels after landing or in the case of forced landings. As I showed on a previous occasion, my delegation would wish the juridical instruments to be drafted in the field of spatial activities to be of a binding nature because it is only thus that we can ensure their effectiveness.

It is for all these reasons that we support the proposal of the Soviet delegation concerning the conclusion of an international agreement on the subject. We have acted in precisely this fashion in similar fields, for example, those of the sea and the air. Obviously, on the question of the uses of outer space the same road and the same means must be adopted. We are also, at the same time, ready to examine the juridical contents of the draft submitted by the delegation of the United States on this matter.

Finally, there is another legal question in the matter of outer space and that is the proposal of the United States concerning the responsibility in cases of accidents to space vehicles. We are ready to study this matter because the question of the responsibility of States on the matter of accidents to space ships is of great juridical importance to all States. In the course of the work of preparing the juridical instruments that will regulate the present-day questions of outer space activities, we are ready, also, to examine any other proposals that may be made or that have been made by other delegations.

(Mr. Haseganu, Romania)

What is important in this field of endeavour is that States manifest a true and heartfelt desire to co-operate and understand the problems that life is today posing to us.

Coming to the end of my statement, may I be allowed to quote certain words:

"Our period might take up the following slogan which goes beyond our admiration: imitabile coelum, since we have come to the point of circumnavigating the entire world, as though we were celestial bodies."

This phrase, despite its timeliness, was not written lately. It came from the pen of Francis Bacon who, 330 years earlier, inserted it in one of his books wherein he described a utopian world.

If I have taken the liberty of citing this phrase, it is because it gives us a great lesson: namely, that the teaching that we shall gather from the conquest of outer space is that man has a capacity to transform the most incredible dreams into tangible realities. This is an important conclusion which, we trust, will be equally felt in all other fields of human activity. The achievement of outer space projects must strengthen the conviction of humanity that other actions too, such as the creation of an unarmed world, the transformation of entire regions that are today as yet under-developed into flowering centres, the placing of science at the complete disposal of peaceful causes, are reasonable ends which are always possible in contemporary society. But in order that the great lesson of the exploration of outer space be completed, new efforts are called for. These efforts must lead to the conclusion of an agreement on principles that will transform outer space into a field of true peaceful international co-operation.

Mr. OKAZAKI (Japan): The Japanese delegation has always strongly advocated the principle that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only, through international co-operation -- openly, and in an orderly manner. It is very gratifying that, by the adoption of resolution 1721 (XVI) at the last session of the General Assembly, international co-operative activities through the United Nations were at last able to make a beginning. It is equally significant

(Mr. Okazaki, Japan)

that the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical, and Legal Sub-Committees, have made substantial progress in their work. Interested specialized agencies, such as the International Telecommunication Union, the World Meteorological Organization, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, also, have promptly responded to what the General Assembly requested of them in that resolution. The ground work has now been firmly laid for the organization and promotion of international co-operation in this field through the United Nations.

In these auspicious circumstances, my delegation would like to offer a few observations about some of the principal aspects of the question of outer space.

First of all, there is an opportunity for all countries, small as well as large, poor as well as rich, to co-operate in the development of outer space activities. We have all been struck with amazement by the literally fantastic achievements of the United States and the Soviet Union, and by the almost unbelievably ambitious plans for the future which those countries have been formulating. Naturally, we all realize that such achievements and plans require the mobilization of what, to many countries, if not to most, would be considered as great wealth, calculated in billions of dollars, and of vast technical, scientific and industrial resources.

But, as the drama of outer space exploration and development unfolds, there is no reason at all why countries with much more limited resources should despair of being able to participate effectively. To be sure, it may not be possible for them to engage in such spectacular exploits as manned space ships in orbit around the earth, probes of the planets Mars and Venus, or plans to land an expedition on the moon. Outer space activities are not by any means restricted to such highly dramatic episodes, nor to big-Power enterprise. There are many more modest roles to be played; they are fully within the capacity of smaller countries, and they are as important as they are modest.

(Mr. Okazaki, Japan)

For example, as we have noted before, several countries now actually possess or are developing rocket launching capabilities, and an even larger number participate actively in space exploration through the tracking of space vehicles and analysis of data obtained therefrom. Truly, with regard to outer space activities, all the universe is a stage and all the countries are players upon it.

For the purpose of illustrating some of the various possibilities that are open to countries which do not possess the resources of a Soviet Union or of a United States, I should like, if I may, to review the experience of Japan.

After all, our primary interest here in the General Assembly is in the broader aspects of national programmes and plans in the outer space field, and how they can be integrated internationally in peaceful, co-operative ventures. Those are the aspects I should like to stress.

Of course, it is very difficult to achieve the maximum of effective international co-operation unless, in the first instance, national policies and objectives are clearly defined, and national programmes and plans are efficiently co-ordinated.

With regard to the first point, the Japanese Government established, in May 1960, a National Space Activities Council for the purpose of advising our Prime Minister on basic national policies for promoting space activities. In its report to the Prime Minister, issued in May 1962, this Council recommended a number of subjects for inclusion in an over-all outer space programme, projected over a period of approximately the next five years, and indicated practical methods for implementing such plans.

(Mr. Okazaki, Japan)

In the report are also laid down fundamental principles upon which our space programmes and activities should be undertaken. Of particular relevance to our present discussion in the General Assembly, these principles are that Japanese space activities must be based on the use of outer space for peaceful purposes only, that every detail of space vehicles, instruments and results obtained by experiments must be open to all scientific and technological communities, and that although our own scientists will plan and devise our experiments, nevertheless, because of the nature of space science, international co-operation should be sought whenever feasible and appropriate.

The focus of the programme envisaged by the Japanese Council for the immediate future is on basic scientific research by means of ground-based observation and sounding rockets. It is in these fields that Japanese outer space activities have been centred since 1955.

In that year, we determined to initiate rocket observation, taking advantage of the opportunity offered in connexion with the International Geophysical Year. In September 1957 we launched our first sounding rocket, and since then we have conducted more than fifty launchings, including test flights.

I shall not go into details about the various types of rockets that we have developed, as these and other technical and scientific details have been reported to CCSPAR. Suffice it to say that the latest version of our Kappa rocket achieves an altitude of 350 kilometres with a payload of 40 kilograms, and that the target for rocket development during our five-year programme is the attainment of an altitude of 1,500 kilometres with a payload of 30 kilograms.

A few moments ago I referred to the necessity of efficient co-ordination of national space programmes as one of the elements involved in effective international collaboration. Through the work of various agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, and by promoting efficient co-ordination among these agencies, Japan is attempting constantly to improve the efficiency of our own national programmes, while at the same time facilitating co-operation with other countries at the international level. I should like to mention just a few examples of international co-operation in which

(Mr. Okazaki, Japan)

Japan has been participating, in order to illustrate some of the possibilities for extending such co-operation more widely in the future.

The optical and radio tracking of satellites, the receiving of telemetered messages sent from satellites and detailed scientific analysis of data obtained in satellite-launching countries and made available to us, are one of the examples of international co-operation in which Japan participates.

Meteorological research and weather forecasting are of great practical importance to all countries. For Japan, situated as we are, meteorological data reported from over wide sea areas are indispensable, with regard, for example, to the forecasting of typhoons. Such data received from the United States TIROS satellites have been of great use to us in this connexion. We also realize that such information can be of great value to other countries in Asia as well. Accordingly, the Japanese Meteorological Agency is arranging to transmit and rebroadcast to other Asian countries, TIROS data received in Japan. In the field of communications through artificial satellites, an agreement was reached on 6 November of this year between the Japanese and United States Governments for technical co-operation concerning the experimental reception of communications from communications satellites launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA).

Another recent example of international co-operation was the launching in April and May of this year of resonance probes of Japanese origin which were mounted and launched from Wallops Island with successful results in a joint project undertaken with NASA.

I referred earlier to the emphasis we place in our space programme on the development of sounding rockets. I think it may be interesting to note that this aspect of our programme has reached the point where it has been possible to make some of our rockets available to other countries by exporting them abroad.

We have now before us the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in the work of which my delegation has had the honour of participating. This report contained specific recommendations for the promotion of international co-operation in the field of exchange of information, of encouragement of international programmes, including those associated with

(Mr. Okazaki, Japan)

the International Year of the Quiet Sun and the World Magnetic Survey, and of the creation and use of equatorial sounding rocket launching facilities under United Nations sponsorship. It should be noted that these recommendations are the first positive action which the Committee has taken since its inception in 1959, in response to the task given to it by the General Assembly. If adopted by the General Assembly, they would be the first material contribution which the Committee has made in discharge of its mission under General Assembly resolution 1472 (XIV) and 1721 (XVI). Modest as these recommendations are in their nature and scope, and in no sense dramatic, my delegation believes that they deserve urgent and favourable action by the General Assembly, since they represent an invaluable first step towards more complete implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions, they could not fail to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

I have tried to emphasize that there are many opportunities even for smaller countries to participate constructively in outer space activities and that the exploration and use of outer space can be and must be a universal, joint enterprise of all countries, both large and small. Consistent with, and complementary to these points, is another thesis -- perhaps more fundamental -- enunciated in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) Part A, namely:

"...the exploration and use of outer space should be only for the betterment of mankind and to the benefit of States irrespective of the stage of their economic or scientific development".

It is clear that no betterment of mankind can be expected, nor any benefit to States, unless a rational regime is established with regard to outer space activities, and unless such activities are based upon an established law and order. To achieve these ends, resolution 1721 (XVI) set out certain guiding principles for the exploration and use of outer space. Since outer space is a fairly new area of human activity, and because of the great rapidity with which these activities are developing day by day, there is a pressing need of developing, before it is too late, basic principles to ensure that outer space activities should be conducted peacefully, openly, and in an orderly manner, for the welfare of mankind. Naturally, there is some limitation on our efforts in this direction, since the principles to be developed must be such as the countries directly engaged in space activities would be ready to subscribe to.

(Mr. Okazaki, Japan)

Nevertheless, such a limitation should not cause us to hesitate to exert all our efforts towards working out reasonable and rational norms to regulate the use of outer space, since space activities, if left unregulated, might well yield an accumulation of undesirable faits accomplis. The growth of customary international law on outer space in this undesirable way, we feel, would be unfortunate. The guiding principles enumerated in General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) are very significant, in that they provide us with a good starting point for our efforts towards the objective we all desire; these principles themselves could be further elaborated and clarified. My delegation earnestly hopes to see some further accomplishments in this regard in the near future.

The basic theme upon which the whole regime for outer space should and must be built is the reservation of the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

It must be said that, beneath the amazement and rejoicing felt by the peoples of the world over the spectacular achievements that have been made by the principal space Powers in their outer space activities, there is a growing apprehension about their possible military implications -- implications that the arms race on earth might be expanded to outer space, and that outer space might be used for aggressive purposes. Accordingly, my delegation welcomes the statement made by the representative of the United States a few days ago in this Committee that "the United States has no intention of placing weapons of mass destruction in orbit unless compelled to do so", and we wholeheartedly support his remarks that, while negotiations continue for elimination of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, "it is especially important that we do everything now that can be done to avoid an arms race in outer space -- for certainly it should be easier to agree not to arm a part of the environment that has never been armed than to disarm parts that have been armed." This statement, we feel, is no more than elemental common sense and, as such, should be taken deeply to heart by all concerned.

This aspect of the question of outer space should probably be studied within the context of disarmament, and appropriate means of effective verification and control should be worked out for its final solution. My delegation is well aware of the complexity and difficulty of working out such

(Mr. Okazaki, Japan)

control measures. Nevertheless, we cannot help but urge the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee to take up as quickly as possible the question of the prohibition of military uses of outer space because of its tremendous importance and urgency.

We have no illusions about the difficulty of such a task, but the successful conclusion of the Antarctica Treaty in 1959, and the similarities between the problems of Antarctica and of outer space, both being new areas of exploration, encourage us and give us hope that necessary solutions can be worked out with regard to outer space. To illustrate our feeling that the Antarctica Treaty can serve as a good precedent for outer space, I wish to remind representatives of a preambular paragraph of the Treaty which, describing the spirit that led to its conclusion, states:

"It is in the interest of all mankind that Antarctica shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord."

May I quote further the provisions of Article I, which states:

"Antarctica shall be used for peaceful purposes only. There shall be prohibited, inter alia, any measures of a military nature, such as the establishment of military bases and fortifications, the carrying out of military maneuvers, as well as the testing of any type of weapons."

Article V of the Treaty provides for the prohibition of nuclear explosions in Antarctica and, under Article VII, all areas of Antarctica, including all stations, installations, and equipment therein and aircraft at certain points are open at any time to inspection by observers of other contracting parties, and the contracting parties are obligated to give advance notice of all expeditions, stations, and introduction of military personnel or equipment into the region. If the circumstances prevailing in outer space are more complicated, the more pressing is the need to start studying them in order to find a satisfactory solution.

The question of the prohibition of nuclear weapons tests in outer space seems to present much less difficulty now than some time ago, since the gaps between the United States and the United Kingdom on the one hand and the Soviet Union on the other have substantively been narrowed, and both sides have agreed

(Mr. Okazaki, Japan)

that international machinery for detection and verification is not necessary. We therefore believe that this aspect of the question is susceptible of prompt agreement, and we fervently hope that such agreement will be forthcoming in the very near future.

There are many other problems that should be taken up in considering the question of principles. Suffice it to say here that we attach great importance to open dealing in carrying out space programmes and activities. The benefits derived from space activities, such as scientific and other information and data, should be extended to all States, so that they may all enjoy, irrespective of the stage of their economic or scientific development, the benefits of that universal enterprise of penetration into space on an equal and non-discriminatory basis.

Serious consideration should also be given to the need of perfecting the system of furnishing information on launchings of objects into outer space under resolution 1721 (XVI), part B.

Included in the consideration of the general legal questions concerning outer space are specifically proposed legal problems of a practical nature and various other legal problems arising from the use and exploration of outer space. My delegation is looking forward to the meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to promote further study upon these problems.

In concluding my remarks, I wish to express our earnest hope that the United Nations will not fail to seize at this time the golden opportunity we now have to press international co-operative activities in the field of outer space, and to stress once again that the United Nations, as a focal point of international co-operation, should do everything that it can to ensure that the exploration and use of outer space will be conducted openly, in an orderly manner, for peaceful purposes only, and for the welfare of all mankind. For these objectives, and to all the Members of the United Nations, the Japanese delegation and Government pledge their full co-operation and devoted efforts.

Mr. STEVENSON (United States of America): I have an announcement to make which I think will be of interest to all members of the Committee and of considerable and hopeful significance.

As members of this Committee are aware, the President of the United States, in his State of the Union message of 30 January 1961, invited all nations to join in peaceful co-operation in outer space. Last March an exchange of letters also took place between President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchev, containing more detailed proposals for co-operative efforts. These letters were circulated as United Nations documents and will doubtless be remembered by many members of the Committee.

United States and Soviet scientists thereafter met in New York and in Geneva, at the same time as the meetings of the Technical Sub-Committee of the United Nations Outer Space Committee.

In June of this year agreement was reached for co-operation in three fields of space activity: first, co-ordinated launchings of meteorological satellites and the exchange of data thus obtained; second, co-ordinated launchings of satellites to map the earth's magnetic field; and, third, experiments in space communications by means of a United States passive reflector satellite, with consideration to be given to future co-operation in joint experiments using active repeater satellites. The agreement provides that among matters to be discussed in future meetings is the preparation for the working out with other countries of an experimental system of global space communications. It was agreed that the results of these co-operative experiments would be made freely available to all interested States.

The United States and the Soviet Union have requested the Secretary-General to circulate this agreement as a United Nations document.

This promising programme, directed to the peaceful use of outer space, should now move forward towards implementation. Here I think we have a practical demonstration that our two nations can, despite political differences, co-operate in a highly important field of human endeavour. My Government is hopeful that the agreement will lead to further expansion of outer space co-operation, involving many countries, on a broad basis, with the encouragement and assistance of the United Nations.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): On behalf of the Soviet delegation, I should like to inform the Committee that today the head of the Soviet delegation to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly, the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations, Mr. V. Zorin, together with the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Mr. Stevenson, sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the following letter:

"His Excellency U Thant,

"Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

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

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

I would add that among the documents which will thus be put at the disposal of members of this Committee is a letter from the President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Mr. Keldysh, in which he gives the following description of the agreement reached between Soviet and United States scientists as a result of the exchange of views between Dr. Hugh Dryden and Academician Blagonravov in June of this year:

"... the Academy of Sciences of the USSR notes that neither side has proposed within the specified period of time any changes or additions to the text of the recommendations as agreed in Geneva.

"In view of this, we consider the above-named agreement to have thus entered into force and are informing you herewith that Soviet scientists are prepared to commence its implementation.

"The Academy of Sciences of the USSR expresses the hope that the agreement on co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space will provide a good beginning for the further development and expansion of co-operation between Soviet and American scientists in this noble task for the sake of scientific progress and the strengthening of peace on earth."

The CHAIRMAN: There are no other names on the list of speakers. Is any member of the Committee prepared to speak at this time?

Mr. SOULEYMANE (Mauritania) (interpretation from French): Yesterday my delegation suggested that the meeting scheduled for this afternoon might be cancelled, in view of the fact that at that time there were only two names on the list of speakers for this afternoon's meeting, and one name on the list for this morning's meeting. We did not make a formal proposal to this effect yesterday because we felt that the Chairman would bear our suggestion in mind. However, since we see today that a meeting is still scheduled for this afternoon, since there are only two names on the list of speakers for the afternoon meeting and only one name on the list of speakers for tomorrow morning's meeting, and since there is to be a plenary meeting of the General Assembly this afternoon on an extremely important item, my delegation formally proposes that the meeting of the First Committee scheduled for this afternoon should be cancelled.

Mr. ANUMAN-RAJADHON (Thailand): I second the proposal.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has heard the proposal made by the representative of Mauritania and supported by the representative of Thailand. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees that the meeting scheduled for this afternoon should be cancelled.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.