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Chairman: Mr. ENCKELL (Finland)
(Vice-Chairman)

Later: Mr. ADEEL (Sudan)

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)

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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, 880, 881; A/C.1/L.320/Rev.1; REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CHAPTER VII, SECTION IV; A/5203) (continued)

Mr. THAJEB (Indonesia): My brief comments will be of a somewhat generalized nature. Most of the representatives who preceded me are more conversant than I with the intricacies of the issues, both scientific and legal, that are involved in a consideration of the reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Union.

I speak for a developing country which, while it would be gratified to participate in this new area of human endeavour, however modestly, has perforce in its programme of Government expenditure a scale of priorities that is quite different from those of the highly developed nations. Nevertheless, Indonesia has no wish to stand aside from the important developments that are now taking place, nor would it be right for us to do so. The recommendations based on the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and of the reports of WMO and ITU, clearly emphasize that the successful development of all the potentialities of outer space for the benefit of mankind as a whole demands co-operation on a global scale.

(Mr. Thajeb, Indonesia)

The peaceful and beneficial development of outer space is not the responsibility alone of the two nations that have sent men on spectacular forays into space or of those other highly developed nations that have already contributed much to outer space research. All nations, as members of this planet, are equally involved in man's great venture, and all nations should contribute to the limits of their capacity.

In this connexion I would like to recall the text of the two preambular paragraphs to section A of resolution 1721 (XVI). The first of these recognizes:

"the common interest of mankind in furthering the peaceful uses of outer space and the urgent need to strengthen international co-operation in this important field".

And the second affirms the belief:

"that 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".

Taken together the two paragraphs thus indicate something of both the responsibilities and the rights of all nations regarding the development of outer space. Moreover, they seem to my delegation to encourage the developing countries to share a sense of participation in great events, in which we are in reality able to take part as yet to only a very small extent.

And I recall with pleasure that the representative of the Soviet Union ended his address to this Committee on 3 December by expressly encouraging the efforts of nations possessing but limited technical potential at the moment. My delegation welcomes such an attitude on the part of one of the two nations which have led mankind in its conquest of outer space.

The need for international co-operation has provided the keynote of our entire debate in the First Committee. The very fact that outer space is still a great unknown would seem to be compelling nations to a recognition of the necessity for a pooling of national and therefore restricted efforts in order to arrive at a greater achievement for the benefit of all nations. However, it can be noted that this concern for co-operation has been evinced at two levels. On the one level we have the concern for technical co-operation on a global scale; that is, as involving

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the endeavours of all countries in order to carry out successfully the international programmes envisaged in the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee. On the other level, we have the concern for international co-operation as opposed to national competition. And in this case the concern has given rise to admonitions directed chiefly towards the two nations leading the development of outer space.

Many representatives have expressed their regret, and in the opinion of my delegation rightly so, at the sense of competition with which man's first ventures into space have been marked. Now it may well be that, as with exploration on earth, the initiatives in outer space explorations have necessarily had to be undertaken by nations working individually. And it may well be that these initiatives would naturally tend to take a competitive form, with each nation indulging in feelings of justified pride at its achievements when compared with those of other nations. But, unfortunately, the competition that we are now witnessing is not primarily a simple contest of national prowess for its own sake. It is also a contest based on a hostility that in turn is the result of cold war conditions, conditions which seem to the parties concerned to force competitive space exploration and development in order that they may acquire greater military advantage. Such a misuse of outer space is hardly for the "betterment of mankind", and without doubt closely relates to the failure to secure general and complete disarmament on earth. The precise nature of the relationship which should pertain between disarmament on earth and the prevention of armament in space is, however, a highly contentious issue between the two main parties. My delegation will content itself with reiterating the opinion already expressed by several representatives that in this day and age we cannot afford -- in any sense of the word -- continued competition in the sphere of outer space. The members will recall in particular the eloquent elaboration on this point made by the representative of Peru.

(Mr. Thajeb, Indonesia)

Fortunately, as the representatives of both the United States and the Soviet Union have intimated, the two great Powers would seem to be well aware of the dangers involved in pursuing a competitive course. My delegation believes that they are making genuine attempts to halt the hostile contest by means of a greater collaboration on the peaceful uses of outer space. On 5 December the heads of the United States and USSR delegations announced to this Committee an agreement for co-operation in three fields of space activity. My delegation is glad to observe that the two Powers are increasing the area of their active co-operation in peaceful uses. It seems to my delegation that, in the absence of agreed legal principles, this increase of co-operation on specific projects could go a considerable way towards diminishing competition. True, it is only an indirect approach to the problem. But we feel that the more common ground the two Powers have as regards their technical activities, the more ground they are likely to find in common when it comes to agreeing on fundamental legal principles.

However, the Indonesian delegation is by no means suggesting that the question of defining agreed principles should be in any way held over until some later date. The cold war persists, and the rapid development of outer space makes an early agreement on basic principles and a mandatory legal code governing space activities imperative. For only on that basis shall we be able to ensure that outer space is reserved solely for peaceful uses.

We regret the failure of the Legal Sub-Committee to produce specific recommendations, and we would urge that that Sub-Committee renew its efforts as soon as possible. We consider that there is probably sufficient common ground between the various proposals on basic principles submitted by the USSR, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States to enable the Sub-Committee to produce a recommendation for a draft declaration incorporating all the areas of assent. And it would also seem to us valuable if the Sub-Committee could try to reach agreement on a recommendation concerning the least contentious of the legal issues -- namely, the liability for space vehicle accident. An agreed recommended draft on at least one legal aspect would be of enormous psychological advantage and could act as a spur to agreement on the other issues.

(Mr. Kiselev, Byelorussian SSR)

But, remarkable as these achievements of man may be, it will always be remembered that the first jump into space was made in the Soviet Union. The date of 4 October 1957, when the first artificial satellite of the earth was launched into orbit by the Soviet Union, has found a permanent place in history as the date when the conquest of outer space began.

The whole world is familiar with the remarkable achievements of the Soviet Union in the conquest of space: the launching of heavy artificial satellites of the earth, the photographing of the other side of the moon, the launching of automatic stations towards Venus and Mars, and, finally, the space flights around the earth made by the Soviet astronauts Gagarin, Titov, Nicolaev and Popovich, flights which were greeted with enthusiasm by all mankind. The primary role of the Soviet Union in the conquest of space is a clear demonstration of the superiority of socialism, which has opened unlimited possibilities for the development of science and technology. It is well known that the conquest of outer space was accomplished by the Soviet Union in the interest of the peace of mankind as a whole.

(Mr. Thajeb, Indonesia)

I should like to conclude my remarks by returning to the question of technical co-operation on a world-wide scale. My delegation wishes to express its gratitude to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to the WMO and the ITU for having outlined such a comprehensive programme of international collaboration. It is truly a programme from which the whole of mankind should derive great benefit, and one in which my country would be proud to participate to the best of its ability. Indonesia is a tropical country situated along the equator and extending partly into the southern hemisphere. This is an area where, according to the report of the WMO, weather information is rather sparse. My Government will be ready, when called upon, to co-operate under United Nations sponsorship in the establishment of an efficient world-wide weather-reporting system.

The programmes recommended by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should initiate an epoch of international co-operation on a hitherto unknown scale. As Mr. Gore, the representative of the United States, said in the first speech in this debate:

"It is an intriguing thought, which I find hopeful, that we may be on the threshold of an epoch in which science will batter down the political obstacles to international co-operation ...". (A/C.1/PV.1289, page 21)

It is more than an intriguing thought: it is an inspiring one, which embodies an aim that is worthy of our Organization. Let us hope that we are able to translate the thought into reality.

Mr. KISELEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): In the last few years, events have occurred under our very eyes which may indeed be described as historic events. Scientists have made discoveries which will indelibly mark this entire historical period, discoveries whose importance far exceeds that of any previous events. That which was only a dream to the greatest brains of humanity has become a reality of every-day life. Each year the time is coming nearer when flights of space ships will be as commonplace as flights of aircraft are today. The time is not far off when space ships, guided by man, will open routes to the Moon, to Mars and to Venus. Wide prospects are now open to mankind for the conquest of outer space and for flights towards the planets of the solar system.

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Speaking on 16 September 1959 at the National Press Club in the United States, the Head of the Soviet Government, Mr. Nikita S. Khrushchev, declared:

"The launching into space of rockets and the planting of a flag on the moon are considered by us as our achievements, and by 'our' we mean all the countries of the world. That is to say, it is also your achievement and that of all men living on this earth. The Soviet Union has always been, and still is, in favour of wide international co-operation in the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes in the interests of the progressive development of the whole of mankind."

The Byelorussian delegation has carefully studied the documents presented to the Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space by the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Union, and we would also like to give our views on this problem.

In voting at our previous session in favour of the resolution on international co-operation in the peaceful exploration of outer space, my delegation sincerely hoped that the Western Powers which were members of the Committee would in deeds, not just in words, make every effort to carry out the provisions of this resolution. Unfortunately, our hopes have been in vain, despite the fact that various countries, particularly the Soviet Union, have prepared proposals which could and still can become a realistic basis for the collective efforts of State really interested in a peaceful outer space.

It is well known that the Head of the Soviet Government, Nikita S. Khrushchev, on 20 March of this year sent to the President of the United States a message containing a proposal to co-operate in the following six important fields: the organization of a world service of weather observation; development of a common programme for the study of the moon, Mars, Venus and other planets; the conclusion of an international agreement on the rescue of and assistance to astronauts and space ships making emergency landings; co-operation in the mapping of the magnetic field of the earth; and the exchange of information in the field of space research; and, further, the settlement of legal problems regarding the use of outer space.

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My delegation is happy to note that following the exchange of messages between Chairman Khrushchev and President Kennedy, the Soviet Union and the United States made significant efforts which led to an agreement between scientists of the Soviet Union and scientists of the United States for co-operation in regard to many concrete aspects of the study and the conquest of outer space. This agreement confirms once again that co-operation between the Soviet Union and the United States is possible, despite existing divergencies. It is with satisfaction that we note that this idea, which has often been expressed by representatives of the Soviet Union, was reflected in the statement of Mr. Stevenson, the United States representative, on 5 December of this year in this Committee. The Byelorussian delegation expresses the hope that co-operation between the Soviet Union and the United States will continue to develop in the future in the interests of peace and the well-being of peoples, as well as in the interests of co-operation between all peoples.

We also take note of the efforts made by the sub-committees of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its first session in May and June 1962, although in the case of the Legal Sub-Committee we cannot but note that the cause of the sterility of its work was the non-constructive attitude of the Western Powers.

Speaking of lost opportunities, we would like to stress the fact that the absence of agreement on the main problem of our era, that of disarmament, has had an influence on this and this makes united efforts necessary.

This, of course, is also seen in the documents which have been presented to us with regard to this item on our agenda. The Soviet Union, as before, has consistently taken the initiative by presenting proposals the implementation of which would serve to pave the way towards peaceful co-operation in outer space. In this connexion, we would like to recall the following important initiatives of the Soviet Union: the draft declaration on basic principles governing the activities of States pertaining to the exploration and use of outer space, the draft international agreement on the rescue of astronauts and spece ships making emergency landings, and so on.

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There has been much discussion in international legal literature regarding legal regulations for outer space. We would like to note that much of what has been written by Western jurists is of a scholastic nature which is far removed from the needs of our day. What is the value, for instance, of working out principles for the occupation of lifeless planets or of principles that should apply to beings on other planets. These who favour unlimited State sovereignty over outer space propose to apply the principles of the international conventions of their Governments to outer space. I should like to tell the advocates of this theory that this cannot be applied to outer space, which is above the territories of States, because of the laws of perpetual movement and the unlimited reaches of the universe.

One thing is clear; it is absolutely necessary to conclude an agreement under international law between States concerning the peaceful uses of outer space. How can one tolerate a gap between concrete measures in the scientific and technical field and the working out of a basis in international law which would facilitate international agreement by setting out definite principles to govern relations between States.

Mr. Morozov, the Soviet representative, speaking in this Committee on 20 March of this year, expressed in detail the views of the Soviet Government on international co-operation in the conquest of outer space, and quite justly pointed out that the legal problems of space must be solved by respecting such generally recognized principles as the principle of peaceful coexistence, respect for the sovereignty of States, non-aggression, non-interference in the internal affairs of countries, and equal rights.

It is essential, for instance, to work out legal principles which would prohibit the use of communications and television satellites for the making of war propaganda, inciting racial hatreds and hostility between States and peoples.

In the Legal Sub-Committee, the Soviet Union presented a draft declaration of the basic principles governing the activities of States pertaining to the exploration and use of outer space and a draft international agreement on the rescue of astronauts and space ships making emergency landings. The formulation of a mutually acceptable legal document of a compulsory nature for States participating in the exploration and use of outer space is mandatory in our time.

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The Byelorussian delegation followed with great attention the discussion that obtained in the Political Committee on the question of the peaceful uses of outer space. We heard some most interesting statements, but, unfortunately, concreteness was often lacking in the speeches of the various representatives of the Western countries. I could give names and make quotations, but I will refrain from doing so because our main effort has always tended towards facilitating an agreed solution in the interests of the whole of mankind.

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My delegation would like to make a few remarks on some concrete problems. It seems to us, for instance, that the representative of Peru, a distinguished specialist in the field of international law, Mr. Belaunde, was not quite correct in his understanding or interpretation of the matter in his speech of 4 December, especially in his interpretation of the Soviet draft declaration of the main principles governing the activities of States pertaining to the exploration and uses of outer space. In the Soviet draft declaration the question of sovereignty in outer space is worked out much deeper than Mr. Belaunde told the Committee. The Soviet declaration is based not only on mere coexistence, but it opens the way for close and brotherly co-operation in space. At the same time, we agree with the representative of Peru when he stresses the urgent need of finding legal regulations to govern relations in space, and when he points to the noble tasks that lie ahead of the United Nations in this field. But we think that he errs if he thinks that in space something radical can be obtained without any disarmament on earth. Just as the representative of Australia, Sir James Flimsoll, he stated that outer space is but an aspect of the problem of disarmament. Is it not clear, after such a statement that the full solution of one part goes through the solution of the whole? This does not mean, of course, that we are deprived of the possibility of acting with some success now.

From this point of view, the representative of the United Kingdom, Sir Patrick Dean, is quite wrong when he warns us that one may not expect sufficient progress in the legal field. On the contrary, in order to ensure sufficient progress in the future, it is necessary today to work out the legal aspects of that co-operation. Remember the problem of disarmament. Do not the principles of disarmament, that have already been agreed upon, exert a beneficial influence? In the same way, in outer space, principles agreed upon will assist us in working out practical co-operation.

One also cannot agree with the statement made by the representative of France, Mr. Seydoux, who said that the time has not yet come to solve the legal problems of the conquest of space, that it is too early to try to establish a rule of law for outer space. My delegation is convinced that

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agreement on the legal aspects of space must be reached as soon as possible. It is important not to be late in working out these legal principles, not to lag behind the fast pace of progress in the field of science and technology.

In our opinion, the representative of Iran, Mr. Vakil, was quite right when, on 7 December of this year, he stated that we cannot condone a slow pace of development of legal norms in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space. The conquest of outer space for peaceful purposes, which began in the activities of the scientists of the Soviet Union, opens up to the whole of mankind unlimited possibilities for its creative urge. The gigantic scope of the future investigations requires huge efforts and means, and this also dictates the needs of international co-operation. Our planet, the earth, is the motherland of all peoples. Mankind must enter other worlds as a whole. It must unite its efforts in outer space, having united its efforts and having consolidated peaceful coexistence and co-operation of all States on earth. We are glad to note that in the reports presented to us by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, by the International Telecommunication Union, by the World Meteorological Organization and also in the statement by the representative of UNESCO, there is a clear-cut desire of the whole of progressive mankind to co-operate in space, and an attempt is made to determine the scope of questions which as of now could be solved by conjugated efforts.

A fruitful co-operation in the interest of peace and progress can be established only in conditions of peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding. Can one pave the way to full mutual understanding in outer space if the aggressive circles in some Western Powers bend every effort to drag space into this demented armaments race? These dangerous plans are well known, and that is why I shall not tire the members of the Committee by speaking on them. The time has not come to be lax in our efforts. We must move ahead. Now, after the example of the constructive attitude of wisdom and understanding of the vital interests of mankind which were evinced by the Head of the Soviet Government, Mr. Khrushchev, in the dire days of the Cuban crisis, it is necessary to multiply our efforts on the basis of that which unites us in order to eliminate and overcome that which separates us.

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The achievements of the Soviet Union and the United States in the field of the conquest of space are well known. But such scientific work is also going on in other countries of the world. Remarkable successes have been achieved in the field of outer space exploration by the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Canada, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and other countries. Work is going full steam ahead to transform Western Europe into a third space Power. On 14 June 1962, the representatives of ten European countries signed a convention on the creation of a European organization for space exploration. According to the Agence France Presse of 23 February 1962, "Space Europe" will in the next nine years launch 440 rockets with a scientific destination, twenty-two earth satellites, four space platforms, and two moon satellites. The carrying out of these plans will begin in 1963. Thus, the exploration of outer space for peaceful uses, which was brilliantly begun by men of the Soviet Union, is moving ahead at an ever-increasing tempo.

The gigantic tasks of forthcoming explorations will require huge efforts and resources. Space opens remarkable possibilities for the united effort of all States. But in conditions of international tensions, in conditions of suspicion between States, the conquest of space will be ever closer subordinated to military aims. The delegation of Byelorussia considers that it is high time to put an end to this situation. We may not tolerate a situation where aggressive forces would in outer space create something akin to military bases which, like the sword of Damocles would hang over the peace-loving peoples of the world and would impede the progress of mankind. If the cold war were to lead to the militarization of outer space, it is clear that only the liquidation of the cold war will eradicate this abnormal and intolerable situation. Only improved relations between States and only the creation of a climate of friendship and confidence between States will allow us to move ahead in the noble task of the conquest of outer space for peace and the well-being of the whole of mankind.

We are happy to see the draft resolution presented by the Soviet Union, the United States and other States. We consider that in this draft the tasks are clearly marked which the Outer Space Committee can tackle as of now. The

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adoption and the carrying out of this resolution will be a further step towards widening the scope of international co-operation for the exploration and study of outer space.

I come now to the end of my statement and I would like to stress once again in the name of my delegation the deep thought enshrined in last year's resolution of the General Assembly that:

"... 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,".

(General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI))

We are deeply convinced that it is only on that basis that the peoples of the world will be able to move ahead in this great cause, the conquest of outer space. Having laid out solid foundations for peaceful co-operation on earth, the peoples of the world will be able to use the widest possibilities for collective endeavours in outer space.

Mr. SULEIMAN (Sudan): I should like to state briefly the views of my delegation on the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the reports of the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Union, which are the subject of discussion before this Committee.

We are happy to note that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has adopted unanimously the recommendations of its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee for the exchange of information, encouragement of international programmes, and international equatorial sounding-rocket launching facilities. The agreement reached on the last two points is of special importance. It will undoubtedly enhance international co-operation, not only among the major Powers now engaged in the exploration of outer space, but will emphasize the global role to be played by all nations.

While appreciating this success in reaching an agreement in the scientific and technical fields, we feel that it is regrettable that the Committee was not able to reach an agreement on the legal aspects of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. However, we have noted that a number of the members of the Committee on Outer Space who spoke in this general debate have stated that the discussions which were held in Geneva were useful. Secondly, the guiding principles set forth in General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) form the basis for future negotiations. Furthermore, the drafts submitted by the major Powers, although wide apart in certain areas, still aim at the same goal.

My delegation humbly ventures to state that an agreement in wider fields could be reached if the members of the Committee could devote their attention solely to peaceful activities in outer space. We state this not because we are unaware of the danger which will confront humanity from armed vehicles in outer space, but because it is possible to achieve international co-operation only when the aim behind that co-operation is for peace and peace alone. My delegation is of the conviction that the use of rockets or satellites for peaceful or military ends is only a matter of intention. In this respect we must take cognizance of the stated views of the United States and the Soviet Union that both seek to avoid using satellites for military objectives.

(Mr. Suleiman, Sudan)

My delegation welcomes the recent agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union to the effect that they have agreed to co-operate in three fields: (a) meteorology, (b) world geomagnetic surveys, and (c) satellite telecommunications. We hope that this agreement will be extended to other regions of vital importance for the betterment of mankind and will aid in reducing world tension.

The report of the World Meteorological Organization has brought again to our attention the significance of international co-operation. The representative of WMO, speaking before this Committee, stated the following in this connexion:

"The first WMO report, which is now before the Assembly for consideration, is in itself an example of close international collaboration. As the representatives are aware, it has been prepared with the assistance of American and Russian scientists and with the benefit of the advice and suggestions of other international organizations that are concerned in this matter ...". (A/C.1/PV.1291, p.28)

The representative of WMO further emphasized the need for international co-operation in the field of supplying direct observations at the surface and in the lower atmosphere which were not sufficiently observed by weather satellites. He made an appeal in these words:

"I would in particular address an appeal to the developing countries of the world to join in this inspiring international effort." (Ibid, p. 32)

In answering this appeal as a representative of one of the developing countries, I would say that my Government would be ready to help in any international programme for the advancement of science with the limited means which it has in hand.

We consider that global co-operation is essentially vital for any international programme. The only difficulty in many cases is that the gap between the advanced countries and the developing countries is too wide to make that co-operation feasible or fruitful. That is why we welcome the different suggestions made by several of the Specialized Agencies to help the developing countries to master the technique of collecting profitable data and to have the means of doing so. We noticed with satisfaction that the International Radio Consultative Committee and the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee have

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established Plan Committees for Asia, Africa and Latin America, the task of which is to establish a plan for inter-country communications for the region concerned.

In conclusion, may I express the hope that this Committee will reaffirm the principles declared last year by the General Assembly that "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 their scientific development". (1721 (XVI))

Mr. de LEQUERICA (Spain) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation participates in this debate as it is almost closed and, therefore, there is little to say. However, we should not like the voice of our delegation to be lacking when a matter of such timeliness is being discussed, a matter concerned with the discovery of this new stellar America, in the discovery of which continent which we are today visiting, I am proud to remind the Committee, the keels of ships from my own country had a part -- this America which is filled with dreams, mysteries and hopes.

Last year we referred to the rapid success of achievements since 1958, among which was the arrival of a rocket on the moon, the photographing of the other side of the moon, the launching of artificial satellites, and finally, the arrival of man in that outer space of such unlimited scope. We live at a time when the rhythm of events acquires an accelerated pace such as it did not have in the past or, to continue the comparison, at the end of the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries. That is why today, only one temporal year after our last meeting, we can add to the feats already mentioned the unheard of events, as our Cervantes would have said, of the flight of Astronauts Glenn, Carpenter and Shirra, the flights of the Soviet rockets, Vostok III and IV, and of the vehicles launched by the United States and the Soviet Union to our neighbours in outer space, Venus and Mars, which promise to give us within a few months unsuspected information regarding our friends in the solar system.

(Mr. de Lequerica, Spain)

All this we welcome with joy and emotion because we believe that beyond all the differences, nothing human is alien to us, as the Latin proverb says, and more especially, all that is glorious and strong in human character.

The magnitude of the enterprise, the progress of the programmes, the astronomic amounts -- and never was the word "astronomic" better used -- that are necessary for the development of these programmes, explain and justify the necessity in which we find ourselves to organize as rapidly as possible this new human activity. Otherwise there would be a great risk of causing an excessive expenditure of energies, a duplication of efforts which could give rise to discord in outer space which, until the present, has been free of the human quarrels of our terrestrial globe. It is therefore necessary and ever more urgent that close international co-operation be achieved in the exploration and use of outer space, and it is perfectly obvious that as soon as possible we must achieve the formulation of legal structures for outer space that will juridically regulate the new problems developing out of progress in technology.

There are certain symptoms that give comfort to even the most discouraged of us. We note with satisfaction, for example, that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee first, and then the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space have unanimously approved a group of recommendations which they have now submitted for the consideration of the Assembly. They refer to the exchange of information, to the encouragement of international programmes and to possible international installations in the equatorial zone for the launching of sounding rockets. We believe that these constitute, without doubt, a first step along the road of international collaboration and that there will be involved in this not only States Members of the United Nations but also a goodly number of specialized bodies and organizations. The first reports received from the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Union are, to give but two examples, proof of what the specialized agencies can do in this type of work.

Furthermore, we received with satisfaction the declaration made the other day by the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union, informing us of the fact that both countries have reached an agreement on co-operation in three aspects of space activities: the meteorological aspect, the magnetic aspect, and the aspect of space communication through the use of a reflector

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satellite of the United States. We have also observed with satisfaction other demonstrations of international co-operation in this field, such as the launchings of the Alouette and Arielle satellites and the activities of the European Organization for Space Investigation and the European Organization for the Construction and Launching of Space Vehicles.

I likewise note with pleasure -- at present, thank Heaven, there are many causes for satisfaction -- that all nations are endeavouring, within the limits of their capabilities, to contribute to this joint effort. Even those that contribute to a very modest degree should make their contribution.

My country, Spain, has collaborated with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and in fulfilment of the oft-quoted resolution 1721 (XVI), part B, we have submitted the information requested in sub-paragraph (b) of that resolution. In Spain we have a number of organizations concerned with outer-space matters and research therein: the National Institute of Aeronautical and Astronautical Technology, the National Meteorological Service, the Spanish Astronautical Association and the Association of Aeronautical Engineers of the Institute of Civil Engineers of Spain. Incidentally, on individual aspects, there are other bodies working as well, such as the National Institute of Electronics and the Ebro Observatory.

The National Institute of Aeronautical Technology is developing a research programme involving rocket launching, and because of its general activities the Institute is concerned with all matters relating to the peaceful uses of outer space. This Institute has scientific, technical and juridical departments studying the various problems in this field of activity.

The National Meteorological Service particularly is interested in everything pertaining to the extension of present aerological soundings, carrying them into the upper layers of the atmosphere through the use of rockets, and in the use of satellites for observation of changes in meteorological situations. In this latter connexion it is at present co-operating with the World Meteorological Organization.

The Spanish Astronautical Association is an educational organization and has no research facilities of its own. It stimulates interest in the use of outer space through lecture programmes, the organization of congresses, participation in international congresses and the publication of scientific and technical matter.

(Mr. de Lequerica, Spain)

And to complete this enumeration of the modest contribution of Spain to the common task, the Association of Aeronautical Engineers, on a level similar to that of the Spanish Astronautical Association, organizes seminars and study groups, in some cases in collaboration with the National Institute of Aeronautical and Astronautical Technology.

Thus we have assembled encouraging proof of international co-operation and agreement. But while this has been the case in the technical field, it has not had its counterpart in the field of law, where we regret to see that the Special Sub-Committee has been unable to arrive at any type of agreement. We have heard the understandable impatience of the representative of Byelorussia a few moments ago. He was very much concerned that definitive juridical norms be established for outer space. This is justifiable and we are not discouraged. My constant collaborator on this Committee, an eminent gentleman with a judicial background before devoting himself to diplomacy, Mr. Pérez Ruiz who is seated here with me, pointed out to me that the law is not a science which normally anticipates the events and relationships which it seeks to regulate, but that rather, basing itself on higher principles of justice, it takes some time to assimilate a new situation and to translate into concrete formulas, applicable to the new relationships that have been created, those lofty and overriding principles. This observation I regard as most proper. Let us not ask the law to rush ahead. What it creates is too solid, too stable, sometimes more solid and stable than what science foresees and discovers. It is, above all, more stable. Let us, therefore, allow it full time for reflexion. In this matter I am in agreement with the representative of France.

If it is likewise true that newly discovered knowledge is ever-changing and that to it there is added each day a new discovery or a new problem, it should surprise no one that the above-mentioned Sub-Committee was unable to make any progress in developing the essential principles contained in resolution 1721 (XVI) which, as we know, lay down the principle that international law applies to outer space and the celestial bodies and that both these latter are open to exploration and use by all States and are not subject to national appropriation.

(Mr. de Lequerica, Spain)

However, we must not waste too much time; we must, practically speaking, continue to move forward in this matter between two urgencies: first, to avoid the hasty creation of a body of law more or less theoretical in nature which could rapidly lose its application, shoved aside by events; and second, to prevent the cosmos from becoming a realm where disorder and anarchy reign. If the cosmos had personality, we could say that we should not make it "earth-minded", carrying into it all the troubles of our long, complicated existence of so many centuries.

Fortunately, we believe, there are reasons for believing that these things can be avoided. The Soviet Union has submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space a draft declaration in which are set forth the fundamental principles which, in its judgement, should govern the activities of States in the study and utilization of outer space. Although in this declaration certain questions are raised which might be better considered in the eighteen-nation Disarmament Committee, and certain claims -- among them that of the sole and exclusive jurisdiction of States in outer-space activities -- which are unacceptable to other countries, we are nevertheless glad to note that this statement of principles includes a group of rules which can constitute a basis for discussion for the ultimate formulation of the said principles.

(Mr. de Lequerica, Spain)

On the same matter, the delegation of the United Kingdom has submitted a series of principles to us in this Committee, and this morning the United States distributed a document which we have glanced at but have not yet been able to ponder carefully. However, at first sight it appears that the American proposal is full of constructive elements which should be very helpful in the humanitarian work being carried out. The same applies to the draft code of the UAR. Item 2 contains principles that could be considered as falling within this category. Thus, we have a series of proposals which coincide in many aspects; this allows us to hope that at future meetings of the Special Committee some agreement may be arrived at. The United States draft refers to assistance to space vehicles in the case of accidents, and liability in the case of such accidents; also the rescue and the return of space vehicles and personnel, both very praiseworthy contributions to the work of the Committee. We trust that all these together will be the harbinger of the fact that at the next session of the General Assembly we shall receive a positive and constructive report from the Committee on the very weighty problem before it. Thus far, we have only received only one draft resolution sponsored originally by the United States and Canada and now by sixteen other countries, countries of all parts of the world, in its revised version.

In view of all this, and in view of what we have said thus far, we shall judge that draft resolution and vote upon it as we feel it should be voted on. We, too, harbour good hopes that the cosmos, because of its spiritual influence as well as its material influence, can serve as a lesson to our planet. Let us therefore all assist those who are working on this subject. Let us assist them in drafting properly regulated formulas for these very new aspects of life.

Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus): My delegation wishes to express its satisfaction that there is a joint draft resolution. That is, we feel, a helpful sign. At least, it preserves the spirit of co-operation that prevailed during the deliberations in this Committee during the last session on this item.

It is important that there should be co-operation in the scientific world from the first and still more important that there should be co-operation in the establishment of an international law.

(Mr. Rossides, Cyprus)

With regard to co-operation in the scientific world, my delegation believes that there should be not only free and unhindered access to information from both sides on the exploration in outer space but there should be an arrangement for actual co-operation in order to avoid duplication of work which involves so much expense and contains in it the elements of antagonism.

Why, since there is agreement that outer space is going to be explored for peaceful purposes, should there be no co-operation in that sphere? We believe that such co-operation would be the beginning of a closer co-operation so much needed on many other problems in "inner space". We believe that it is not only regrettable that there has been no agreement on legal principles or on the elaboration of any steps taken with regard to international law; it is more than regrettable, it is dangerous. If we look at the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, we find that the summary by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee says -- in truth, what does it say, after showing so many proposals, and all of them very good proposals? That no agreement has been reached on any of the proposals, or on any part of any proposal, which were submitted to the Sub-Committee. This really is most disheartening because we believe that unless there is progress in the legal aspects, the exploration of outer space although it is said to be for peaceful purposes, becomes ambiguous.

Progress of science in outer space, without the corresponding progress towards law and order, is a distressing sign. Before we advance too much in scientific achievement, there should be important progress towards agreement on international law and order regarding outer space. Otherwise, we may be faced with another grave and perhaps greater problem than that of scientific development of atomic energy, that of nuclear weapons, without any arrangements having been made for law and order in respect of those weapons. Humanity now, because of that progress without international law and order, is threatened with the real danger of self-extinction and annihilation.

Unless we see that the gap between the scientific progress in outer space and law and order is made smaller, we should restrain ourselves from further progress in scientific achievements which may not be entirely for peaceful purposes. If we cannot agree on the law which applies to outer space exploration, that means that there is something, some ingredient or antagonism, some ingredient

(Mr. Rossides, Cyprus)

purposing a possible use of this space other than peaceful. If we intend merely to use space for peaceful purposes there would be no question of agreement on legal principles, or at least on many of them. We have had so much difficulty, we feel there is a real danger here.

Although I have expressed this warning, I wish also to express my delegation's appreciation for the work that has been done and the co-operation and information given and also for the very valuable reports that have been produced by the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the most enlightening report of the World Meteorological Organization, and the International Telecommunication Union's report. Also, the scientific and technical sub-committee has shown some progress towards agreement on various points. The only disappointing sign is from the Legal Sub-Committee which, as I have already explained, is the more important. Indeed, not only is the elaboration of legal principles required for outer space but also, as was very pertinently pointed out by the representative of Peru, Mr. Belaunde, the establishment of a body to apply this principle under the United Nations is extremely necessary. It is not enough to have the principles unless there is a way of applying them and therefore the juridical aspect should be taken into consideration, and the executive, to see that those principles are applied.

Outer space is a new field, a virgin area in which we are now venturing. Therefore, we should approach that area in the spirit of our time, in the spirit of co-operation, in the spirit of world order, which has become so important here. Every one realizes its true importance because of the progress of science and nuclear weapons. In the understanding now of the need for world order, we should intelligently approach outer space. If we find it difficult to establish world order in the old world because of all that has preceded our present stage, we must realize that we must approach the new world of outer space governed by international law and in accord on the principles of order. That is why I believe that this Committee has very well emphasized, in the draft resolution, the need for advance in legal principles. These principles must be made a reality of law. Last year we had a resolution mentioning the need for legal principles in international law and after a year's work we have come here without a single principle.

(Mr. Rossides, Cyprus)

In this sense, I believe this is really the fundamental idea of having world law and order, not only in the outer space but also in the inner space, and it is perhaps the method of getting law and order in the inner space, after getting it established in the outer space. That is why we look very hopefully to the progress of establishing a world of law and order in the outer space so that it may be brought eventually into this world, the old world, which is still in a state of anarchy, because we cannot hope to establish a world of international law and order in the outer space while the law of the old world is still in an anarchical state, for then surely the outer space would then be contaminated, not by disease as envisaged in report 105, paragraph 14, but by disorder and anarchy. Therefore, let us look hopefully to the future and see that there is real and genuine co-operation in the outer space towards establishing a world of scientific progress, going hand in hand with international law, and from there bring into this world the international law and order that is necessary to save humanity from the threat of nuclear weapons.

I have nothing more to add but to say that we are fully in support of the joint draft resolution which has been presented.

The CHAIRMAN: The general debate on this item is now concluded and the Committee will now proceed to a discussion of the draft resolution, tabled by the twenty-three Powers, contained in document A/C.1/L.320/Rev.1.

I recognize the representative of South Africa.

Mr. BOTHA (South Africa): My country having taken, from the beginning, a lively interest in the question of the peaceful uses of outer space, is glad to be able to give its support to the twenty-three-Power draft resolution before us. In our view, the resolution addresses itself to those items dealt with in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on which we can, at this stage, move forward.

We are particularly pleased that it has become possible to evolve a draft which can enjoy multiple sponsorship, including the support of both major Powers. I should like to add my voice to those which have expressed the hope that this spirit of compromise and co-operation will set the pattern for future developments,

(Mr. Botha, South Africa)

not only as regards the labours of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, but in all outstanding political issues.

We welcome the addition of the new part A in the revised draft, which would give special attention to the legal questions connected to outer space. We are grateful to the USSR, the United States, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Republic for the various legal proposals that they have submitted and which we feel sure will be of great assistance to the Committee and may enable its Legal Sub-Committee to make progress on these complex issues in the coming year.

My delegation also supports part B of the draft resolution. We endorse the recommendation concerning the exchange of information. No international effort of this kind can be truly international and can benefit fully from its international composition in the absence of a free exchange of information. My own country furnishes full details of its activities in the field of space research to COSPAR. We have also furnished a report to the Secretary-General, in compliance with part B of General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) of last year.

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space is now becoming a reality. To help the general debate on the present item, delegations gave their support to the ideal of co-operation. The representative of the two major space Powers on this Committee announced agreement on co-operation in three fields of space activity. The objective of the draft resolution before us is to preserve this co-operation and to expand it, not only as regards these two Powers but also involving others.

As far as my own country is concerned, South Africa's geographical position in the Southern Hemisphere and at the southern tip of the great African continent, as well as my country's vast facilities for scientific research, enable it to play a not insignificant part in international research programmes. In this connexion, I should like to place on record the collaboration between South African scientists and those of other countries, notably the United States, in the field of space research.

The South African contribution has principally been in the tracking of artificial earth satellites, the reporting of telemetric signals and in the preparation for as well as the participation in the tracking of space research vehicles. These activities have, in the main, been carried out in co-operation

(Mr. Botha, South Africa)

with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States which supplied the equipment.

The tracking facilities at present in operation include a many-track station, an optical tracking system, a deep-space station and various moon-watch stations. As far as the future is concerned, arrangements have been made with the South African Weather Bureau to provide special data in connexion with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's programme for satellite weather observations. Our universities and scientific institutions will also be taking part in a special project to study the so-called coat anomaly relating to the Van Allen belt between South Africa and Antarctica. Studies will be made by means of geomagnetic, ionospheric and air glow measurements as well as cosmic ray balloons sent from ships operating in the area.

Turning to part C of the draft resolution, my delegation fully endorses the expression of appreciation for the comprehensive and interesting first report submitted by the World Meteorological Organization in response to General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI). We look forward to receiving subsequent reports. The various proposals and plans of action outlined in the present report will, no doubt, be given thorough consideration at the meeting of the Meteorological Congress in April of next year.

As I regard the remaining paragraph of part C of the resolution dealing with technical and financial assistance, I would only stress the need to face up squarely to the problem of establishing priorities in order to make the maximum use of resources, limited both financially and in terms of manpower, available to States and international organizations.

My delegation also supports part D of the draft resolution which rightfully expresses appreciation for the interesting and useful first report submitted by the International Telecommunications Union, and emphasizes the importance of international co-operation to achieve effective satellite communications which will be available on a world-wide basis.

(Mr. Botha, South Africa)

We welcome the steps already taken by the ITU, or which are in prospect, to ensure the success of its extraordinary administrative radio conference to be convened in October 1963, to deal specifically with the allocation of frequencies for space telecommunication services.

In conclusion, and not having participated in the general debate, I should like to express to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to its able Chairman, our colleague, Dr. Matsch and his Bureau, the thanks of my delegation for a job well done, and our best wishes for future success.

Mr. CUEVAS CANCINO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): Draft resolution A/C.1/L.320/Rev.1 has characteristics of great generality. It therefore is closely linked to the other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at previous sessions. We think that it might be useful to examine somewhat the evolution in the activities of the United Nations regarding outer space. We note a constant evolution in which the internationalization of outer space is taking root and will ultimately redound to the benefit of mankind as a whole.

The first resolution adopted by the General Assembly was resolution 1348 (XIII). It stressed the need to avoid national rivalries from extending into this new field of human endeavour. The Assembly expressed its hope that this new dimension in human activity would primarily serve to develop friendly relations among peoples. At the same time, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was set up and it started work -- although, of course, in an imperfect way, since it was unable to overcome difficulties stemming from its very youth and novelty.

The next year, the Assembly adopted resolution 1472 (XIV), which reiterates the previous purposes and goes ahead somewhat in the limitation of the joint work of States in outer space. It serves also as a background for the extremely important resolution of the sixteenth session, 1721. Here we see the beginning of the United Nations efforts. Two wide juridical norms were accepted: one, the application of the principles of international law and the Charter to the development and use of outer space; and, as a modification no less important to the traditional laws of nations, the prohibition against extending sovereignty to celestial bodies. As equally valid provisions, there was set up a register of objects launched from the earth; and this is already the background of international

(Mr. Cuevas Cancino, Mexico)

control over State efforts, and there is also an inclusion of the norms proclaiming the need for international co-operation in meteorological and communications matters.

With this ground-work, the Committee began its work and submitted its report, A/5181, which we have taken as the basis for our debate in the Committee, and on which the resolution submitted to us is based. This resolution shows the weakness of the work of the Committee, as well as the achievements that Committee has been able to accomplish, especially in the field of scientific co-operation.

To a large extent, this can be synthesized in the agreement arrived at by the United States and the Soviet Union, which has been distributed as document A/C.1/880, and which my delegation was extremely happy to receive. Furthermore, international collaboration during the International Geophysical Year was also extremely fruitful, and we hope that equal success will be achieved during the year known as the International Quiet Sun Year. The proposed installations for the launching of sounding rockets from the geomagnetic equator opens up new fields as well. My Government is studying the possibilities of co-operating in an active way in the work of this nature.

The draft resolution very often refers to problems of co-ordination: for example, paragraph 6 of part C, and paragraph 7 of part D. However, we do believe that the Assembly would be well-advised to ponder, even for a few moments, the various aspects of co-ordination of international efforts in the realm of outer space. The reports that we received from the International Meteorological Organization, the International Telecommunications Union, and UNESCO show that there have already been a number of efforts made by the specialized agencies along these lines. Resolution 1721 (XVI) also mentioned the work to be done by the International Monetary Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, whose importance is obvious to all. We can foresee that the activities of these bodies will gradually grow, that there will be other organizations that will find propitious fields to extend their activities, and that one and the other may assume some of the work done by some of the non-governmental scientific organizations, whose importance is also well known to the Assembly. We therefore believe that there is a serious danger of duplication of efforts and that

(Mr. Cuevas Cancino, Mexico)

therefore the Assembly must consider the problem of co-ordinating efforts. This is all the more advisable since, at present, it is still possible to avoid chaos taking over as vital a field as that of outer space.

We must note also that the Economic and Social Council, in its report -- paragraphs 471, 472, 473, 474, etc. -- has taken note of the efforts made by a number of specialized agencies, as well as by the International Council of Scientific Organizations. Furthermore, in paragraph 474, the Council notes that only a preliminary discussion of the two reports was held -- that is, of the WMO and the ITU. Superficially speaking, in the analysis made by the Council, of these two reports, my delegation notes a very serious flaw. It may well be that the varied and extensive work undertaken by the Economic and Social Council does not point it out as being the most competent body to co-ordinate the multiple work being done in outer space matters. Since this work is advancing by seven-league boots, perhaps the present resolution might consider certain norms regarding which body is to co-ordinate the efforts being made in outer space. This is all the more important since, for many countries that have not as yet achieved adequate technical development in matters of outer space, international efforts are of the greatest importance.

Therefore, the General Assembly ought to consider entrusting co-ordination specifically to the Council, pointing out that the Council should set up a special committee to deal with this matter, or else the Assembly should specify the responsibility of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which, aside from its scientific and legal tasks, might well take up the question of co-ordinating all these functions. But what is definitely inadvisable is that this work be divided and that there be no division of responsibility -- clear-cut division -- which doubtless would lead us straight into chaos.

Let us note some of the juridical aspects of the question now. In the past, and when the competent bodies met on the matter, my delegation had always advocated the juridical basis being set for the development of outer space activities. For some time, the position of Mexico was not understood by other delegations. But the debate that has occurred this session shows that a counter-current has begun to run. The majority of countries now, at last, seems convinced that the approval of a series of general principles of law would be not only useful, but necessary, in order, to the best advantage, to protect the future development of human activities in outer space.

(Mr. Cuevas Cancino, Mexico)

It is not a question of debating the different qualities inherent in some of the proposals or suggestions made to the Committee or to the General Assembly. There is much in all these that is common to the others. And I still think it is possible, in fulfilling the mandate vested by the Assembly in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, that in part A of the draft resolution there can be drafted a general declaration of principles of law that will effectively regulate and guide these human activities.

It is true that such conduct is not that which most behooves the idealists. We are not dealing with subjects on which scientists have wide lacunae, because as man enters the unknown, obviously he must leap from the point he knows well, the legal principles of the groundwork of any task. And as knowledge of the cosmos changes, the bases on which this juridical building is set up will also change. But this variation does not mean an alteration, because juridical norms are borne of inspiration which cannot be changed nor shaken.

It is obvious that the legal solution must not be limited to the approval of general principles alone. Other studies and surveys will have to be made, and they have equivalent importance. But they are particularly important since they might in some way diminish or at times vary the nationalist race that we have noticed in this conquest of outer space. The general norms of international law have thus far rested on the rivalry between sovereign States. We thought that that could be overcome when we left behind the law of gravity. It was not sufficient to apply a law which was the product of imperfect history when there was a chance of changing history itself.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, on these legal matters, will have to walk very carefully. The field is immense and to a large extent virgin, and therefore because of the interest that this matter has for our day it has become one of the most attractive of all fields for jurists. We have an extremely abundant bibliography prepared already, including all types of books, treaties and documents. They will obviously have to be consulted and sifted in the preparations of the principles of outer space law and in solving some of the practical problems. But this sifting will have to be done with a dose of skepticism.

(Mr. Cuevas Cancino, Mexico)

Some of the authors began from points that have already been left behind, as though it were only a question of applying to outer space the law that applies in one part or another of the planet. Then there must also be an effort made to avoid the juridical dilettantism which has damaged our science so much and which could only lead to empty or futile solutions.

Since we are deeply convinced of the advantage of law and of its need in this subject, my delegation, as a member of the Committee, intends to stint no effort whatever. We consider that the proposed draft resolution imposes on States members of the Committee a very onerous task which, as far as its legal aspects are concerned, is felt very much by the Mexican delegation. In the synthesis that my delegation will try to draft, we will also bring to bear all of its efforts.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space still exists. Its life is based upon a fundamental element of international existence which is particularly outstanding here, namely the voluntary nature of the co-operation among the great Powers. And here I think we find the very crux of the evolution that has taken place around this subject in the Organization. Without the co-operation of the outer space Powers, the United Nations can achieve absolutely nothing. In this as in other subjects, the Mexican delegation will endeavour to encourage agreement and to avoid the setting up of any obstacles that might hamper the auspicious development of arrangements and agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union which are already outlined in the draft resolution before us. In this field everyone must act as true representatives of all mankind.

As far as the other nations are concerned, those who have not as yet dominated this new technique, to them will fall the role of mediators and spokesmen for the collective opinion. Therefore, in our Committee we shall constantly and indefatigably have to repeat the super-national character of the efforts to be made in this field. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is in point of fact becoming one of the most important bodies of the General Assembly. The very few years that have elapsed since man crossed the frontiers of the planet prove the extraordinary development, which in itself is merely the dawn of new eras. Because our generation, frankly, is watching the

(Mr. Cuevas Cancino, Mexico)

final convulsions of neolithic man. The outer space efforts of man are very closely linked to history as a whole, and the most important is that this is another effort to improve the species.

Thus the States which today are able to rise above the pull of gravity, and even those who as yet cannot do so, are all intimately linked. Without the sacrifice of other men of other periods, these pioneers of today would not be able to achieve the apex of the civilization they have reached.

Those men who go beyond our planet today carry with them the hopes and sorrows of all those who had concerned themselves with ocular astronomy, with the movements of the celestial bodies; and then, there were even those who, working upon an agricultural economy -- such as that of the Mayas -- were quite correctly able to estimate the duration of time.

Therefore it is up to the Committee to contribute to the improvement of the lot of mankind. Otherwise, all these tremendous efforts would not be justifiable. Thus too, the great Powers must administer their discoveries as though they were representatives of mankind as a whole. Because all great discoverers -- and surely they are the ones who direct and execute these enterprises -- act as spokesmen for the whole of mankind.

This is the view of the Mexican delegation and it will guide us in our work in the Committee. We wish to merge national and international interests; and among the efforts of our Organization -- which with all its limitations still embodies mankind of today -- we want to avoid the predominance of the particular over the general, because the advanced countries are those which blaze the trail of the future and assist all those who came before. We therefore do not have to grant to them rights which even they do not claim, nor could they expect the science from which they are drawing their advance to give them rights they have not earned.

A complete internationalization of outer space efforts cannot of course take place today. Nations still exist and our Organization is still not a super-State. My Government, however, is concerned with being up to date regarding what happens in this field of endeavour. Thus we see that in the course of this year there was set up a national commission for outer space which is intended to develop those aspects of Mexican life that might be charneled towards participation in this great venture of the twentieth century. It also has to take full advantage of the international elements with which it can improve and speed up its own development.

(Mr. Cuevas Cancino, Mexico)

My Government trusts that this body will be able more effectively to participate in the international efforts of a scientific nature. If the present development in the United Nations as regards outer space matters is to continue, our countries will achieve those great and noble ends that at present we merely glimpse. The efforts in outer space must be peaceful since war has benefited no man. These efforts must go beyond national sovereignty because we stand on the threshold, leaving aside and behind the restricted State interests of the past. These efforts must be regulated by norms that will bind the space Powers to act as spokesmen and representatives of mankind because these are fields that cannot be considered as anything other than truly and exclusively human fields. If such norms are followed, norms which are truly defined in draft resolution A/C.1/L.320/Rev.1, my Government feels that we will pay tribute to the honour paid my country when we were elected as a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Mr. THATCHER (United States of America): My delegation has not followed the normal custom of making a statement formally introducing the draft resolution, in this case that draft which was originally circulated on 29 November. We have done this because that draft contained what, to our view, were the agreed recommendations which emerged from the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Several delegations have, however, raised with us the need for clarification with regard to the meaning of certain of the recommendations which are now found in Section B of the Revised draft resolution and in particular with regard to the location of sounding rocket facilities. Let me state very briefly, if I may, the opinion of my delegation on this matter.

In the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee it will be noted that:

"there are, however, major gaps in the world coverage of sounding rocket launching sites. Amongst them are the equatorial region and the southern hemisphere. The equatorial region has special scientific interest for meteorology and aeronomy. In particular, the geomagnetic equator is highly significant in the investigation of the earth's magnetic field and the ionosphere. It is therefore urged that a sounding rocket launching facility on the geomagnetic equator be established as soon as possible,

(Mr. Thatcher, United States)

as a first step in creating and using international sounding rocket facilities under United Nations sponsorship." (A/AC.105/5, page 10, para. 32)

In view of the strong interest on the part of the scientific community in obtaining data from sounding rocket experiments in the area of the geomagnetic equator during the oncoming international year of the Quiet Sun, special attention was given to the early need for equatorial launching facilities in the space Committee's report. The sense of these recommendations is expressed in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of section B of the pending draft resolution. In the opinion of my delegation, nothing in this draft resolution would preclude the establishment of international sounding rocket launching facilities under United Nations sponsorship in other regions such as the southern hemisphere, for which scientific justification may exist.

The CHAIRMAN: I have a few speakers listed to speak on the draft resolution tomorrow and I propose, as I announced at this morning's meeting -- of course after hearing these delegations speak on the resolution and some others who might come forward -- to take a vote on the draft resolution before the Committee. I also propose to the Committee that immediately after the completion of this item the Committee will take up agenda item 28, "The Korean question". As there is no objection to this proposal, that procedure will be followed.

The meeting rose at 5.5 p.m.

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