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Held at Headquarters, New York,
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Chairman:

Mr. SCHURMANN

(Netherlands)

1. Internaticral co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: [12 a,b]
2. Programme of work

Note:

The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in mimeographed form under the symbol A/C.1/SR.1342. Delegations may submit corrections to the summary record for incorporation in the final version which will appear in a printed volume.

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AGENDA ITEM 12

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE:

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/5482, 5549 and Add.1; E/3770, 3794);
- (b) REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL [CHAPTER VII (SECTION IV)] (A/5503; E/3770, 3794)

The CHAIRMAN: I take great pleasure in extending a warm welcome to our midst to the Secretary-General who is going to attend our meeting this afternoon. We all know how very close to his heart is the subject that we are going to discuss this afternoon, and I hope that the results of our discussion will please him.

The item that we are going to discuss is international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. There are a number of basic documents with regard to this item and I should like to mention them before we start on the discussion. The first one is document A/5482, a letter of 22 August 1963 from the Permanent Representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America addressed to the Secretary-General, containing an agreement. The second one is document A/5549, the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The third one is document A/5549/Add.1, containing the additional report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I have been asked by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to mention that this is only a provisional record since, owing to the pressure of time, the additional report had to be reproduced before corrections to the record were received from the delegations. Delegations' corrections will, of course, be incorporated in the final verbatim record and the annex to the additional report will be revised accordingly.

The next document is E/3770, which is the second report of the International Telecommunications Union. Then there is document E/3794, the second report of the World Meteorological Organization. Finally, there is document 5503, which contains on page 48 a passage on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, in the report of the Economic and Social Council.

Before I call on the first speaker on my list, I should like to welcome representatives of the specialized agencies: WMO, ITU, UNESCO, WHO, IAEA and so on. All of them are with us and they will participate in our work.

Mr. STEVENSON (United States of America): In a world kept taut by constant danger, in an organization often kept busy by dispute, it is heartening at any time to be able to speak of progress -- any progress -- towards freedom or peace or law or international co-operation in any field of human endeavour. I take great satisfaction, therefore, in coming before you today to comment upon our progress towards freedom, peace, law and co-operation in the field of outer space.

Common sense and harsh experience combine to teach us not to predict tomorrow by projecting from today, especially if today is one of those days on which some progress has been made towards a safer and saner world. Instead we have seen enough of disappointment to half-suspect that today's hope automatically will be offset by tomorrow's despair. But I cannot suppress the tempting notion that perhaps the habit of international co-operation may catch on first in remote outer space and then fall, contagiously, back to earth.

In any event we can draw some comfort from the historical analogy between this great age of discovery, symbolized by the pioneer astronauts Gagarin and Glenn, and that earlier great age of discovery symbolized by Erikson and Columbus. In those long-gone days the rulers of Europe failed to match the geographical vision of the great navigators with a corresponding vision of law and statecraft. Within two short years after the New World had been discovered, the two great nautical Powers agreed to divide the spoils. On 7 June 1494 the ambassadors of Spain and Portugal met in the small town of Tordesillas in Spain and signed an agreement carving up the New World between them. What followed is well known: nationalist competition and imperialist wars.

So, for centuries, a voyage of exploration and discovery was a voyage of conquest and expansion. This is only year seven of the age of space, and we have only one foot over the threshold of this new age of discovery. Yet already the Members of this Organization -- not by secret agreement reached behind closed doors but by public debate on a flood-lit stage -- have agreed that the two leading space Powers of today's world will never carve up the moon between them, nor will they or any nation make any sovereign claim in outer space or on any celestial body. Discovery is no longer the prelude to conquest.

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

We often warn, and with good reason, that the pace of scientific invention may so outstrip social invention that the world's affairs will race out of control and leave us in chaos behind. But it may be worth noting that it took man tens of thousands of years to figure out how to escape his earthly environment; and in the half-dozen years following that discovery there has been enough social invention to sustain the hope at least that outer space will not be chaotic. That hope is based on the progress that has been made so far towards freedom, peace, law and co-operation in outer space, which, if pursued, could make this the first age of exploration not in the name of national glory but in the name of man himself. Therefore I propose to review briefly this march of social invention which suggests that we may not, after all, be lagging behind the pace of technological advance, at least in outer space.

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

The essential freedoms of outer space are set forth in General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) approved nearly two years ago. That resolution asserts that outer space and celestial bodies are free from national appropriation. It asserts that all nations are free to explore and to use outer space. This is the doctrine of freedom in outer space unanimously proclaimed by the Members of this Assembly.

In addition to the freedoms embodied in resolution 1721 (XVI), two important steps have recently been taken to limit the arms race in outer space.

One was the treaty now signed by over 100 nations, prohibiting the testing of nuclear weapons in outer space, in the atmosphere and under water; it is a significant step toward a regime of peace in outer space.

The other was the step taken by this Assembly on 17 October last when the Members by acclamation proclaimed the expressions by the United States and the Soviet Union of their intention not to station in outer space any objects carrying nuclear weapons or other kinds of weapons of mass destruction and solemnly called upon all States to refrain from stationing such weapons in outer space.

Observance of this resolution and of the partial test ban by all nations will do more than limit the arms race in outer space. It should help to create the confidence needed here on earth for greater progress in disarmament and co-operation in all areas.

The structure for this co-operation, and for the activities of all nations in space, must be an international legal order. This need becomes more imperative as the number of nations active in space increases and as the range of their activities grows.

This growth of custom and of usage must be present to provide the basis of sound law. Resolution 1721 (XVI) made a beginning when it declared that freedom to explore and use outer space means freedom to do so "in conformity with international law". And more specifically:

"International law, including the Charter of the United Nations, applies to outer space and celestial bodies;" (General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI), paragraph 1 (a))

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

This general proposition was not enough. In the same resolution the General Assembly asked the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to study legal problems arising out of the exploration of space. So the Committee established a Legal Sub-Committee to begin to put flesh on the bones of outer space law.

From an early stage, members of the Committee realized that any attempts at a comprehensive codification of legal rules for outer space would be premature. The world's experience in the exploration of space has been entirely too brief. In conformity with this experience, the Committee finally agreed to try simultaneously to elaborate basic legal principles and to draw up rules for handling two specific legal problems which already pressed for solution: liability for outer space vehicle accidents, and assistance to, and return of, astronauts and their vehicles which might come down on the territory of another State.

After almost two years, a part of this work has now borne fruit. We have before us a draft declaration of legal principles which the Outer Space Committee has unanimously decided to submit to the General Assembly. It is the outcome of a long process of international debate and international consultation, of numerous drafts, of clarifications, compromises and modifications. This fall, at the request of the Outer Space Committee, these consultations were intensified in order to produce a text which could be generally agreed and supported.

I should like to say a few words about the character and the status which the United States considers the principles contained in this declaration will have once the draft resolution has been adopted by the General Assembly, as we hope, without dissent. In the view of the United States, the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution contained legal principles which the General Assembly, in adopting the resolution, would declare should guide States in the exploration and use of outer space. We believe these legal principles reflect international law as it is accepted by the Members of the United Nations. The United States, for its part, intends to respect these principles. We hope that the conduct which the resolution commends to nations in the exploration of outer space will become the practice of all nations.

In adopting the draft resolution now before us the General Assembly will be beginning its work in the development of law for outer space. The declaration is the last word; it is one of the first words. In the future, as experience accumulates, the United Nations may want to formulate additional principles.

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

In addition -- and we believe there is wide agreement on this -- the Outer Space Committee should now give first priority to the task of preparing international agreements on the subjects of (1) liability for space vehicle accidents, and (2) assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles. We believe that the General Assembly should ask the Outer Space Committee to arrange its work programme accordingly.

Moreover, the General Assembly will want to provide for a continuing study of the whole field of outer space law as the activities of States develop in this new environment. We believe the Outer Space Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee should continue to survey the whole field of outer space exploration from the legal point of view, so that the United Nations may make an informed and effective contribution in building an international legal order for outer space.

Freedom, peace and law -- these are the goals of the Assembly in space. But the Assembly and the United Nations have yet a fourth significant goal, which is international co-operation.

Such co-operation begins with direct co-operation among nations. It has been the consistent policy of my Government, from the beginning of the age of space, to extend our hand in co-operation -- to share knowledge with other nations -- and to obtain, in return, the benefits of common enterprise -- much needed help and the goodwill of involvement in common tasks.

As President Johnson stated as early as 7 January 1958, when he was a Senator of the United States:

"The goals now within reach of the human race are too great to be divided as spoils, too great for the world to waste its effort in a blind race between competitive nations."

Co-operative arrangements -- both bilateral and multilateral -- with other nations now cover virtually the entire range of United States research and application for peaceful development of outer space.

Our Weather Bureau and Space Agency have participated in the co-ordinated acquisition of satellite and ground-based weather data with forty other national weather services.

Through our International Ground Station Committee, eleven other nations are co-operating in experimental space communications and gaining experience in reading out signals from communication satellites.

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

We have sounding rocket agreements with twelve other nations, and co-operative arrangements with twenty-six other nations in ionospheric research.

We have participated in establishing twenty-seven overseas facilities in nineteen different jurisdictions, including tracking stations, deep space instrumentation facilities, and a manned space flight network.

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

We have also gained valuable experience in co-operative space launchings. The Alouette satellite is the tangible fruit of our continuing co-operation with Canada. The Ariel satellite is the first step in a continuing joint venture with Great Britain. In the near future, we plan to join Italy and France in the placing of other scientific satellites into orbit. All in all, more than sixty countries have worked co-operatively with the United States in actual flight experiments, in ground-based activities in direct support of orbiting experiments, and in co-operative training programmes.

Based upon this wide and mutually fruitful experience in bilateral co-operation, the United States entered into a co-operative agreement with the Soviet Union. On 16 August, the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Soviet Academy of Sciences announced the approval of a first Memorandum of Understanding to carry out this agreement. Co-operation in three fields is envisaged. First, the United States and the Soviet Union will exchange data gathered by national experimental weather satellites and will co-ordinate launchings of their respective weather vehicles in space. The data coming in from these satellites will be open to all nations and will reinforce the projected world weather watch being developed under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization. Second, we will exchange data from satellites equipped with magnetometers, as part of the World Magnetic Survey. Third, we will perform joint experiments in space communications with passive United States satellites.

This is at least a start, and we hope it is a prophetic one. My Government is ready to get on with this programme at any time, and we hope that we may soon begin its implementation.

Bilateral co-operation in outer space and co-operation at the United Nations level and multilaterally through organizations of the world's scientific community are mutually reinforcing, and one tends to lead to the other. Experience gained in co-operating on a narrow base tends to lead to co-operation on an ever broader base.

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

Through the International Committee on Space Research -- COSPAR -- of the International Council of Scientific Unions, twenty-four nations share scientific research on space. COSPAR has sought with a large measure of success to extend in the space science field the remarkable co-operation that characterized the International Geophysical Year, which, among its other accomplishments, ushered in the age of space. COSPAR's world data centres for rockets and satellites, maintained at Washington, Moscow and Slough in England, are the world's major repositories for analyzed data on outer space. COSPAR has pioneered in maintaining a registry of satellite launchings, and has sponsored SPACEWARN, a system in which launching nations communicate around the world essential information within a few hours after the successful firing of a scientific satellite or space probe. The United States scientific community takes an active part in these and other important functions of COSPAR.

We also intend to take an active role in the International Year of the Quiet Sun, an important successor to the International Geophysical Year, under the auspices of the International Council of Scientific Unions, an effort in which some sixty nations will take part.

These co-operative arrangements within the world scientific community are a healthy phenomena. They are indicative of a community of interest which transcends national boundaries and which binds men and nations together. In the world as a whole, this community of interests is perhaps epitomized by the United Nations. Already, the United Nations and its family of agencies are deeply involved in the exciting potentials of outer space to focus co-operation and to help to make possible the centralization of vital information.

The Secretary-General now maintains a registry of information on space launchings in which the United States, for its part, has registered all its launchings from mid-February 1962. The Secretary-General has now built up an expert outer space staff to assist him in this important field, a development warmly welcomed by my country. We hope that in implementing the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space this staff might draw up constructive proposals to define further the scope of the Committee's recommendations and its future programme.

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, working with the Secretary-General, is already collecting and will soon be publishing information on national and co-operative programmes and on the resources of the United Nations, specialized agencies and other international bodies related to the peaceful uses of outer space. It is preparing reviews of training and educational opportunities. It is preparing a list of available bibliographic and abstracting services covering the scientific and technical results and publications in space and space-related areas.

And the United Nations, as such, is also considering endorsement of specific activities and facilities which offer unusual opportunities for broad international participation -- this year the rocket launching station at Thumba, India.

These and other activities are being carried on directly by the United Nations Space Committee in co-operation with the Secretary-General, and I am proud to note, in passing, that my Government was one of the original founders of this Committee and has worked actively to help establish its programme on a broad basis.

Indeed, it was President Johnson himself who, as a member of the Senate, came before this Committee of the General Assembly, in this very room, on 17 November 1958, to speak in support of the resolution creating the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. At that time, President Johnson stated:

"To keep space as man has found it and to harvest the yield of peace which it promises, we of the United States see one course, and only one, which the nations of the earth may intelligently pursue. That is the course of full and complete and immediate co-operation to make the exploration of outer space a joint adventure." (968th meeting, page 17)

Beyond the activities of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, some of the technical agencies are becoming deeply involved in the space venture, and it is here that we see why, in some instances, international organization and international co-operation are not only desirable but a plain necessity.

The most obvious single instance of necessity is the problem of allocating radio frequencies to meet the needs for communication, weather, and navigational satellites; for space research; for radio astronomy; and for other uses.

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

The only alternative to international agreement is chaos in outer-space communication. We therefore applaud the recently completed work of the Space Radio Conference of the International Telecommunications Union which provided sufficient allocation of frequency bands for space communication for the next ten or fifteen years, and which adopted procedures relating to the use of these allocations. This, as I say, was a plain necessity.

There also is compelling reason for international organization and co-operation in weather reporting and forecasting. The atmosphere envelops the globe, not just a single State; no nation can therefore achieve weather forecasting adequate to its needs from observations made solely within its territory. As matters stand, inadequate or inaccurate prediction of storms, rainfall, floods and drought costs the peoples of the world each year the loss of human life and billions of dollars of treasure. Our new-found capacity to orbit meteorological satellites, coupled with other exciting developments in meteorological science and computer technology, holds the promise of a drastic reduction in such losses, which have plagued men of all nations throughout all history.

To illustrate the point, our satellite Tiros VI, in the course of a record thirteen months of continuous operation, transmitted nearly 60,000 cloud-cover photographs which enabled us to issue 360 warnings of severe storms and over 2,000 analyses of global cloud cover. This work is now being carried on by Tiros VII, now in orbit above us.

And to stress the point that this development can be of direct benefit to all nations in the here and now, let me state that the next Tiros satellite, to be launched shortly, will carry aloft an experimental development, the Automatic Picture Transmission System. This will transmit automatically to ground receiver stations, without command from the ground, cloud photographic coverage of an area about 1,600 kilometres in radius surrounding the ground station. The receiving equipment can be procured for less than \$50,000, bringing this service within the reach of all nations.

This is what science and technology are bringing to the field of meteorology. And the international community is hard on the heels of scientific progress with a matching rate of progress in institutional development.

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

At its fourth congress, the World Meteorological Organization initiated the financial and organizational basis for a world weather system to make the most of both conventional and satellite weather data. We should, I believe, applaud this move and urge Members to play their part in the world weather system and take the necessary steps to be in a position to get the greatest benefits from it. My Government is only too pleased to support this programme, and the WMO in general, as it has from the beginning.

In the field of space communication also, the technology does not lie in the distant future but has been coming rapidly into use this very year. The first Relay satellite, placed into orbit on 13 December 1962, provided successful transmission of voice between North and South America and of black-and-white and colour television between the United States and Europe. The second Telstar satellite, launched on 7 May of this year, has, in addition, carried telephone calls, teletype messages and data and facsimile transmission. The first public demonstration of a synchronous satellite, Syncom II, was conducted on 4 August 1963, between Nigeria and the United States. We were fortunate in having as a participant in that programme the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Moreover, the opening of this General Assembly was transmitted by both medium-altitude and synchronous satellites in television and in voice.

Here too -- in space communications as in weather -- technology, economics and common-sense all impel us toward the establishment of a single, universal system. As we have said before, our purpose is to help to develop a single, global commercial system of communication via satellites, a system in which all countries will have an opportunity to participate in ownership, management and use. The United States Communications Satellite Corporation is now well under way with its planning. As President Kennedy said on 20 November,

"This Government and the United States Communications Satellite Corporation can now take practical steps, in co-operation with other Governments and foreign business entities, to develop a single global commercial space-communications system".

The United States Government and the Communications Satellite Corporation look forward to exchanging views, in the months ahead, with other Governments and communications entities on the next steps toward such a global system.

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

Communication by satellite is in process of imminent realization. The voice message and picture will leap the barriers of distance. We will come ever closer together in time and space. But the use of this new means of communication for international understanding will depend, as always, on our deeds. And in the creation of the global communication system itself there is no rational alternative to international co-operation.

Now, what does all this add up to?

In the name of the world community we have promulgated the doctrine of freedom in outer space; we have declared that it shall be for human betterment and have taken first steps toward assuring it; we have decided that space shall be ruled by international law, and begun to spell out what we mean by that.

In the name of technology, efficiency, maximum benefit and plain good sense we are engaged in an elaborate network of international co-operation at bilateral, multilateral and United Nations levels which, taken together, can well be described as an international programme to extend dramatically man's knowledge and mastery of the outer environment which wraps all nations and all peoples in a common embrace.

In short, we have rejected the political philosophy which made the last age of discovery an age of national conquest and conflict, and we have projected a political philosophy which promises to make this new age of discovery one of co-operation and of benefit for all mankind. In outer space, if you please, our sense of social responsibility and our capacity for social invention are not doing too badly in response to the challenge laid down by the inventions of our scientists.

I have left to the last any reference to a manned flight to the moon. Let me make it clear that exploration of the moon is not a stunt, distinct from the outer-space programme as a whole; nor is it the exclusive concern of only two nations. This project, spectacular though it may be, is understood best as a single step in man's mastery of space. It is a stage in a sequence which has a background and a foreground.

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

In the background of manned flight to the moon is the vast programme of research and the varied series of experiments which will make it possible -- thoroughly justified in and of themselves. Indeed, not more than about 10 per cent of our total expenditures on outer space can be attributed directly to manned lunar flight.

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

This programme is being carried forward with significant international co-operation. Many nations, not one, are contributing to the moon project. The tracking and data stations in Mexico, Bermuda, the Canary Islands, Nigeria, Zanzibar and Australia have been central to the success of the orbital flights in our Mercury programme. These stations, along with additional facilities, are vital to the programme for the manned lunar landing. This applies as well to the scientific investigations to be carried out through co-operative satellite and sounding rocket programmes.

We are proud of these associations in a common task, and we hope that they will grow.

Beyond the manned landing on the moon lies the whole uncharted and unpredictable adventure of inter-planetary exploration. Thus exploration of the moon is seen properly as the culmination of one stage of a process and the opening of another -- as both an end and a beginning.

I repeat that the preponderant part of the United States space programme is made up of projects which we would want to carry out even if we did not plan at this stage to land men on the moon. The plans for the latter -- for a manned landing and return from the moon -- are thus only one part of a space programme whose larger purpose is to carry into outer space man's unending adventure of discovery. As I have been saying here today, we have welcomed -- and in fact fostered -- the highest possible degree of international co-operation.

As the Committee also knows, President Kennedy proposed before the General Assembly last September to explore with the Soviet Union opportunities for working together in the conquest of space, including the sending of men to the moon as representatives of all of our countries. President Johnson has instructed me to reaffirm that offer here today.

If giant strides cannot be taken at once, we hope that shorter steps can. We believe that there are areas of work -- short of integrating the two national programmes -- from which all could benefit. We should explore the opportunities for practical co-operation, beginning with small steps and hopefully leading to larger ones. In any event, our policy of engaging in mutually beneficial and mutually supporting co-operation in outer space -- with the Soviet Union as with

(Mr. Stevenson, United States)

all nations -- does not begin or end with a manned moon landing. There is plenty of work yet to come before that -- and there will be even more afterward.

One of the legal principles in the draft resolution before us states that "In the exploration of outer space, States shall be guided by the principle of co-operation and mutual assistance ... " My Government is so guided, by preference and by deed.

Another principle in the same draft resolution declares that "States shall regard astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space". We are prepared so to regard our astronauts and all astronauts.

Finally, we wish to consider our own national effort to realize man's dream of a voyage to the moon as part of a larger design to add to the store of man's knowledge. We hope that all nations will take part in this great venture in the same spirit.

We are well started, in this seventh year of the age of space, in the direction of freedom, peace, law, and co-operation. Every relevant pressure here on earth impels us to stay on that track. If we can acquire the habit of co-operation in outer space, we shall not only learn more about man's relation to his environment, but about man's relation to man. And thus may world statesmanship match achievement with science.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that the representative of the United States was anticipating a little bit when he talked about the draft resolution before us. I hope that it will be before us soon.

Mr. FEDORENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Before setting forth our position on the substance of this problem before us, may I express our sincere sorrow and condolences to the United States delegation, to the family of the deceased, to President Johnson and the people of the United States at the tragic demise of President Kennedy, who, as we all know, made constant and important efforts in the search for ever new possibilities of international co-operation in the field of outer space.

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

The eighteenth session of the General Assembly is being held in an atmosphere of relative relaxation of international tensions as a result of the signing of the Moscow Treaty on the banning of nuclear tests in the atmosphere under water and in outer space. This has created new and more propitious possibilities for the further development of peaceful space research.

Only a year has elapsed since the question of international co-operation in outer space was examined by the General Assembly, but in that short time scientific achievements in this field have progressed still further. New achievements have been realized in the scientific, technical, and even, of late in the legal aspects of the work of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and this is reflected in the Committee's report to the General Assembly (A/5549 and A/5549/Add.1).

It is well known that the Soviet Union attaches great importance to the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. Developments in the Soviet Union in this connexion, including man's entry into outer space, have been based on research, both theoretical and related scientific fields.

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

The accumulation of scientific data on conditions in outer space and on the behaviour of scientific equipment during space flights, together with the accumulation of technical information, create the possibility of undertaking new and more complex experiments. Experience gathered during the flights of the first Sputniks in the Soviet Union led to the creation of space ships of the Vostok type, on which the Soviet cosmonauts made their famous flights. Recently the General Assembly warmly welcomed the first cosmonaut in the world, Yuri Gagarin, and the first woman cosmonaut in the world, Valentina Tereshkova-Nicolaieva.

In June 1963, on board the space ships Vostok V and Vostok VI, cosmonauts Tereshkova-Nicolaieva and Bykovsky established new records for distance and duration of flight. During these flights, a substantial research programme was carried out concerning the influence of various factors of space flights on the human body, the possibility of active behaviour of a cosmonaut in flight, and so on. During the experiment, the peoples of many countries of the world were able to see the cosmonauts in the cabins of their space ships on television screens and to hear their voices.

Research is being carried out in the Soviet Union with space ships of the Cosmos type in accordance with the programme launched in the spring of 1962. The results of the scientific study of the data obtained will be used in working out future programmes and experiments in the exploration of the atmosphere and outer space.

New qualitative progress was achieved by the Soviet Union in the planned conquest of outer space by the launching of a manoeuvrable cosmic craft called Pilot I, which was launched in November of this year. During its orbital flights, a space ship of this type can undertake large-scale manoeuvres in all directions. The fact that we launched such a space ship, as the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Nikita Khrushchev, stated, testifies to the fact that the human mind has risen further. Man in outer space is no longer the prisoner of his space ship.

The ability of space ships to engage in such manoeuvres significantly widens the possibility of research in outer space. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of this event if one thinks of only a few possibilities for such

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

manoeuvrable space ships. For instance, the need has now become clear to have rather heavy space stations, which could not possibly be launched without satellites that could not manoeuvre in outer space. Guided space ships are also required to manoeuvre in the vicinity of planets. Such space ships would be able to land from any orbit in a predetermined cosmodrome, or in case of need to choose the best available landing space. These are only a few examples of the numerous problems that can be solved by means of manoeuvrable space ships.

It is also well known that the United States of America has scored many achievements in the field of the conquest of outer space. The representative of the United States, Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, just gave us a detailed picture of the achievements of the United States in this field. The United Kingdom, France and other countries have also scored some achievements in this field.

In its satellite research activities, the Soviet Union has been greatly assisted by scientists from socialist countries, such as the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic and others.

Last year, other events occurred the importance of which is clear for the development of international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space. On 8 June 1962, an agreement was concluded concerning co-operation in the field of the uses of artificial satellites for meteorological communications and the drawing up of a map of the magnetic field of the earth. The agreement was signed between the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union and the United States National Aeronautics and Space Agency. This agreement, in our view, is a good measure and constitutes a further step forward towards wider co-operation in finding adequate solutions of important international problems taking into account the interests of all parties.

The possibilities of achieving international scientific co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space constantly increase. This is why it goes without saying that the role of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space constantly increases in importance, and its activity must be increasingly brought to bear in the progressive conquest of outer space.

We should take note, as we did last year, of the important work done by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. In the report of the Sub-Committee,

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

we find agreed recommendations on matters such as the exchange of information on space research undertaken by States, international co-operation for the use of satellites in the field of meteorology, the organization of long distance communications, the creation of international launching pads for the launching of sounding rockets, the training and preparation of specialists in the field of space research and the prevention of potentially harmful space experiments.

We take a positive view of the recommendations contained in the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. The Soviet delegation studied with satisfaction the useful and interesting reports of the International Telecommunications Union and the World Meteorological Organization. It is in these new conditions that the present session of the General Assembly has been studying the matter of international co-operation for the elaboration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

Let us take note of the fact that in recent years the question of the elaboration of legal principles and the governing of activities in outer space was at a standstill. The concern caused by the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the elaboration of legal principles governing the activities of States in outer space was reflected, among others, in documents of the United Nations. I should like in this connexion to recall that in the well known resolution 1802 (XVII) of the General Assembly the General Assembly noted with regret the fact that:

"the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has not yet made recommendations on legal questions connected with the peaceful uses of outer space."

This resolution contained an appeal to all Member States of the United Nations to co-operate in the elaboration of the legal principles governing outer space. It goes without saying that the absence of such principles in the past hampered and had a negative influence on the development of international co-operation in the exploration of outer space.

The Soviet Union, as one of the States actively engaged in space research and, furthermore, a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, did much, as is well known, to achieve agreement on the main legal principles governing the activities of States in outer space, an agreement which would be in the interests of all States. For this reason the Soviet Union presented to the United Nations, as early as June 1962, a draft declaration on the main principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space. This draft declaration contained, as we well know, a number of legal provisions which would see to it that the exploration and use of outer space would be carried out in the interests and for the well-being of all States, regardless of the level of their economic and scientific development.

In the spring of this year the Soviet delegation, striving to contribute as much as possible to the achievement of an agreement on legal principles governing the activities of States in outer space, presented to the Legal Sub-Committee a revised draft declaration on the main principles which reflect many provisions contained in drafts presented by the United Arab Republic, the United States, the United Kingdom, and other useful proposals made during the discussion.

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

As a result of considerable work in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Sub-Committee, as a result also of conversations between various delegations--among others, between representatives of the Soviet Union and United States--it became possible to prepare a draft resolution to the General Assembly concerning a draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space.

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space decided unanimously to present this draft resolution to the General Assembly. The importance of this draft resolution resides, first of all, in the fact that this is the first time that a document has been worked out which represents an attempt to regulate, from the viewpoint of legal principles, the activities of States in the field of peaceful co-operation and peaceful exploration and use of outer space. In it we find reflected most important fundamental legal principles which are mentioned in various guises during the discussion on this matter.

We dare to hope that the provisions of this draft resolution are in the interests of all countries, large and small, countries which are in the very forefront of scientific and technical progress, countries which are now laying the foundations of future activities in this field.

The draft declaration is one more step towards the further development of international co-operation in the field of the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. In the draft declaration we find reflected very important provisions such as the one that the exploration and use of outer space must be in the interests and for the welfare of mankind as a whole, that outer space and celestial bodies are open on a footing of equality to all States and that they may not be subject to national appropriation. The activities of States in outer space shall be carried on, the declaration stated, in accordance with international law, in the interests of peace and in order to promote international co-operation and understanding. The Declaration appeals to States to consider astronauts as the envoys of mankind to outer space, and asks them to render to them all possible assistance in their noble missions.

The Soviet Union has always held to the view that a document as important as this Declaration should determine not only the rights of States but also their duties. The concrete ideas of the Soviet Union on this score, supported by many other members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, are well known and have been expressed many times in the United Nations. We take note with satisfaction of the fact that during the drafting of this Declaration the position of the Soviet Union met with understanding and that the other party also made concessions which made this agreement possible. As a result, in the document with which this Committee is now seized, we find important provisions which would ensure that the activities undertaken by some States in outer space would not prejudice the interests of other States.

The draft declaration states that outer space must not be used for war propaganda, which is incompatible with the noble objectives of mankind and with the peaceful exploration of outer space.

The provision of the declaration relating to international consultation is important -- that is, international consultation if there is reason to believe that space activities or experiments planned by a given State may have harmful consequences for the activities of other States in outer space. Everybody recognizes today that the conquest of outer space is the common achievement of mankind.

Finally, there is the provision according to which liability for activities in space, whether by international organizations or private firms, attaches to the corresponding States, which shows that the United Nations intends to see to it that no private person or firm should, by activities in space, prejudice the interests of whole States or of mankind at large in the field of the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

The Soviet delegation would like to add that the draft declaration in its present form does not take into account some provisions which the Soviet Union considers it essential to add to the code that would govern the activities of States in outer space.

We still consider that the declaration of the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space must be an international document similar to a treaty, which would contain firm legal obligations on the part of States. This problem must, of course, be solved.

There are also some other aspects of the activities of States in space which sow the seeds of suspicion or lack of confidence and which have a negative influence on relations between States. These problems, too, must be solved so that outer space may become the arena of true international co-operation.

The draft declaration does not and could not, of course, deal with the matter of military uses of outer space. As the members of the Committee all know, the Soviet Union has often stated that it is prepared, within the framework of a programme of general and complete disarmament under strict international control, to destroy all types of weapons. That would also solve the problem of prohibiting

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

the use of outer space for military purposes. However, we did not agree and still do not agree with attempts to divorce the matter of the military uses of outer space from other measures of disarmament which are intimately linked to it. As has been stated many times, the question of the prohibition of the use of outer space for military ends is organically linked with the question of the liquidation of foreign military bases on the territory of other countries. It is quite clear that the question of the prohibition of the military uses of outer space can be solved only in the context of disarmament, with parallel and simultaneous liquidation of foreign military bases on the territory of other countries.

As regards international co-operation of States in the field of the peaceful use and exploration of outer space, the draft declaration, despite some defects in substance and in form, is indubitably a step forward. As a result of efforts made so far, this draft declaration represents that which is capable of uniting, rather than dividing, Member States of the United Nations at the present juncture. The Soviet delegation expresses the hope that the draft declaration, in the form in which it is presented in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, will be unanimously recommended for adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Let it be said in passing that one should note the statement of the delegation of the United States of America to the effect that the United States considers that these legal principles reflect international law as it is accepted by the Members of the United Nations and that, on its part, the United States intends to respect the principles. The Soviet Union, for its part, will also respect the principles contained in this declaration if it is unanimously adopted.

On the agenda of the Outer Space Committee there are still some matters which came to the forefront of our attention after the drafting of the declaration of legal principles. I am thinking, for instance, of the need to draft an agreement on the rescue of cosmonauts and the liability for material damage caused by exploration and search activities in outer space. The members of the

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

Committee will recall that proposals were made some time ago for the creation, to this end, of a group of experts. Wishing to act in a spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation, the Soviet delegation agrees, as we had occasion to say in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to the creation of one or two groups of experts who would work out draft agreements on these matters. The composition of these groups should be decided upon by the Legal Sub-Committee.

(Mr. Fedorenko, USSR)

At present, as is recognized all over the world, favourable conditions obtain for further development of international co-operation of States in the field of the conquest of outer space. The Soviet Union, on its part, will stint no effort to reach this goal, which is indeed in the interests of all the States in the world.

Mr. MATSCH (Austria): Once again the Committee turns its attention to man's newest and perhaps greatest ambition: the peaceful conquest of outer space. Since our last discussion of this matter, almost a year has passed, another year of achievements and progress. In May, the space flight of the American astronaut Gordon Cooper was witnessed by millions of people around the world; in June, the Soviet Union launched two space ships on parallel orbits, one of them operated by the first woman cosmonaut. These space flights set new records in flight time and distance.

Perhaps less spectacular, but equally important, was the scientific progress accomplished during the past year. Extensive research programmes have continued in many countries; space communications were successfully established over a distance of more than 100 million kilometres; long-range telephone-, radio- and television communication via communication satellite was significantly improved; the groundwork for a world-wide weather observation system has been laid; recently, a manoeuvrable satellite called Polyot was launched in the USSR, guided by telemetry from the ground.

In reviewing the activities and accomplishments of the past year, we derived particular satisfaction, however, from the fact that, this time, the progress in science, technology and research is complemented by equally encouraging results in our effort to create international co-operation and collaboration in this field. In the past, we had become accustomed to reports of remarkable technological progress; but, at the same time, we always had to point to the fact that these achievements in science and technology were in no way matched by the development of co-operation in the political field.

(Mr. Matsch, Austria)

This year, we have more reason for satisfaction: indeed, for some optimism. On 16 August 1963, the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union announced the approval of a first memorandum of understanding to implement the co-operative space agreement of 8 June 1962 between the two countries, on collaboration in the use of artificial satellites in the field of meteorology. This agreement, though limited in nature, is significant if for no other reason than that it indicates that there are some technical areas in which the United States and the Soviet Union have found it possible to undertake joint actions in outer space. Then the month of August of this year saw the final negotiations, and the signing in Moscow, of a treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, under water, and in outer space. This treaty, which now bears the signatures of more than 100 countries, will, we hope, result in removing one of the great dangers from man's exploration of outer space: namely, the hazards of radio-active contamination and pollution of space near the earth.

Only a few weeks ago, this Committee, and later the General Assembly, took another important step in urging, in resolution 1884 (XVIII), that all countries should refrain from placing nuclear weapons in orbit around the earth, or stationing such weapons in outer space.

It is the light of such significant advances in the scientific and technological field, and of remarkable accomplishments in the political field, that we can now turn to the consideration of this year's report of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This report, too, reflects a more favourable international atmosphere.

In the scientific and technical field, the Committee is presenting to the General Assembly for consideration a number of recommendations on the exchange of information about space activities; on the development of international programmes, such as international co-operation in the field of space communications and satellite meteorology; measures in connexion with the Thumba sounding rocket research station in India, and provisions concerning the advancement of the sounding rocket programme; and, finally,

(Mr. Matsch, Austria)

recommendations with regard to the expansion of international co-operation in the field of education, training and assistance in space activities.

We trust that these recommendations will be approved and endorsed by the General Assembly. The Outer Space Committee also reports on the results of the discussions on legal problems regarding the peaceful uses of outer space in particular, on international rules governing space activities. We are gratified that long and sometimes difficult consultations among members of the Outer Space Committee have finally led to substantial agreement on most of the points involved. Thus, for the first time, we can also record significant progress on the legal aspect under consideration in the Outer Space Committee.

My delegation is not surprised at these encouraging results. We have had the opportunity already, during the discussions of the Legal Sub-Committee and, in particular, at the September session of the Outer Space Committee, to call attention to the fact that wide areas of agreement appeared to exist on several of the problems under consideration, and that it should be possible to arrive at agreed solutions without much further delay. Such agreement, as a matter of fact, had seemed possible on several of the general principles proposed for inclusion in a declaration of general principles -- in particular on the principle that outer space and celestial bodies should be free for exploration and use by all States, which should have equal rights in this field; that international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter should govern the activities of States in the conquest of outer space; that national sovereignty could not be acquired over outer space or celestial bodies; that States should retain sovereignty over objects they launch into space; that States should be liable for damage caused by their space vehicles; that assistance should be accorded to space vehicles and their personnel in case of distress. On several other principles, acceptable compromises seemed equally possible. We are gratified that it has now become possible to reach and to record agreement on these points, enabling the Outer Space Committee to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft declaration of legal principles concerning the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space.

(Mr. Matsch, Austria)

The proposed draft declaration, as we see it, would comprise all those general principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space on which agreement can at this moment be reached. We realize, of course, that the proposed declaration does not cover all aspects of the problem. Thus, for instance, my own delegation, in the recent discussion in this Committee on a draft resolution designed to preclude the placing in orbit of weapons of mass destruction, said:

"This draft resolution is entirely in harmony with the work undertaken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and its contents should certainly be taken into account in the elaboration of the legal principles presently under study by that Committee". (1311th meeting, page 11)

We regret, therefore, that a provision to this effect is not contained in the draft declaration before us. Yet we do realize that universal agreement on all the facets of this aspect, as of many others, has not yet been achieved, to an extent which would permit its inclusion in a declaration of general principles at this moment -- a fact which we regret, but which will not prevent us from accepting the draft declaration in its present form or from commending it for adoption by this Committee and, we hope, by the General Assembly.

We should now like to say a few words on the future work of the Outer Space Committee.

We feel that circumstances are propitious for a speedy resumption of the Committee's work, both in the legal and in the scientific and technical fields.

As to the legal problems, the Outer Space Committee should, in our opinion, continue the discussion of further legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space. We do not consider that the draft declaration which is now before us and which we hope will be adopted by the General Assembly should in any way be a final document or close the door on the elaboration of further principles. As we have stated in the Outer Space Committee,

(Mr. Matsch, Austria)

"It appears to us a matter of course that, as international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space will expand, the proposed declaration of basic principles will be supplemented by a number of further principles on which agreement will eventually have been reached".

(A/AC.105/PV.21, page 11)

As to two concrete aspects -- namely, the preparation of draft international agreements on liability for space vehicle accidents and on assistance to and return of space vehicles and their personnel in case of distress, we hope that the adoption of the general principles on these problems in the proposed draft declaration will make it possible for the Outer Space Committee to proceed without further delay to the actual drafting of these legal instruments.

As to the future work of the Outer Space Committee in the scientific field, the First Committee will note that the report before us contains a number of concrete suggestions with regard to exchange of information, training facilities, and so forth. My delegation believes that the Outer Space Committee should, furthermore, concentrate on certain specific and important issues and investigate how the objectives could be achieved with the assistance of the relevant international and national institutions or agencies within a period of a few years. In this respect, we might think of such targets as the following:

First, the establishment of a navigation satellite system for radio navigation under the auspices of the United Nations. It would be designed to provide a highly accurate system of terrestrial navigation, free from the vagaries associated with the use of the magnetic field of the earth. We understand that the ITU has already started to study the technical aspects of the project, but there are also political aspects involved, such as the co-ordination and co-operation among States, listed in General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) among the terms of reference of the Outer Space Committee.

Second, the establishment of a global space communication system, as envisaged in part D of General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI). In our opinion, this would require consideration by the Outer Space Committee for the following reasons. Experiments such as Telstar I and II, Relay and Syncom have shown that the technical prerequisites for such a system exist. At the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference of ITU in Geneva, seventy countries recently signed an agreement on the allocation of frequency bands essential for the various categories of space radio communication and for radio astronomy. The allocation of radio

(Mr. Matsch, Austria)

frequency bands with a total width of 2,800 megacycles for the exclusive use of communication satellites is considered adequate to handle the growth in communication satellite traffic through the year 1980, because 9,000 two-way telephone calls and four duplex television circuits could be handled simultaneously via space communication. A specific frequency band was reserved for radio-astronomy purposes. Thirteen European countries met in Paris in May and in London in July to discuss the development of and co-operation with the United States with regard to a space communication system, and another session was held in Rome on 27 November. In the United States, "Comsat" -- the Communications Satellite Corporation -- is planning the first launching of commercial-type communication satellites in 1966, and the company expects its initial system with global capacity to be in operation by 1967. The establishment of such a system would have far-reaching consequences because governments or individuals could contact anyone, anywhere, at any time, by voice, sight or document. When established, man's capacity to communicate will transcend every barrier of time and distance. The establishment of such a system would, however, also have important legal and political aspects, such as the participation of governments in the ownership, use and management of the satellite system. These aspects, we feel, should be considered by the Outer Space Committee. It might equally wish to consider whether the global communication system, available on a non-discriminatory basis to all nations of the world, as envisaged by Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI), part D, should not be placed under the auspices of the United Nations.

Third, weather control. We have noted with great interest from the second WMO report that the Working Group on Research Activities is studying the general circulation and the heat balance of the atmosphere, in order to gain greater knowledge of the nature of weather and climate, and perhaps eventually to give mankind the power to influence weather and climate on a large scale.

Among the suggestions proposed in this respect we recall, for instance, a plan for the artificial melting of the Arctic ice cap. As early as the end of 1950, some thirty nations were engaged in artificial rain experiments by so-called cloud-seeding -- crystals of dry ice or silver iodide, or an organic chemical named metaldehyde, act as nuclei on which water vapour in the cloud will form ice crystals that grow large enough to fall to earth as rain.

(Mr. Matsch, Austria)

Recently, a more attractive method seems to be the "stormcloud electrification". It has been established that the charge distribution on clouds can be altered and the precipitation process increased. It may be of interest to recall in this Committee, which has devoted so much time to discuss questions in connexion with nuclear weapons, that the energy concentrated in the atmosphere is unbelievably great. The average thunderstorm, for example, contains, according to the view of qualified experts, energy equal to about a dozen Hiroshima-size atomic bombs.

The second WMO report states, however, that the prerequisite for a large-scale weather control is a better understanding of the mechanism of the general circulation and of the heat balance of the atmosphere. The major contributing factors to this end will be the continuing basic observational data sent from weather satellites, covering the entire atmosphere from above, and from a world-wide terrestrial network of meteorological observations posts called the "World Weather Watch", which WMO is about to establish.

The problem of controlling the weather is of very considerable practical importance because, if solved, it could have beneficial results not only for agriculture, but for the whole economic and social life of the area concerned.

Although WMO is studying these problems and is in process of establishing the global World Weather Watch, and although the United States and the USSR have recently agreed on a co-ordinated meteorological satellite programme and on the exchange of conventional meteorological data, there are also aspects of the question which might make consideration by the Outer Space Committee advisable. This could be done, for instance, when the next progress report of WMO will be made to the Outer Space Committee, so as to eventually submit recommendations on this matter to the General Assembly in the future.

In addition to these three issues of great importance, which in our opinion could be solved within a period of several years, the Outer Space Committee's Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, in collaboration with CCSPAR, might be requested to study and establish a long-term programme of co-operation with a view to scientific research deep into space, in order to explore possibilities of making use of apparently existing co-ordinated electro-magnetic and other phenomena in outer space for the benefit of all mankind.

(Mr. Matsch, Austria)

With these observations we should like to conclude our comments on the Outer Space Committee's report, of which we take note, with satisfaction, as a record of significant achievements in the past year, and as an encouraging omen for the future work of the Outer Space Committee.

Mr. FAHMY (United Arab Republic): It is encouraging indeed that the discussion of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which covers the progress thus far achieved in the Committee and its two Sub-Committees, is occurring at a time when the cold war, with its various symptoms, is withering.

In this earthly world of ours the wisdom of its leaders has fortunately led to various political and other steps so as to prepare a climate conducive to tackling international problems on a more realistic basis and thus avoiding situations which, if they persist, would eventually develop into a disaster.

This attempt to normalize relations between countries of the world stems from the desire and eagerness of world public opinion, if we borrow the very words of the Charter, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind".

The present amiable atmosphere prevailing in the eighteenth session of the General Assembly is no doubt a direct result of the wisdom to which I have referred, and which was crystallized by the Moscow test-ban agreement, by resolution 1884 (XVIII), which the Assembly adopted by acclamation, to denuclearize outer space, and by all other resolutions which were adopted without too much acrimonious debate.

In resolution 1884 (XVIII), the General Assembly, after welcoming the expression by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America of their intention not to station in outer space any object carrying nuclear weapons or other kind of weapons of mass destruction, solemnly called upon all States:

(Mr. Fahmy, United Arab Republic)

"(a) To refrain from placing in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, installing such weapons on celestial bodies, or stationing such weapons in outer space in any other manner;

"(b) To refrain from causing, encouraging or in any way participating in the conduct of the foregoing activities."

With this atmosphere around us, I repeat, we are fortunate to be able to begin our deliberations on this item. Before proceeding any further, I would like to make it clear that the only logical result of such an atmosphere is that it should be stretched to cover this new dimension of space. Instead of complicating matters in the skies, it is the duty of all of us, great and small, to simplify matters by being candid for the sake of constructiveness and peace.

The natural conclusion is that all our actions should be planned so as to build on the small foundation which we have, and not to try, wittingly or unwittingly, to detract from or demolish what we have accomplished up to now.

If we go back to the thirteenth session, we will find that the Assembly, in resolution 1348 (XIII), expressed itself twice in quite definite terms by "Recognizing the common interest of mankind in outer space" and recalling "that it is the common aim that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only". Furthermore, the Assembly expressed itself in the following terms: "that progress in this new field will materially help to achieve the aim that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only".

In the fourteenth session, the General Assembly, in resolution 1472 (XIV), expressed this belief in the following terms:

"Desiring to avoid the extension of present national rivalries into this new field;

"Recognizing the great importance of international co-operation in the exploration and exploitation of outer space for peaceful purposes."

In practically every resolution adopted by the General Assembly pertaining to outer space, the Assembly expressed itself in favour of the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space.

(Mr. Fahmy, United Arab Republic)

In addition, the Committee may recall that one of the non-controversial legal principles on which there was unanimous agreement from the very beginning, was the principle of the applicability of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, to the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space.

(Mr. Fahmy, United Arab Republic)

The Charter does not speak of any other way in which Member States could co-operate except in promoting peace. The very acceptance of this legal principle should, without question, lead to unanimous agreement to restore to this new dimension its peaceful character.

This is our mandate. This mandate was reaffirmed, with no opposition whatsoever, when the Committee on Outer Space agreed to instruct "its Legal Sub-Committee", and I am quoting from paragraph 4 of annex I of document A/5549:

"to continue its consideration of legal questions connected with the peaceful uses of outer space, in the light of part I of resolution 1802 (XVII) adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1962." (A/5549, Annex I, page 1)

Because of this clear mandate, our first and most important task, when we consider the legal questions pertaining to outer space, is to make it as clear as possible that what we are co-operating in is peaceful co-operation in outer space and nothing else. Even resolution 1884 (XVIII) was based on, and referred specifically to, General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVII), in which the Assembly made it clear that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

I felt it necessary to recapitulate this history to prove to the members of this Committee that the United Arab Republic, when it submitted on 14 September 1962 its draft code proposing to confine the use of outer space solely to peaceful purposes, was in fact implementing the letter and spirit of the General Assembly resolutions, which were adopted unanimously and without a single dissenting vote. What we did was in fact to express in writing the common desire of the people of the world -- a desire which, we are sure, is shared by all large and small Powers. What we ask for and are still asking for is co-operation in peace and for peace.

Our proposals, which were supported by an overwhelming majority, were submitted with every good intention and because of the experience which we have witnessed as a result of not taking from the very beginning effective steps to prevent the arms race. We cannot sit idle and do nothing to prevent a situation which, if left to develop in outer space on a scale similar to that in our world would mean that we should face in the near future a much more complicated situation in outer space because of the expected inventions and scientific advances in that new field.

(Mr. Fahmy, United Arab Republic)

On this issue the representative of Japan, in his statement in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on 22 November 1963, said:

"That conviction of ours is based upon the fact that outer space is a fairly new area of human activity in which, fortunately, no nation as yet has established vested interests; on the other hand, outer space activities are developing day by day with great rapidity. Accordingly, before undesirable faits accomplis can accumulate, we must take the fullest possible advantage of the present situation and strive hard to ensure that the exploration and use of outer space will take place in accordance with law and order and under a peaceful regime, so that the welfare of man will be the prime objective of all outer space activities." (A/AC.105/PV.24, page 37)

His first reservation on the declaration which was then being discussed was in connexion with the absence of any reference to the effect that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only.

The representatives of Lebanon, India and Brazil made statements to the same effect, namely, that their respective Governments were of the opinion that outer space should be used solely for peaceful purposes.

In the various submissions of the delegation of the United Arab Republic in connexion with activities in outer space, we have made it abundantly clear that, as long as we are still at the threshold of our activity in this new dimension, we, together with other States, are under the obligation to put on record our views in the hope that they will be heeded in the future.

It may be recalled that many delegations supported the view that a set of general principles should be elaborated to guide States in the exploration of outer space. In supporting that view, many delegations referred to other areas where almost the same conditions exist as in outer space, and they made the point that it was possible to conclude an international agreement prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons or any activities of a military nature in this new field.

In this connexion it is relevant to refer to the treaty concerning Antarctica signed in 1959 by many States, among them all the nuclear Powers, in which it was proclaimed that Antarctica could be used only for peaceful purposes and that all measures of a military nature should be prohibited on that continent. If that

(Mr. Fahmy, United Arab Republic)

was possible, it does not appear to us impossible to strive for the same objective as far as outer space is concerned. We are not asking at this stage for the conclusion of an international agreement or treaty. What we should like to see is that the General Assembly, in adopting any set of principles, should make it clear that this is the goal towards which we are definitely working.

From time to time we are reminded that there should not be a legal vacuum in outer space. Whilst we fully agree, we are of the opinion that, if we were to adopt, in our eagerness, a set of legal norms which do not lend themselves to the full support of world public opinion, it would in fact be tantamount to creating a vacuum. A set of legal norms which has a vacuum of purpose would be most detrimental in the implementation of any set of legal principles adopted under such conditions.

It is common knowledge that the declaration of legal principles contained in the second report of the Outer Space Committee is the result of lengthy, elaborate, bilateral negotiations between the two space Powers. Many interested Member States have expressed the earnest hope that some accommodations might be made through mutual consent by the two space Powers to take into account at least some of the reservations which were made; but unfortunately, as appears from the document before us, it was not possible to do so. Now it is for the General Assembly and its membership at large to consider the situation in the light of the importance of this question.

We are reminded time and again of the delicate balance of this or that resolution, but this attitude in the past two months has developed to an extent that it has created a new sense of fear -- a fear which, if encouraged, will strike hard at the basic principles which various countries keep at heart. Co-operation and real accommodation of the various positions and interests of Members at large should be possible, as long as they are based on clear understanding and conviction.

(Mr. Fahmy, United Arab Republic)

Now, if you will permit me, it is pertinent to summarize the position of the United Arab Republic delegation on the legal aspects as follows:

(1) We cannot consider this set of legal principles in their present form, either as a rigid framework, or as what may be called the law of outer space which governs the co-operation in outer space. By its very title it is clear that it is limited to certain legal norms. They are not "general principles", the adoption of which we have advocated from the very beginning. Had it been possible to have a more comprehensive set of principles it would have been proper for these principles to cover other aspects and not be limited only to legal norms.

(2) In the light of the various valid reservations expressed by many delegations in the Outer Space Committee, the universality of these legal norms could not be established except through the form and to the extent by which they are accepted and applied in practice.

Having this in mind, we believe that it may be more appropriate to confine these legal norms to their real scope. Consequently, principle 1 should not appear because it could hardly be called a legal principle.

As to principles 2, 3 and 4, they are mere reiteration of similar paragraphs which were already adopted by the General Assembly in previous resolutions.

This, however, does not prevent us from seeking some clarification on the reference of the applicability of the principle of international law, and the United Nations Charter to outer space.

As to international law, it is common knowledge that there is no such law yet in existence so far as outer space is concerned. This is why we believe that it is necessary from time to time to amplify what is meant by this term. As we see it, our very action and co-operation together with our experience will set in motion a new sense of jurisprudence fit for this new domain.

As to paragraphs 5 and 6, they are an improvement on previous formulas and as such they could be taken as additional proof of the goodwill and desire of the two space Powers to co-operate.

(Mr. Fahmy, United Arab Republic)

In this connexion, the United Arab Republic delegation sympathizes with the second reservation made by the representative of Japan in the Committee on Outer Space on 22 November 1963:

"... namely, the obligation of launching States to provide adequate information in advance, as well as the corresponding obligation of non-launching States to return space vehicles." (A/5549/Add.1, annex, page 2)

So far as paragraphs 7 and 8, their terms are not very clear. The present wording of these two paragraphs will no doubt, raise many legal points of great importance. In particular, the definition of the term "launching State", the legal status of joint programmes and the liability emanating therefrom, the position of a "lending State" and in general, the amount of liability if a programme is carried collectively.

The representatives of Australia and Canada in their statements on 22 November 1963, made certain reservations and referred to some of these points which are, in our opinion, valid and deserve serious examination.

With these limitations, if, however, the General Assembly is keen on adopting the legal principles contained in document A/5549/Add.1, the United Arab Republic delegation will not withhold its support, hoping that at the appropriate time in the near future it will be possible to adopt a much better and comprehensive set of principles.

Now, with your permission, I should like to make a few remarks on the report of the Outer Space Committee, contained in document A/5549. It is crystal clear from the report that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had a very encouraging and constructive session, which, culminated in specific useful suggestions which were approved later by the Outer Space Committee. I am referring in particular to the recommendations in the field of exchange of information and encouragement of international programmes, the achievements of the International Telecommunication Union in the field of satellite communications, international co-operation in satellite meteorological programmes, education and training programmes, and lastly, the recommendations regarding the effects of potentially harmful space experiments.

(Mr. Fahmy, United Arab Republic)

All these recommendations are constructive suggestions in the proper direction and could not be made without the co-operation of COSPAR, and the specialized agencies concerned with the United Nations Secretariat which all deserve our gratitude.

The majority of these various proposals, and in particular the space telecommunication and training programmes, are still in the blueprint stage.

For this reason, the delegation of the United Arab Republic requested, and the Committee on Outer Space approved, that the United Nations Secretariat, in consultation with the agencies concerned, prepare papers to deal with the implementation phase of these various recommendations.

From all I have said, it is now clear that the year 1964 will be a period of extensive work. The Outer Space Committee and its two sub-committees have a serious and continuous job to accomplish, to lay the first brick in the process of co-operation in outer space on the basis of well-planned schemes, and under an international atmosphere which we hope will continue.

To be able to do this, the members of the Outer Space Committee need your support and guidance; the support and guidance of the membership at large will be the real beam which the Outer Space Committee and its two sub-committees, will follow in their efforts to implement the desire of the General Assembly to promote international co-operation and the peaceful exploration of outer space only in the interests of humanity.

Sir Patrick DEAN (United Kingdom): May I at the outset say that I have listened with attention to the speakers who have taken part so far in this debate, and in particular to the very thoughtful speech to which we have just listened from the representative of the United Arab Republic. I think all of us have been impressed by the emphasis that all speakers have placed on fostering the spirit of co-operation between us.

We have before us the latest report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which is contained in document A/5549, together with its addendum, recording the important results of the most recent meeting of the Committee on 22 November.

(Sir Patrick Dean, United Kingdom)

These reports can, happily, be considered in the light of certain events which are of great importance in the context of outer space, and which have taken place during the last year. Outstanding among these is the conclusion of the treaty banning nuclear testing in the atmosphere, under water and in outer space, of which the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom were the original signatories, but which has now been signed by the overwhelming majority of Member States of this Organization.

(Sir Patrick Dean, United Kingdom)

Another significant development was the adoption by the General Assembly during the present session of resolution 1884 (XVIII), the first operative paragraph of which solemnly calls upon all States to refrain from placing in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons of mass destruction, installing such weapons on celestial bodies, or stationing such weapons in outer space in any other manner.

Less spectacular perhaps, but equally encouraging, is the progress which has been made in the technical field during the last year. The Dryden-Blaganravov Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding resulting from it which was approved by the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union are still fresh in all our minds. In conformity with this memorandum, the United States and the Soviet Union have announced their intention of carrying out in 1964 a joint experiment on the implementation of long distance radio telecommunications by the use of the American satellite, Echo 2. This is, of course, of special interest to my delegation because the British observatory at Jodrell Bank will be taking part in the experiment.

My Government's policy is, indeed, to foster wherever possible the highest degree of international co-operation in the exploration of outer space and its use for peaceful purposes. It is, in fact, only through such co-operation that the majority of individual countries can share in the benefits to be derived from space research. It is for this reason that the United Kingdom will be a member both of the European Launcher Development Organization (ELDO) and the European Space Research Organization (ESRO). Looking into the future and on a broader basis of co-operation we hope to participate in the establishment of a global system of satellite communications.

It was because the recommendations made by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in its report to the outer space Committee were concerned with just such development of international co-operation in the technical and scientific fields that the report was welcomed and supported by the United Kingdom representative in the outer space Committee on 10 September of this year. There is very little which I need now add concerning this report, the

(Sir Patrick Dean, United Kingdom)

recommendations contained in which, we were pleased to note, were fully endorsed by the outer space Committee itself. We are highly gratified at the constructive work which has been done in the course of this last year by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, by the World Meteorological Organization, and by the International Telecommunications Union. We also welcome the progress which was made at the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference recently held in Geneva with the sixty-eight members of the I.T.U. participating, and at which consideration was given to allocating frequency bands for space communications and procedures for their use. My delegation believes that the EARC has made a most valuable contribution to progress in the peaceful uses of outer space in line with the objectives defined in General Assembly resolutions 1721 (XVI) and 1802 (XVII).

We are confident that the General Assembly will approve these developments in the technical field, and my delegation, together with a number of others, is now in the process of preparing a resolution, part of which is directed to this end.

I now turn to the report of the Legal Sub-Committee of the outer space Committee, which is to be found in paragraphs 19-21 of document A/5549. It is here, of course, that the further report contained in document A/5549/Add.1 is highly relevant. That report, which was drawn up at a short meeting of the outer space Committee held on 22 November, includes a draft resolution which contains a declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space. This draft declaration was generally welcomed in the outer space Committee, although a number of delegations, including my own, expressed certain views concerning matters which are either not fully covered by the declaration or in respect of which the declaration may need to be complemented and supplemented by detailed agreements at a later stage. The statements which were made in the Committee are reproduced verbatim in the annex to the report contained in document A/5549/Add.

I should now like to state in rather more detail the views of my delegation concerning this draft declaration. In the first place, I should like to express our satisfaction that the efforts which were made earlier this year, both in the Legal Sub-Committee and in the outer space Committee itself

(Sir Patrick Dean, United Kingdom)

to emphasize the areas of agreement and to narrow the areas of disagreement have been crowned with success. The United Kingdom representative, speaking in the outer space Committee on 10 September, urged that:

"the recording in a suitable form of those basic principles on which agreement already exists or on which agreement, being very near at hand, can be achieved need not await... the resolution of all controversial questions of a legal nature." (21st meeting, page 36)

We are very glad that this view has been found to prevail and that further discussions which have taken place outside the Committee this autumn have now resulted in a draft resolution containing a declaration in which a number of basic legal principles are stated.

In contrast to other areas in which well defined and generally recognized legal principles already exist, there is in the field of outer space a real need for the formulation and acceptance of new legal principles which, even though broadly stated, can serve as a satisfactory basis for the development of the law of outer space. As we all know, a beginning was made with the two principles commended to States for their guidance in the first operative paragraph of part A of resolution 1721 (XVI). These principles form the basis of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the draft resolution now before us.

The subsequent paragraphs of the draft declaration deal, however, with further matters. Paragraph 5 contains the important affirmation that States bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space, whether these are carried on by governmental agencies or by non-governmental entities, and further states that if the latter is the case such activities "require authorization and continuing supervision by the State concerned". As so formulated, this principle should be acceptable to all States, whatever their social and political systems. It is also worth noting that a principle of this kind has been strongly recommended by private groups of lawyers who have been engaged in attempts to formulate a legal code for outer space, for instance, the study group set up by the David Davies Memorial Institute in London.

(Sir Patrick Dean, United Kingdom)

Paragraph 6 of the draft declaration reflects the importance attached by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to the problem of preventing potentially harmful interference with peaceful uses of outer space. The basic principle that States "shall conduct all their activities in outer space with due regard for the corresponding interests of other States" which appeared in the draft declaration earlier suggested by the United Kingdom delegation is, we are glad to note, now included in the present draft and is implemented by provisions for appropriate international consultations in cases where there is reason to believe that an outer space activity or experiment may be potentially harmful to the interests of other States in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

(Sir Patrick Dean, United Kingdom)

Paragraph 7 of the draft declaration introduces the concept of national registration of objects launched into outer space, and appears to make such registration the criterion for jurisdiction and control. My delegation considers that this is a correct starting point, but we wish to emphasize here, as we did in the Outer Space Committee on 22 November, that the concept of national registration, which is here, perhaps, introduced rather suddenly, will need to be further developed.

Paragraph 8 of the draft declaration is extremely broadly drafted and will need further implementation through bilateral and multilateral agreement before it can be satisfactorily applied. I need not dwell upon the difficulties involved here, particularly in the matter of joint activities in outer space. Such problems were, indeed, well illustrated in the statement made by the representative of Australia in the Outer Space Committee on 22 November, and the statement made by the United Kingdom representative in the Legal Sub-Committee on 30 April 1963 also drew attention to them and to the need for their further consideration when the question of liability for space-vehicle accidents is dealt with in more detail.

I turn now to one further matter which my delegation believes to be extremely relevant in the context of the draft declaration which is now before us. As I have already stated, the United Kingdom will be a member of ELD0 and ESRO and therefore cannot ignore the question of the extent to which these basic principles apply to and affect the activities of international organizations in outer space. We fully recognize, of course, that it would have been cumbersome to repeat in every paragraph of the draft declaration the words "or international organizations" after any reference to a State or States. We do not, however, regard the omission from all paragraphs of the draft declaration, except the fifth, of any reference to international organizations as excluding such organizations from the scope of the declaration or as prejudicing in any way the position of international organizations conducting activities in outer space. Such questions as the liability of international organizations for damage caused by objects launched into outer space will naturally require further consideration when an international agreement on liability comes to be drafted. In the Outer Space Committee we endorsed

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generally the views expressed by the representatives of Australia and the United States to the effect that international organizations as well as the States taking part in them can be internationally liable for such damage. Furthermore, we do not regard the draft declaration as in any way implying that such organizations do not have international legal personality to the extent required for the conduct of their activities.

I have already indicated that some of the new principles will require amplification and development by means of subsequent agreements. My delegation has particularly in mind the drafting of an agreement on liability for space-vehicle accidents, a matter which seems to us now to have attained a certain degree of urgency. We hope that work on the drafting of such an agreement can be begun without much further delay, and we believe that it would be useful to recommend to the Outer Space Committee that this item should now have priority on the agenda of its Legal Sub-Committee. In saying this we do not, of course, overlook the fact that there is also agreement in principle on drafting an agreement on assistance to and return of space vehicles and personnel. This is again a matter which we believe the Outer Space Committee should ask its Legal Sub-Committee to consider further at its next session.

May I now conclude by stating once more that my delegation warmly welcomes and supports the draft resolution on legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space which is to be found in the latest report of the Outer Space Committee. Although these principles are broadly stated and some of them will need supplementing and complementing by the conclusion of detailed international agreements, my delegation believes that they constitute a significant contribution to the development of the law of outer space. My Government intends to respect these principles and believes that the conduct they enjoin will become the practice of every State and thus serve to ensure the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

Mr. ATTOLICO (Italy): It is indeed gratifying that at this session of the General Assembly consideration of the problems relating to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space should take place in a most

(Mr. Attolico, Italy)

propitious atmosphere, namely, after the groundwork has been laid, both by painstaking, patient -- even if at times unrewarding -- work in the Outer Space Committee itself and in its Sub-Committees, as well as by most significant recent events of broad political scope which have taken place inside and outside the framework of the United Nations. Among these latter is the conclusion of the Moscow Agreement on the banning of nuclear tests. It is only fitting to recall that this instrument, of far-reaching effects and consequences, is applicable, in particular, also to outer space. Equally important with respect to outer space is that this General Assembly should have found it possible only a few weeks ago to adopt unanimously -- indeed by acclamation -- a resolution solemnly calling on all States to refrain from placing into orbit or stationing in outer space or on celestial bodies the deadliest instruments of war, the weapons of mass destruction.

Also of deep significance, in our view, is the momentum gained by practical ventures in international co-operation, both multilateral and bilateral, to enhance scientific and technical progress for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. On this front recent developments are most promising. One need only recall the agreement concluded in this field last year by the United States and the Soviet Union, on the implementation of which progress has recently been reported, through the Secretary-General, to this General Assembly. Similarly, the pace of co-operative activities at the regional level in Europe is steadily increasing, especially within the framework of ESRO and ELDO. Particularly in the field of satellite telecommunications the world has been witness to spectacular achievements in which a number of countries have participated. I am referring here to the Telstar, Relay and Syncom programmes, which the United States has put into operation in co-operation with several other countries.

In the framework of the United Nations, progress is in sight too with respect to practical joint ventures in space research and exploration. The most welcome initiative taken by India to prepare facilities for the launching of sounding rockets is now close to realization, and I should wish here to express our deep appreciation to the Indian Government for its efforts to bring about this international project. In my own country, Italian scientists and technicians are hard at work on a similar programme, the San Marco, intended to permit experiments

(Mr. Attolico, Italy)

in outer space from nautical platforms, a programme on which we have already had occasion to inform the General Assembly and the Outer Space Committee.

In this context, it is indeed not surprising that a general understanding should have been reached with regard to legal problems arising from activities in outer space. During the past years criticism was voiced over the lack of progress in this field. However, now the painstaking efforts of the Outer Space Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee may well be rewarded if the General Assembly can find it possible to adopt the declaration of principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, contained in the draft paper before this Committee.

(Mr. Attolico, Italy)

This document, in our view, accurately reflects the trend of opinion which has developed in the deliberations of the Committee on Outer Space during the past two years: a trend which it proved possible to crystallize in a draft only after protracted and difficult negotiations, especially between the two Powers most advanced in space science and techniques, were successfully concluded. We, on our part, are indeed gratified and appreciative that the United States and the Soviet Union should have overcome their differences, thus indicating an awareness of the general expectations that a comprehensive legal and political framework be worked out to regulate activities in outer space.

The draft declaration is merely a beginning, an initial step, in this direction. It incorporates the broad criteria which are to be the guiding lines for activities in outer space. These eventually will be developed further. The general principles contained in the draft declaration are expressed in broad formulae intended to encompass problems and situations which surely require further detailed consideration and the conclusion of international agreements, intended to cover organically and in depth specific aspects of activities in outer space. Among these are the problems of liability for damage caused by space vehicles and of assistance and return of space vehicles and their personnel in cases of forced landing and distress. These subjects indeed require detailed regulation, even in the present phase of space technology, and the consensus in the Committee on Outer Space has been that draft agreements should be elaborated to deal with them.

Further developments in outer space activities, which will be brought about by progress in science and technology, will undoubtedly point to several other legal problems which will require detailed regulation. Outer space is a new field of endeavour, subject to continued change. It will be essential to keep under constant review the realities of this development in order to ensure that, in the spirit of the draft declaration now before us, exploration and use of outer space will take place in the common interest and to the benefit of all mankind, thus contributing to mutual understanding and to the strengthening of friendly relations between all the peoples of the world. This is, in essence, the political objective of the draft declaration: that outer space should serve as a forceful catalyst for international harmony and interdependence. The future task of the Committee on Outer Space and its Legal Sub-Committee will be precisely to pursue this goal.

(Mr. Attolico, Italy)

We are satisfied with the positive tenor of the text of the draft declaration. The emphasis is most appropriately placed on the peaceful character which must be the fundamental element of any activity in outer space.

I shall not review here in detail the principles set forth in the draft declaration, nor shall I comment on their formulation. Suffice it for me to say that this text represents the first positive breakthrough in our attempts in the United Nations to work out a general basic framework for man's peaceful conquest of the cosmos and for the orderly exploitation, in the common interest, of the practical possibilities afforded by the entry of man and man-made devices into outer space.

It is therefore the earnest hope of my delegation that the draft declaration will be adopted, with an overwhelming consensus, by the General Assembly. If this is the case, the draft declaration will, in our view, constitute a generally accepted set of international principles which could not be disregarded. My country, for one, would be guided by it scrupulously in any undertaking in outer space. Furthermore, the draft declaration, when approved by the General Assembly, will be a clear and unequivocal basis for the development of internationally binding regulations of activities in outer space.

Such progress as the adoption of the draft declaration on general principles would undoubtedly represent a step forward which, in turn, should provide a further incentive for international co-operation in outer space at the scientific and technical level. The Committee on Outer Space has already made progress in this sphere, and we cannot but voice satisfaction with what has so far been achieved.

In this respect I now wish to set forth the comments and suggestions of my delegation on several facets of the good work of the Committee on Outer Space and its Scientific Sub-Committee.

In the first place, concerning the most important question of collection and exchange of information, we feel at this time that, after the initial enthusiasm for collecting relevant data and information, an assessment of this flow of material, which is being made available through the Committee on Outer Space and the United Nations Secretariat, is required in order to determine what information is needed, by whom and for what purpose. Only in this manner will it be possible to enable the Committee on Outer Space to play its optimum role in this area. In our view, the problem is not the lack of information, but the abundance of it. Th

(Mr. Attolico, Italy)

the difficulty is not so much the mere collection of information, but the sensible distribution of the available data to the parties who may be in a position effectively to profit by it.

Closely related to the question of exchange and collection of information is the very important matter of education and training in space science and technology. This is a relatively new topic, which has been brought forth in the report of the Committee on Outer Space at the initiative of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and is an area on which, in our view, the utmost attention should be concentrated. The Italian delegation has listened with sympathy and understanding to the skillful and impassioned presentations of the case for space education and training made time and again by various delegations, especially the delegations of the United Arab Republic, India, Iran and others in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and in the Committee on Outer Space. We fully share their views and we have lost no opportunity and spared no effort to support them in trying to achieve positive results in this field.

The preamble to resolution 1721 (XVI) states 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,".

This concept is repeated in the draft declaration of principles now before us. If we are to be consistent with these statements of principles and translate them into practical realities there is no question, in our view, that positive action should be taken in order that an adequate number of space technicians and experts in the developing countries may be enabled to exploit fully the practical benefits opening from progress in space technology.

The recommendations to this effect contained in the report of the Committee on Outer Space appear to be somewhat weak. The argument was set forth that this field is one which falls within the province of the technical assistance operations of the United Nations and within the competence of some of the specialized agencies. Whatever the case may be, the time has come to focus positively on the problem of assistance in the education and training of technical personnel for the peaceful uses of outer space and the Committee on Outer Space should act as a catalyst to utilize effectively to this end all resources available within the United Nations system.

(Mr. Attolico, Italy)

It is a fact that such resources are available. An initiative, which we trust other specialized agencies may follow in their respective fields of endeavour, has been taken by the World Meteorological Organization, which has set up its own fund that, among other purposes, is intended to provide also for education and training in space meteorology.

This leads me to review the progress reported by the International Telecommunications Union and the WMO, and to comment on the suggestions which these two agencies and the Committee on Outer Space have advanced with regard to international co-operation in the areas of space communications and space meteorology.

In particular the ITU has reported that it is "tackling all the technical aspects of space telecommunications within the framework of its regular activities and that, as has been the case in the past, for other types of communications, it will be a matter of making steady progress over a period of years until space telecommunications are fully developed". The positive implications of this rather conservative and cautious statement have been stressed eloquently by the successful conclusion of the recent extraordinary conference of ITU for frequencies allocation, when a unanimous agreement was reached to allocate a generous bandwidth -- for a total of 2,800 megacycles -- to space telecommunications when the rules and regulations for sharing these frequencies with ground-based services have been established. Surely the Committee on Outer Space, at its forthcoming session, will be in a position to evaluate fully the report of the extraordinary conference, assess the importance of the results achieved there, and add some useful recommendations to enhance the development of international space communications for the use of all countries on a global, non-discriminatory basis.

(Mr. Attolico, Italy)

However, in order to enable especially the developing countries to share in the practical advantages which definitely are in sight in this sphere, technical assistance for a survey of their communications needs and the development of their domestic communications facilities are of the essence. The only mention of this point contained in the report of ITU consists in a concluding statement to the effect that: "ITU on the one hand will gladly support any action by UNESCO regarding the space telecommunications subjects in educational programmes at the various levels and, on the other hand, will pay due attention to the need for training programmes on space telecommunications techniques within the framework of its technical co-operation activities under the expanded programme of technical assistance and the Special Fund". In this respect, I submit, that a failure by the United Nations agencies to produce a correlated, balanced international effort toward the development of national domestic communications systems, in parallel with the progress in international space telecommunications, would be inconsistent with the aims and the scope of effective international co-operation for the peaceful uses of outer space.

To a lesser extent similar considerations apply to the area of satellite meteorology too. Here also we appreciate fully the excellent work done by WMO in promoting atmospheric science research and the development of improved weather forecasting capabilities in the light of recent accomplishments in outer space.

The unanimous support afforded to the World Weather Watch concept points the way to the establishment of a truly global meteorological network which could bring about benefits to all countries and especially those which are in the developing phase.

WMO has shown a keen awareness of the importance of these objectives and has indeed taken positive action to pursue them when it decided upon the establishment of a special development fund, which I mentioned before, intended to finance projects essential to the implementation of the World Weather Watch, which could not be financed otherwise. Even if significant expenditures by this fund are not anticipated to take place before 1965, in itself recourse by WMO to

such a means is a most encouraging indication in respect of future action in this vital field in which international co-operation may prove particularly fruitful.

In fact, improvement in weather forecasting, early location of storms and typhoons has already shown results felt in several parts of the globe. But possibilities of exercising control over the weather could also accrue from a perfect World Weather Watch and associate forecast systems. The longer this is delayed, the longer the delay in bringing about new and more ambitious agricultural programmes for land improvement so essential to developing countries.

All these international activities covering the various facets of peaceful uses and exploration of outer space are but the groundwork to bring about a truly effective and wide co-operation of States in this field. Outer space is and must become increasingly an area for international interdependence. Outer space must constitute one more element of unity to all the peoples of the world in the pursuit of progress. The advances we are striving for today to put into operation international sounding rocket sights, international programmes for assistance in the training of technical cadres for activities in outer space, international programmes for telecommunications and meteorology through devices in outer space, are the initial steps on the road to increasingly important international ventures in outer space designed to mobilize to the benefit of the whole community of States all the available potential for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. If this course will be pursued with sufficient determination, joint international ventures for the peaceful conquest of the cosmos will naturally ensue and, in fact, are perhaps closer at hand than is generally realized. The late President Kennedy, to whose memory we reverently bow, in his recent address to the General Assembly pointed to the possibility of joint expeditions to the moon by the United States and the Soviet Union. This far-sighted, and at the same time realistic, approach to international co-operation in outer space is one among the many bold ideas envisaged by this great and courageous leader. We, on our part, are fully convinced of the desirability, indeed the need, to enlarge the area of co-operation in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space in the firm belief that benefits which will accrue will constitute not only a capital of substantial material progress to mankind, but also a significant political capital of peace and mutual understanding among the peoples of the world.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Spain, who has asked to speak in exercise of his right of reply.

Mr. de PINIES (Spain) (interpretation from Spanish): In order to keep the historic truth in perspective, I feel in duty bound to speak in order to clarify a number of errors made by my friend, Ambassador Stevenson, in the course of his statement.

May I point out that when he thinks that the historical discovery by Columbus of this continent was not accompanied by a parallel vision of the law, I should like to remind the representative of the United States of Father Vitoria, who founded international law. It is true that the Organization of American States paid a well earned tribute to him a mere six weeks ago by setting up the bust of Father Vitoria. The representative of the United States also took part in this tribute. I would add the names of Father Suarez and Father Vasquez de Menchaca, who were also considered with Father Vitoria as great writers of treaties on international law.

Secondly, nothing could be further from the truth than to refer to the division of the spoils. The continent was divided in order to ensure its civilization, and we gave this continent our blood, our language, our culture and our traditions, and we are proud of having done so.

Thirdly, there was no nationalist competition and there were no imperialist wars. I think that these terms would be more appropriate to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and better applied to other Powers, which we need not mention at the moment.

The action of Alexander VI, the Pope in 1493, which was later confirmed with slight modification in the Treaty of Tordesillas, to which the representative of the United States referred, was the first case of arbitration under international law. If the exploration and expansionist trips had produced a fusion of races, the world would have avoided many future conflicts.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair has been informed that it is the wish of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the draft declaration contained in document A/5549/Add.1, in paragraph 6 of that document should be considered as a proposal within the meaning of rule 121 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. If there is no objection to this, then this declaration will be circulated as a Committee document submitted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as a whole, and will be dealt with at the same time when resolutions which may still be submitted will be taken up. As I hear no objection, it is thus decided.

It was so decided.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to say a few words about our future work. There was a meeting scheduled for tomorrow afternoon, but I am sorry to say that that meeting will have to be held in the morning instead of in the afternoon. So far we have only a few speakers for this meeting -- I think four -- and the Chair would be very grateful if any delegation that feels ready to speak tomorrow would inscribe its name on the list with the Secretariat.

I would also mention that, unavoidably, tomorrow's meeting will be held at the same time as the Security Council meeting. I regret this very much, but I am afraid that toward the end of the session simultaneous meetings like that are unavoidable. This is also partly a result of the time which we could not employ as a result of the very sad events which have taken place.

We have scheduled two meetings each day for Wednesday and Thursday. I already have quite a number of speakers for Wednesday, and any delegation that wishes to inscribe its name on the list should give their names to the Secretariat. We hope to be able to finish this item by Friday, the end of this week. After that, we only have one week left and, as you all know, there are still two items on the agenda. Thus I hope that we will be able to finish this item this week.

We will meet again tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.