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Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 18 December 1968, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. VINCI

(Italy)

- International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /24/ (continued)
- Examination of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind: report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction /26/ (continued)

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## AGENDA ITEM 24

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/7285; A/C.1/979; A/C.1/L.463, L.464) (continued)

Mr. GOTMANOV (Czechoslovakia): The Czechoslovak delegation would like to state in brief its position on the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space now under our consideration and to express several thoughts concerning our future activities in this field. The past year has marked further significant successes in the penetration of man into outer space, which we appreciate. In particular the two space super-Powers -- the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America -- made significant progress in the preparation of flights of men to the moon and around this eternal satellite of our earth. We can also register with satisfaction the constant intensification of international co-operation in this important field in the United Nations. I would like once again to make use of this opportunity to express our satisfaction with the organization of the first Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in Vienna. We appreciate the contribution of the Austrian Government to the preparation and organization of that Conference. We wish to express our conviction that the results of the Conference will be of great importance for the application of scientific and technological knowledge to practical uses, especially to the economic and technical development of all countries.

The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of our Committee, which is to meet in spring 1969, should be instrumental in bringing the results of the Vienna Conference to life quickly and without delay. In view of the fact that this year the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee has not been convened it faces a number of other important tasks in the field of scientific and technical co-operation and the training of cadres. The majority of these tasks are formulated sufficiently instructively in the draft resolution before

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We attach great importance to the progress made in respect of various aspects of the development of satellite communications both from the technical and socio-legal aspects. The Czechoslovak delegation has striven for several years to put this very important question on a solid basis also from the legal point of view. I have particularly in mind that the question of satellite communications should be handled in a non-discriminatory way. Therefore, we are ready to continue to participate within our capabilities in the development of these significant problems. We are of the opinion that the regulation of these questions would contribute to the furtherance of international co-operation in this field.

As to the Legal Sub-Committee, I would like to express my hope that at its next session decisive progress will be achieved in the preparation of a draft agreement on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space and that a text of the draft will be submitted to the General Assembly at its next session. In this connexion we appreciate the fact that the recently concluded Agreement on the rescue of astronauts and the return of objects launched into outer space has already entered into force. We consider this Agreement to be a significant instrument which, especially from the humanitarian point of view, constitutes a positive step towards the development of the norms of cosmic law.

In conclusion I would like to express our conviction that the draft resolution co-sponsored by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will be unanimously adopted and that it will constitute a sufficient guidance for the activities of the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the forthcoming year.

Mr. KAPLAN (Canada) Before commenting on the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, I should like to pay a brief tribute to those States and international organizations instrumental in the latest achievements in the exploration and use of outer space. Each year the pace of these achievements quickens and this year has been no exception. Apart from the impressive projects conducted by several countries acting collectively, we have witnessed the success of remarkable advances in the conquest of space by the United States and the Soviet Union. Recent developments in the Apollo and Zond series are spectacular steps in man's progress to the moon, and the Canadian Government offers its congratulations to those responsible.

My delegation welcomes also the increasing co-operation taking place internationally between States actively engaged in space programmes. These States and many others are collaborating, moreover, not only in space research and exploration, but also in the practical use of outer space with its immense potential for the economic and social betterment of the developing as well as the more economically advanced nations of earth. My delegation therefore supports the provision of expert advice, including education and training, to the developing countries, as suggested in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in concluding sessions of the Vienna Conference, and is prepared to study carefully how this advice should best be secured. The far-reaching scientific and technological progress in this new dimension of the past decade, with its outstanding discoveries and achievements, is steadily giving way to the practical utilization of outer space on a broad international level in various fields of human endeavour such as communications, meteorology, resources surveys and the dissemination of information. This use of outer space in the service of humanity requires international co-operation, which in turn contributes to the promotion of greater unity and understanding in the world.

Canada is a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and I wish only to review quickly some aspects of the Committee's work this year which my delegation believes deserve special attention.

I would like, however, at the outset to express my Government's appreciation for the constructive and generous role which the President of the Conference, Foreign Minister Waldheim, and the Austrian Government played in hosting and providing the facilities for the successful Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held in Vienna last summer. Canada was among several

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countries participating actively at this Conference by presenting papers and by chairing one of its thematic sessions. The documentation annexed to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reflects the variety of subjects discussed, many of which will be considered in detail by my Government and I am sure by the Governments of other Member States.

Last year, my delegation said that because of its humanitarian aspects Canada was very pleased to support the consensus agreement relating to assistance to and return of astronauts and space objects. This was a notable achievement in the developing law of outer space. We are gratified to note, therefore, that this agreement has now come into force. We also said last year that we hoped attention would be concentrated on obtaining similar agreement on a draft convention on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space. Unfortunately the Legal Sub-Committee has again reported failure to draft such a convention and this is most disappointing.

It is true that the report of the Legal Sub-Committee indicates some slight advance towards a complete liability convention, but when this advance is viewed in the light of the urgency which the General Assembly underlined in paragraph 4 of resolution 2345 (XXII), its pace and extent is simply not satisfactory. In the opinion of my delegation a far greater effort must be made on the next occasion. In this sense, my Government joined with Governments of ten other members of the Sub-Committee to ask that Governments concentrate their attention on several important but reserved questions concerning the liability convention.

The Legal Sub-Committee has recommended that the specialized agencies of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency examine and report on particular problems that have arisen, or may arise, from the use of space in the fields within their competence. My delegation supports this recommendation as we consider that several agencies, notably the International Telecommunication Union, will be able to provide much useful information regarding possible harmful interference of a space object with telecommunications.

Canada has for some time supported the concept of registering objects launched into outer space. My delegation is pleased to note the new French draft convention on this subject and would like to assure the Committee that it will be given most careful consideration.

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I now turn to the question of direct broadcasting from satellites. After a discussion in the Legal Sub-Committee in which a number of countries expressed their deep interest in this subject, the Legal Sub-Committee recommended that a study of the question be undertaken enlisting appropriate assistance from the competent specialized agencies of the United Nations wherever available. It was suggested at the Vienna Conference that satellites with powerful transmitters could be produced within the next few years, and direct television broadcasts from satellites would be available in about five years. I do not wish to go into this matter in any detail at this meeting, but I do wish to underline the view of my Government that time does not permit any delay before a study of this question is undertaken.

Conscious of this urgency, Canada was pleased to join with Sweden in putting forward a concrete proposal in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that a special working group should be established to study and report on the technical feasibility of communications by direct broadcasting satellites and the current and foreseeable developments in this field, including comparative user costs and other economic considerations as well as the implications of such developments in the social, cultural, legal and other areas. Naturally, as in the past when other working groups were established, membership in the group would be open to all interested members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space represented as far as possible by specialists and by representatives, whenever necessary, of the competent specialized agencies of the United Nations. My delegation hopes that all interested States, as well as the specialized agencies, will contribute comments and working papers to this special group for its information and guidance in the performance of its task. In this regard, the Secretary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space informed its members this past Friday at an informal meeting that the working group could meet in New York 10 to 21 February. The working group's mandate, as contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/7285), stipulates that the group's first task is "to formulate a work schedule for its fields of study and establish a timetable". The mandate also requires that two reports should be produced, one on technical considerations and the other on the economic, social, cultural, legal and other implications. It was further noted that these reports

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should be submitted to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Committee for their consideration if their respective timetables permit. In light of the above, my delegation suggests that at its first meeting in February the working group should produce the first report on technical matters and then should meet again, for a longer period, perhaps about early May, for the purpose of producing its second report. I should like to add in this connexion that Canada, in collaboration with Sweden, has already commenced work on a paper to be ready in the new year.

In conclusion, my delegation is pleased to support the continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Sounding Rocket Range in India which, like the experimental Satellite Communications Earth Station at Ahmedabad, has a relevance to the real problems of developing nations and to the solution of those problems through international collaboration.

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We should welcome the consideration of the United Nations sponsorship of other similar projects, such as the Mar Chiquita station in Argentina which meet the basic principles of furthering international collaboration in space research and the advancement of human knowledge and which provide opportunities for valuable practical training for interested users.

Scientific and technological changes, unparalleled in any other epoch of history, are increasingly involving the United Nations in highly technical matters, such as outer space, the sea-bed and ocean floor and problems of pollution and safeguarding the human environment. The solution of such problems requires international co-operation, to which Canada as a country of advanced technology is prepared, when given the opportunity, to make its contribution.

Mr. CHICUI (Tunisia) (interpretation from French): The Tunisian delegation would have wished to defer speaking on this item in order to speed up the work of the Committee; but we would like to make a brief statement on this matter, to which we have always attached considerable interest and attention.

We would like to say first of all how grateful we are to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the work it has accomplished because, as always it has lived up to our expectations. We have read the report with interest and we shall certainly pay due heed to the documents submitted to the Conference. Amongst these, the one submitted by the Secretary-General and headed "Uses of communication satellites by the United Nations", in document 127, was of especial interest to us. In this connexion, the Tunisian delegation would like to recall that already in 1961 the Assembly had noted unanimously "the potential importance of communication satellites for use by the United Nations and its principal organs and specialized agencies for both operational and informational requirements." (resolution 1721 (XVI))

In this connexion the memorandum on the use of outer space satellites presented by the Secretary-General to the Vienna Conference, document A/CN.4/1270 notes that the extent to which the use of telecommunications satellites by the United Nations for its internal communications and for information could serve the purposes assigned to it seems now even more clearly expressed.

(Mr. Chtioui, Tunisia)

We quite agree with the Secretary-General that the use of telecommunications satellites will greatly increase the effectiveness of United Nations actions and its internal communications. We would therefore like to support the suggestion of the Secretary-General, which consists of concluding agreements under which the Organization would have free and permanent access on a free-of-cost basis to regional and world-wide systems of communications satellites by way of contributions by the owners to the international service.

This is an important point which my delegation would like to emphasize and in respect of which we would like to stress our interest and support. Before concluding, I would also like to say that my delegation will vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/L.463, presented by twenty-six delegations, which duly reflects the positive aspects of the report of the Committee.

Mr. FENCHEV (Bulgaria) (interpretation from French): The consideration of the problems of the peaceful uses of outer space represents a noble pioneering task and one which is most attractive for a two-fold reason. First of all, it is a hardly explored field full of unforeseen problems and hopes. It is true that the roads leading to outer space have been blazed for States and they offer unlimited possibilities for the dreams of mankind as a whole.

On the other hand, it is one of those problems which contains the most immense possibilities for new discoveries, and thus galvanizes the most unlimited imagination for man -- both the expert and the man in the street. None can foresee or foretell what these discoveries will spell for mankind's welfare. We all agree -- and this is an axiom that largely borne out at the Vienna Conference -- that space activities are international by their very essence, and this particularly because of the region in which they take place, namely outer space, as well as because of the need for a wide-scale exchange of information which is only possible on an international level.

There can be no doubt whatsoever that close co-operation between States in space research must produce fruitful results both now and in the future. It is for this reason that Bulgaria, despite its meagre possibilities, took an active part in the United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Exploration and

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Uses of Outer Space, and submitted eight papers prepared by Bulgarian experts and specialists. I wish to take this opportunity of expressing on behalf of my delegation our heartfelt thanks to the Austrian Government for the excellent organization of that Conference, which we feel may well turn out to be a historic milestone. It was, first of all, an initial effort to bring together, to analyse and to pass judgement on the practical results already obtained in outer space, and also to draw up a list of recommendations and decisions in order to draw conclusions from that progress and place these conclusions at the service of mankind as a whole.

The debates of the Conference, furthermore, showed the wide-scale interest displayed by all States without exception in the problems of the exploration and the peaceful uses of outer space. Thus the Conference was gradually transformed into a manifestation of the peaceful desires and hopes of all peoples. In fact, the Conference opposed the use of outer space for military purposes, and most categorically pronounced itself in favour of transforming the cosmos into a zone of peace and international co-operation. This was a good result -- there were others -- of that Conference, which is confirmed by the fact that a basic part of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is devoted specifically to future activities dealing with the wide broadcasting and dissemination of the documents and memoranda of that Conference.

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My delegation wishes to give its wholehearted support to the recommendations and other measures defined in the report of the Committee in order to ensure the widest possible publicity being given to the results obtained at the Vienna Conference. Obviously we need to ponder carefully and examine attentively all the concrete proposals along those lines before we take any final decisions upon them.

The report of the Committee is far from being a mere verbatim record or a summary of the activities carried out in the course of the recent past. It represents a programme, rather an ambitious programme, of its activities in the years to come and of the series of work which it is planning to undertake. I think it is proper here to take note of the decision of the Committee to entrust the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee with examining in detail all the aspects of the proposals of India and Sierra Leone on the creation of a small advisory group and an information and consultation centre of the United Nations to deal with the practical and technical aspects of outer space as well as the adoption of other measures that will give technical assistance to States in order to assist them in the preparation of professional cadres in the field of exploration and peaceful use of outer space. My delegation has welcomed with satisfaction those decisions of the Committee which were later embodied in the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.463, of which my delegation has become a co-sponsor.

Another positive aspect of the work of the Committee is the agreement arrived at concerning the judgement passed on the results of the work of the seventh session of the Legal Sub-Committee which, although it cannot be considered entirely unsatisfactory, has nevertheless been found wanting. May I recall that the main task of the seventh session of the Legal Sub-Committee was to have been the preparation of an international agreement on liability for damages caused by the launching of objects into outer space. However, we cannot overlook the fact that the Legal Sub-Committee has already cleared the air of the differences of view among the delegations and the differences that exist among the legal disciplines. We are now aware of the problems that have to be solved to arrive at formulations that are acceptable to all States. We are far from

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complacent regarding the results obtained by the Legal Sub-Committee; nevertheless, we must not lose sight of the fact that the question that is being considered is extremely difficult, since it flows from the complexity of the problem and the liabilities themselves, as well as from the fact that there are many different regulations in force in national legal systems that have to be taken into account. We must however pay tribute to the efforts made by the Legal Sub-Committee to bring together the different views expressed. This rapprochement of the opinions of delegations was far from being a mechanical act. On the contrary, it was a long process of assimilation and of assessment and reflection. Such a gradual ripening of the positions of the different delegations, we believe, is taking place and we dare hope that the Legal Sub-Committee will, at its next session, be in a position to overcome all those difficulties and that its work will lead to the preparation of the draft convention on liability for damages.

This is imperative since there is not much time left and the new achievements in outer space research constantly give rise to new problems linked to the peaceful uses of outer space, problems which must be subject to some legal regulations.

The delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria feels that the Legal Sub-Committee could to a reasonable extent speed up its work in order to arrive at the final goal, namely, the convention. This is not only necessary for it to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it under the terms of resolution 2345 (XXII) of the General Assembly but also to meet the requirements created by the advanced state of the problem of the conquest of outer space. New practical problems could emerge at any moment and we shall be hard put to it to solve them if we lack the necessary institutions and appropriate legal regulations.

Mr. VAKIL (Iran): At the end of the session statements should be brief. Mine will be. We are disappointed that what, from the point of view of non-space powers, is the more important of the two agreements spelling out the principles contained in the treaty on outer space has not been made ready.

There is no time nor is this the place to explore the legal subtleties involved in the differences in the Legal Sub-Committee that hamper conclusion of its assigned task. It is appropriate and necessary, however, to indicate our position on the questions of principle involved.

The object of the agreement to be reached is the protection of those likely to be the victims of injuries caused by the space activities of others. It is admitted by all that the launching authority, whether composed of one or several States and whether a State or an international organization, is liable for the injurious consequences to others of its space activities. We perceive no possible basis in principle for excluding from this liability damage attributable to the nuclear components of space objects.

It is agreed that liability for damage caused by space objects in environments other than outer space is absolute, and applies once the relation of cause and effect is established. To us it appears that the only possible implication of this must be that all the risks of outer space enterprises are to be borne by those who undertake them. Consequently, liability is not only absolute; it is unlimited. We perceive no basis in law or equity for requiring non-participants to act as co-insurers of ventures of others. If unlimited liability for damages has the effect of slowing the pace or reducing the scope of space activity, such a result appears to my delegation not inconsistent with the cardinal and accepted principle that space activity must redound to the benefit of all mankind. Unlimited liability for the injurious consequences of space ventures appears to us to be an effective way of ensuring that this principle is not overlooked.

It is agreed that speedy reparation to an injured State is the object of the agreement to be negotiated. That principle is the touchstone by which to test the differences concerning the applicable law and the modalities for applying them.

Two points are of importance here. Speedy reparation is not likely if, for lack of efficient remedies at the disposal of the victim of the damage, the day of reckoning can be put off. We, of course, share the general view that in resolving inter-State claims negotiation is the method of first resort. We cannot agree that the matter can be left at that, as it would be if persistent differences could not be resolved except through instruments of confrontation. There must be means of final settlement. In our view, that means third party settlement.

It appears fundamental to us that when injury is caused to one State by the intrusion of another, the law applicable in determining the measure of reparation due, like that attaching responsibility, cannot be any other than international law. The intrusion is a breach of international law, and it appears as well settled a doctrine as I know that the same law governs the question of reparation for the consequences. Further, it is our view that although the damage to be repaired will likely involve injury to private interests, the claim of the injured State is not to be treated as if it rested on the foundations of diplomatic protection in the traditional sense.

The injury to the State is direct and immediate; hence, questions of the nationality of the natural or juristic persons involved ought not to be allowed to be raised as between the responsible and injured States. The relevance of such questions, if any, concerns the relations of the injured State and third States. Equity and justice require that the injured nationals of third States should be compensated out of the funds received; but that is not a question for the responsible State.

In the settlement of claims, questions will inevitably arise concerning the interpretation of the agreement. It is our belief that these should be settled by reference to the International Court of Justice on the application of one of the parties. In any event, questions of interpretation will have to be resolved by the arbitral body to be called in when negotiation fails to yield agreement between the parties.

For lack of time, we reserve the statement of our views on other questions dividing the Sub-Committee for expression in that forum when work on the agreement is resumed.

There is one further point of principle which requires comment, however. The Treaty, the Agreement on return of astronauts, and the agreement on liability for damage are inter-dependent parts of a whole. Together they constitute the necessary supports for a sound and enduring structure of space co-operation, which, without any one of them, would be as unstable as a two-legged stool.

It is distressing to note that there have already been evidences of difference concerning the meaning and implications of the agreement thus far concluded. In a body which proceeds by consensus rather than vote, as the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its organs must, it would be encouraging if States showed the same eagerness to achieve results which will safeguard the interests of others as marked their efforts to obtain agreement on legal structures of particular importance to themselves.

I shall conclude with a brief comment on the Conference which took place last summer. First of all, I should like to associate my delegation with the well deserved tribute which you, Mr. Chairman, paid on behalf of this Committee to the Foreign Minister of Austria for his leadership both as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and as President of the Conference in Vienna. We also welcome his successor to the Chair of that Committee, Mr. Haymerle of Austria.

At the same time, we should like to pay a tribute to the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

Members of this Committee will doubtless have read with particular interest the thoughtful summation of the results of the Conference discussions by the Scientific Chairman of the Conference which is reproduced on pages 89 to 93 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Especially noteworthy are his suggestions concerning ways to spread the benefits of space activity more widely.



In this connexion I also note the proposal of the representative of India at the 53rd meeting of the Committee. He called for the establishment of a small advisory group and for action to be taken to arrange panel meetings, fellowships, surveys and technical assistance. This proposal is contained in a draft resolution which my delegation has the honour to co-sponsor. We believe that the idea is a good one and should be urgently pressed. It is time to consider whether a third sub-group of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be set up to concern itself with widening the scope of space co-operation and spreading the benefits of space activity. The members of such a body should be chosen for their special expertise. At the same time, if the conclusions of the Conference are to have real impact, we believe that the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat should be reorganized and strengthened. Together with other delegations, we submitted proposals on this matter in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee last year. The matter needs careful study.

The General Assembly has previously noted the importance of direct broadcasting from satellites. We look forward eagerly to the results of the examination of this possibility to be made by a working group established by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the suggestion of Sweden.

It cannot yet be said that space co-operation is widely advanced or that the less developed States of the world have yet felt the practical benefits of space ventures in large measure. In this field, as in others opened up by the dizzying scientific advances of our time, we continue to be hopeful of an abundant harvest of contributions to the improvement of life on earth. Our hopes would be strengthened if the activities of the United Nations would take the direction pointed by the recent Conference and if sound organizational efforts for that purpose were to be made with all deliberate speed.

Mr. DELEAU (France) (interpretation from French): The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which is now before this Committee, demonstrates the efforts made by the United Nations during the past year to promote and widen international co-operation with regard to the exploration and uses of outer space. At a time when an important year in outer space exploration is about to end, as well as the study of its practical uses, we should perhaps sum up the activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and establish, if possible, what should be its programme for the future.

During the October meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the French delegation had an opportunity to welcome the considerable exchange of views on the uses of space science and technology which was brought forth by the first United Nations Conference on Outer Space organized in Vienna, thanks to the hospitality of the Austrian Government.

Besides the technical memoranda that were submitted and discussed by outstanding scientists and by representatives of specialized institutions, a large number of subjects affecting the economic, social and juridical aspects of outer space were taken up for the first time in various working groups. Thus, in line with the targets set, the Conference certainly highlighted the practical advantages which developing countries can derive from space research and exploration. It also demonstrated the limitations, at the present state of development of science and technology, of some of those uses.

Nevertheless, a certain number of suggestions that had been introduced in Vienna, with a view to publicizing the results of the Conference, were recommended by the Committee. The French delegation listened with interest to the proposals of the Indian delegation, for instance, to organize meetings of experts, to furnish scholarships and so forth. However, we believe that it would be wise if such activities were to take place within the framework of already existing bodies of the United Nations, for instance the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which has had, from the beginning, functions of that nature.

France has for some time been concerned with the problems which can be raised by the peaceful uses of outer space.

In this connexion, the creation of a working group on the direct broadcasting of satellites as recommended by the Committee has met in principle with the approval of my delegation, if the work of such a group is carefully prepared in advance and if it is based on thorough technical studies, which take into account research that has already been undertaken, in particular by the International Telecommunication Union.

The Vienna Conference and all the work done to date have cast light on the interest that may be offered by the uses of satellites in the field of telecommunications. The French delegation was particularly interested by the Soviet proposal concerning the establishment of a world satellite telecommunication

organization, called "Intersputnik"; we have been participating for several years in another system whose operations have stood the test of time, a system by the name of INTELSAT.

The idea of the existence of two networks and the establishment of other systems which might be decided upon in various other parts of the world, leads us to envisage, as we have said in greater detail in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the establishment of a single space telecommunications world organization, whose role would be to harmonize the activities of the various satellites or satellite systems which each country may wish to place into orbit for its own communications or for the benefit of a group of countries interested in achieving a joint programme. General Assembly resolution 1721 D (XVI) expressed, seven years ago, the hope that satellite communications might be placed at the disposal of the nations of the world as soon as possible on a non-discriminatory basis. That is the course that we should follow if we wish to respect the principles of the 1967 Treaty on Outer Space, and also to secure order and equality of rights in space activities. That is our conviction and we are glad to note that it is also the conviction of the Swedish delegation and of a large number of other delegations.

The study of the peaceful uses of outer space and their practical application brings us, of course, to the problem of the registration of objects launched into outer space, a registration whose need becomes daily more obvious, as the number of those objects that are circling about in outer space becomes greater.

It is in answer to those concrete problems that the French delegation suggested in the Legal Sub-Committee at its June session in 1967 that this question be taken up for study. It presented at that time a draft convention on the registration of those objects as a basis for discussion. We hope that this matter will be taken up at the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee as part of its study of the peaceful uses of outer space.

That same session of the Sub-Committee will also, and above all, have to take up once again the study of the draft convention on liability for damages caused by space objects, a study which was started many years ago and which, unfortunately, has not yet been concluded. In this connexion, the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee was especially disappointing. But we hope that next

year may open up new and better opportunities. Of course, serious differences exist on five particularly important points. In the view of my delegation, those points are as follows:

- (1) The scope of the convention, which, as far as France is concerned, should apply to nuclear damage and other damage;
- (2) The nature of the liability, which should be viewed as unlimited;
- (3) The determination of the law to be applied, which, in our opinion, should be that of the place where the damage was caused, that is to say, the law that is closest to the victim;
- (4) The case of international organizations, whose existence and activities should be taken into account; and finally
- (5) The problem of the settlement of differences, which, for us, should involve compulsory arbitration procedure.

You will note that the positions taken by the French delegation on these various points all have a common concern, namely, to safeguard the interests of the victim. We think that at its next session, the Sub-Committee should give priority to the solution of those questions which, to a large extent, condition an agreement on the whole of the draft convention.

Those are the main comments which my delegation wished to make at this stage. They also explain why we are co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.463, which is before the Committee.

Indeed, we find, in particular, in that text, among a number of other features:

An evaluation of the results of the Vienna Conference and an indication of concern that its conclusions should be put to the best possible use;

Precise terms of reference for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the urgent completion of its work on liability and for continuation of its studies on a definition of, and on the peaceful uses of outer space;

A reaffirmation, on the initiative of the Swedish delegation, of the principles that should inspire all initiatives for the creation of telecommunication satellite networks, whereby all nations should be assured of the means of using them on a non-discriminatory basis;

The creation of a new working group on satellites for direct broadcasting;

A request for the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to examine the specific problems that are posed or that may be posed by the use of outer space in the various domains falling within their competence, to enable the Committee to study them.

These activities, in conjunction with those already undertaken under the enlightened leadership of Mr. Waldheim and Mr. Haymerle, should enable the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to carry through its task at the pace required by the speeding-up of space tests as exemplified, notably, by the missions recently assigned to the Zond and Apollo space vehicles, the success of which we are happy to applaud and for which we express our sincere wishes for future success.

Mr. DIACONESCU (Romania) (interpretation from French): The exploration and peaceful uses of outer space in the interest of man's progress have come increasingly to the fore as one of the major subjects of concern on both the national level and the level of international co-operation. The scope of the problems requiring solution from the scientific, technical and economic points of view is so great that the conquest of space may go forward, and the solidarity that exists among nations in favour of keeping outer space outside the realm of military competition,

(Mr. Diaconescu, Romania)

as well as the increasing interest shown by all countries in the application of space techniques to the service of all mankind, have brought about a quite rapid development of international co-operation in this field. This exerts a positive influence on the intensification of international collaboration in other areas of man's activity and contributes to the achievement of better understanding and mutual respect among nations.

Since the last session of the General Assembly, new and remarkable achievements have been registered in the exploration and peaceful utilization of outer space. Vehicles and astronauts have been launched deeper and deeper into space in the great enterprise of preparing the way for the first journey of man to the moon.

An increase of interest in space activities and a better understanding of the many advantages that the utilization of outer space can offer mankind have arisen, at various levels, in an ever-growing number of States.

In my country, Romania, this heightened interest in outer-space research was reflected in, among other things, the creation in 1967 of the Romanian Commission for Space Activities. That Commission, which is part of the National Council for Scientific Research, is the body responsible for carrying out the space programme of my country.

From the point of view of international co-operation in the field of outer space, the most remarkable event of the past year was, obviously, the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Conference, in our opinion, provided an excellent opportunity for a fruitful exchange of views on the various aspects of space science and technology, leading toward conclusions useful in applying the results of space research to the needs of economic and social development. The extremely illuminating debate that took place in Vienna during that Conference strengthened our conviction that the exploration and utilization of outer space could immediately produce concrete advantages for all countries, regardless of their degree of economic and scientific development. It may still be too early to assess the complete value of the conclusions that may be drawn from the intensive scientific confrontation that took place during the course of the two weeks spent in the

(Mr. Diaconescu, Romania)

Austrian capital, among the most eminent experts in the field representing seventy-eight countries from all over the world, as well as a number of international organizations dealing with space questions. We are happy to note that the proposals and suggestions formulated in the course of the Vienna Conference, after careful study by Governments, will be included in the programme of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for 1969.

The draft resolution submitted this morning by the representative of Austria on behalf of twenty-six co-sponsors, among whom we are happy to include ourselves, in fact stresses the intention of this Committee to study all proposals emanating from the Vienna Conference.

It is to be presumed that the proposals set forth in the course of the last session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space by the delegations of India, Sweden and Sierra Leone -- proposals, incidentally, that have been included in the Committee's programme of work for the next year -- constitute but the first concrete conclusions that have thus far resulted from the Vienna Conference.

Since I have made reference to the Vienna Conference, I should like once more to express the sincere appreciation of the Romanian delegation to the Austrian Government, which, thanks to its particular concern and hospitality, made a most substantial contribution to the success of the Conference.

The draft resolution submitted to this Committee lays down a broad framework in which the activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space can be conducted in the course of the next year. Aside from the analysis of the results of the Vienna Conference, other questions are also awaiting careful study by the Committee. In this connexion, I should like to emphasize the importance my delegation attaches to the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to consider, at its next session, the suggestions and views voiced in the General Assembly and in the Committee regarding education and training in the field of the exploration and utilization of outer space.

(Mr. Diaconescu, Romania)

We also take note with gratification paragraph 4 of part B of the draft resolution suggesting that satellite broadcasting communications should be organized on a world-wide basis and in a non-discriminatory fashion.

Legally speaking, my delegation hopes that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will very soon be successful in overcoming the differences that are the result of different views expressed in the course of the preparation of a draft agreement concerning liability for damages caused by the launching of objects into outer space and that the Committee will be in a position at the next session of the General Assembly to submit the draft agreement to it.

Romania will also give all careful attention to questions of the definition of outer space and its use. As I said a few moments ago, it is obvious that in 1969, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will have important and comprehensive work to do, and we trust that the draft resolution submitted to the Committee, which defines the new terms of reference of the Committee, will be adopted unanimously.

Mr. GREKOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): In recent years the question of international co-operation on the peaceful uses of outer space has become one of the most important items on our agenda. The importance of this matter has increased further since the signing, by most countries of the world, of the agreement on principles to guide States in the peaceful uses of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies.

The Byelorussian delegation considers that in the matter of the use of outer space, as in no other, it is necessary to have extensive co-operation based on equal rights, which would strengthen peace and give the possibility to all countries to use the results of this work. An important step towards the further development of international co-operation was taken at the United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The delegation of Byelorussia, which participated actively in the discussions and group meetings on matters of space communications and on other subjects of a similar nature, takes a favourable view of the result of the work of the Conference.

This conference showed that it is possible to make practical use of the results of outer space exploration and space technology in the interests of economic and social progress of peoples. The Byelorussian delegation would take

(Mr. Grekov, Byelorussian SSR)

this opportunity to express its appreciation to the Government of Austria for the good organization of the Conference in Vienna, and in general, the way in which it was conducted.

We are all witnessing the vast successes achieved in the exploration of space, the start of which was given by the Soviet Union which launched its first Sputnik in 1957. Since then, during the past eleven years, the Soviet Union has been paving the way into space for the whole of mankind. Quite recently, in September of this year the whole world was struck by a further achievement of Soviet scientific technology. For the first time in the history of mankind an automatic station, Zond 5, flew round the moon and returned to earth. The historical flight of Zond 5 and then of Zond 6 opens up a new stage in the peaceful uses of space.

In October 1968 another important step was taken. Cosmonaut Beregovoy of the Soviet Union successfully carried out his assignment, namely, to pilot and bring together space crafts in the immediate vicinity of the earth. This has been the result of the heroic labours of all peoples of the Soviet Union.

As I have already pointed out, great successes have been achieved already, but what has been done by the Soviet Union and by the United States and other countries in exploring outer space is not the limit. Ahead there will be further flights, further discoveries, further achievements. Already, space is being put to use by mankind. Artificial satellites have opened up new prospects for the development of communications, for weather forecasts, improved navigation etc. The utilization of sputniks for radio broadcasting and televising has become a daily matter. Satellites communicate the approach of hurricanes, of frost, of rain, and of drought. The timely anticipation of such phenomena is of vast importance in many areas of life.

Many countries are interested in the exploration of space, and whatever their size, large or small, they can make their contribution to this difficult and important business. And now on the eve of the anniversary of our independence we would like to describe briefly the work that is being done in this field in Byelorussia and which was made possible as a result of the considerable successes in the development of our economy by science, our education and our culture, during the years of Soviet rule in Byelorussia.

(Mr. Grekov, Byelorussian SSR)

Where before the revolution eighty-two per cent were illiterate, now more than 450,000 experts have had secondary and higher education. In the various educational establishments of the Republic in 1967 and 1968 there were more than 260,000 students. A large team of Byelorussian scientists numbering more than 300 doctors of science and several thousand candidates of science are successfully solving problems in the field of biology, medicine, power, machine building, chemistry, metallurgy, etc.

Many studies of the Byelorussian scientists in the field of physics, mathematics, biology, chemistry, optics, etc have received world-wide recognition. These studies are being carried out by the various institutes of the Academy of Science of Byelorussia, by the Byelorussian State University that has been named after Lenin, by the Ministry of Communications and by a number of other organizations and agencies.

Work is being carried out on the study of near space within the programme of the world geographic year. Further developments are expected in the exploration of near space as regards ionospheric observations. In connexion with the development of space studies and space technology, Byelorussia attaches great importance to solving the problems connected with the analytical experimental studies of the transfer of energy and mass in a vacuum.

International recognition has been given to research on the exchange of mass in a vacuum. In Byelorussia we have mutual exchanges of the results of this work with a number of scientific institutions in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, etc.

In conclusion, the Byelorussian delegation would like to stress that further successes in exploring space will be made possible if peace prevails on earth, and that is why the struggle for peace and the ending of the armaments race and for the liquidation of international tension are of primary importance.

(Mr. Grekov, Byelorussian SSR)

It is only in conditions of peace that the peoples of our planet will be able successfully to solve the problems that exist both on earth and in space. We hope that the Committee will complete the study of the draft convention on liability and will submit it to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly. As regards the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.463, which approves of the conclusions of the report of the Committee, my delegation will vote in favour of it.

Mr. BADAWI (United Arab Republic): It gives my delegation great pleasure to extend our sincere congratulations to both the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on their outstanding feats and achievements in the exploration of outer space. Only a few years ago a trip to the moon or to one of the other planets in the universe was considered a figment of the imagination and only indulged in by the fans of science fiction. Today, in considering the spectacular experiments which are being conducted successfully by these two countries in outer space, we realize that such trips are not only within the realm of reality but also open up for us new vistas which were hitherto totally unknown to us. We do sincerely hope that mankind as a whole will be able to derive the expected benefits from the various space achievements. The motive behind the convocation of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was actually to underline and emphasize the practical benefits which the non-space Powers, and particularly the developing countries, could practically exploit and usefully utilize.

We are happy to note that the Conference has met our expectations. The main objective of the Conference was rightly stated by the Foreign Minister of Austria to be the opening up of:

"... a fruitful dialogue between the space Powers and the non-space Powers in order to explore all possibilities of bringing the practical benefits of space exploration and space technology to all nations, and in particular to the developing countries."

In fact, the idea of a Conference was envisaged mainly to assist the developing countries and to give a thrust to their quest for the grasp of the modern technology

(Mr. Badawi, United Arab Republic)

of outer space activities and its application. The Conference, to our satisfaction, has been a success in achieving its purpose of examining the practical benefits of space exploration.

We are all indebted to the Government and people of Austria for their most gracious and generous hospitality and I would request the representative of Austria to kindly convey our gratitude and thanks to his Government and people. We would like also to pay a sincere tribute to the eminent Indian scientist Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, who, as Vice-President and Scientific Chairman of the Conference, greatly contributed to its success.

During the deliberations of the Conference, several important and constructive ideas were raised, discussed and received widespread support. It is up to us now to make recommendations to transform the ideas from theory into practice and to formulate them in a concrete form so that the Assembly can pronounce itself on them and also give them the necessary impetus. In this connexion, I would like to emphasize the importance of following up the work of the Conference. The Secretary-General has rightly pointed out in his note on the work of the Conference that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should consider the ideas put forward at the Conference and make concrete recommendations. He further stated that:

"These recommendations must ensure that the resources and capacity of the United Nations will be utilized most effectively in this most important effort to realize, as soon as possible, practical benefits for all people from the exploration of outer space."

The non-space Powers, and in particular the developing countries, have a great deal to gain from the practical applications of outer space research. It is therefore natural that the developing countries, including my own, would attach considerable importance to the establishment of a United Nations programme for training and education in the field of outer space activities where only the privileged few are considered developed.

For the last few years the United Arab Republic delegation has had the opportunity to make proposals to this effect. During the debate in the First Committee at the twenty-second session my delegation requested that the space

(Mr. Badawi, United Arab Republic)

Powers and those who conduct advanced research in outer space should be requested to allocate several fellowships each year at their national research institutions at the behest of the United Nations. The United Nations role would be that of a clearing house for the application and for the selection of the best qualified, giving due regard to the needs of the developing countries. We also stated that we are inclined to believe that the United Nations could also make maximum use of the rocket launching stations under its sponsorship. Training courses should be created at these stations to meet the needs of the developing countries; financial assistance could also be extended to their specialists to enable them to participate in these courses.

Having closely followed the economic aspects of United Nations work, I am fully aware of the functioning of the technical assistance system. It has several aspects but I shall only single out two of them. First, the question has been raised whether we think that multilateral arrangements are compatible or competing with bilateral programmes. Experience under the United Nations system has shown that co-operative efforts when properly applied under bilateral and multilateral arrangements can work together in harmony. Under the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, thousands of fellowships and scholarships have been provided in the economic, social, cultural, technical and educational fields. The role of the United Nations has been to facilitate the provision of such technical assistance, but not to duplicate or compete with fellowships being provided through bilateral arrangements. In fact, the role of the United Nations in the Technical Assistance Programme has been praised all over the world, and has worked smoothly to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Secondly, it should be underlined that the United Nations only provides fellowships within the framework of the programme of training which is followed by the trainees in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the host State and the United Nations. It is entirely left to the discretion of the host State to provide a course of study relevant to outer space research and in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

(Mr. Badawi, United Arab Republic)

We are, of course, aware that the training of scientists and other specialists in the field of research cannot be conceived outside the institutions and agencies actively participating in space investigation. Thus, we must rely on the help and co-operation of the countries leading in this field. As you know, there are various national programmes for space education and training which are being conducted on a bilateral basis. We have always felt that co-operative efforts for space education and training could best be realized through the pursuit of both bilateral and multilateral arrangements.

(Mr. Badawi, United Arab Republic)

In resolution 2260 (XXII) the General Assembly responded favourably to the proposals we made and in its conclusions it requested the Committee:

"... to start at its next session the serious consideration of the suggestions and views regarding education and training in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space expressed in the General Assembly and in the Committee".

Yet it seems that this recommendation, which has been embodied in earlier General Assembly resolutions, has not been given due consideration by the Committee. We would like to express our hope that the Committee, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, will always be in a position to heed and discharge effectively the requests addressed to it. The United Arab Republic delegation would like to propose that the implementation of paragraph 6 B concerning training and education should be referred to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in order to prepare a programme based on the suggestions and use made during the deliberations of the Assembly in the past years. However, should the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee find itself not in a position to do that during the next session, the matter could perhaps be more effectively tackled by a separate working group. Such a procedure has been adopted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for navigation, for satellites and for space communications.

The Conference on outer space was undoubtedly a landmark which commemorated the end of the first decade of man's penetration into outer space. We are now at the beginning of the second decade and probably will find ourselves at the threshold of more outstanding and spectacular achievements. The Conference discussed various aspects of the outer space activities of the future. It is essential now to concretize the ideas expressed in the Conference. At this stage the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space might consider conducting studies with a view to anticipating the required organizational arrangements for the future. It might be recalled that at the fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, Austria, Iran and the United Arab Republic made some proposals on the desirability of strengthening the Outer Space Affairs Division. The Sub-Committee took note of these proposals but took no action thereon. It should be recalled also in this connexion that the Conference of non-aligned nations which met in 1961 at Belgrade expressed the hope that the international community will, through collective action,



(Mr. Badawi, United Arab Republic)

establish an international agency with a view to promoting and co-ordinating human actions in the field of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. We are not proposing, at this stage, an agency; however we must give ample attention to the future needs of the international community. The least that could be done now is to consider all the proposals which have been put before the Committee and act positively on them.

The United Arab Republic delegation would like to propose that an item be added to the agenda of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space entitled: "Consideration of organizational arrangements required for the future". We hope that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will be able to give ample and serious consideration to this matter and that it will request both its Sub-Committees to undertake the necessary relevant studies with regard to this question.

We welcome the most timely decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to establish a working group on direct broadcast satellites to study the technical feasibility of communication by direct broadcast from satellites and the current and other foreseeable developments in this field as well as their economic, social, cultural and legal impact. In this regard, I might recall that my delegation took the initiative in the Legal Sub-Committee in 1966 to point out the potential implications in this area, and we therefore wholeheartedly support the present initiative taken by the delegations of Sweden and Canada in promoting the establishment of this working group. We look forward to co-operating in its work and making whatever contribution we could make in this area.

My delegation is very pleased to note that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has recommended the continued sponsorship of the Thumba Equatorial Sounding Rocket Range in India. At the dedication ceremonies of this range earlier this year the Secretary-General pointed out in his message the importance of such ranges, particularly as centres for education and training in the field of outer space. We believe that such ranges could make an outstanding contribution in this area, and it is up to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to strengthen such facilities by establishing programmes of education and training for scientists and engineers particularly from the developing countries. We are equally pleased, therefore, to note that the

(Mr. Badawi, United Arab Republic)

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has recommended that a team of scientists be sent to the Mar Chiquita sounding rocket range in Argentina to advise the Committee of its eligibility for United Nations sponsorship. My delegation will be happy to co-operate in the work of this team.

I now turn to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee. In 1966 we welcomed the adoption of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, which for the first time introduced legal norms to regulate State activities in outer space. Last year, near the end of the General Assembly session, we were asked, in a rather hasty manner, to approve an Agreement on assistance and return of astronauts and space vehicles. We were happy to approve that Agreement. However, we pointed out in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in the General Assembly that it is essential that the agreement on liability for damages caused by the launching of objects into outer space be finalized and adopted.

We understand the difficulties involved. However, we need not stress the various important humanitarian aspects involved in the agreement on liability. Both space and non-space Powers would benefit from adopting this agreement. This might give added impetus which hopefully might help in accomplishing its early formulation.

It gives my delegation great pleasure to acknowledge the immense contribution made by His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Austria, Mr. Kurt Waldheim in his tireless efforts, his wise leadership and his dedication to the purposes and principles of the Charter which guided the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for several years. We wish him every success in his new high office. We would also like to extend our best wishes to his successor, Ambassador Haymerle, and we are confident that he will likewise give the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space the needed leadership and guidance.

Mr. WILLIAMS (Sierra Leone): The Sierra Leone delegation welcomes the report of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space contained in document A/7235. It marks another step in the work of that Committee. The ideas set out in the report open up a new and greater vista for co-operation and for progress in this exciting new field.

(Mr. Williams, Sierra Leone)

There have been great achievements in the exploration of outer space during 1968. We need only mention the circumnavigation of the moon by the Soviet spacecrafts Zond 5 and Zond 6, and the three-man space flight of Apollo 7. We look forward to the launching of Apollo 8 scheduled for this weekend and wish the three space men and all others concerned every success. These spectacular advances each year whet the appetite of man for even greater exploration and learning. Such learning is beginning to take the form of their potential uses on earth.

The Vienna Conference on outer space was one such forum for publicizing the practical benefits to be derived from space research and exploration. Here I would like to express my delegation's great appreciation to the Government of Austria for the invitation, and in particular to the Chairman of the Conference, the Foreign Minister Mr. Waldheim, and Dr. Sarabhai for their leadership at that Conference. In that Conference there were very useful exchanges of ideas. Great emphasis was laid on the benefits that developing countries can have from all these activities. Many papers were presented, and no doubt Governments will study them to see what can be done.

One proposal was made by India and it deserves great study. A proposal made by Sierra Leone is for the use of expert services through a United Nations centre of information and consultation in the field of practical applications of space technology. We will make detailed recommendations in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its next session. For now, permit me to share briefly with the distinguished delegates some of the reasons for such a proposal.

Developing countries would wish to participate in this new venture into outer space. However the factors of economic necessity and priorities demand that their resources be put to the basic needs of bread and butter. If the developing countries do not now begin to avail themselves of the benefits of modern science and technology then their economic condition in the year 2000 will be even worse than the present disparity that now exists between the rich and the poor, the developed and the developing.

(Mr. Williams, Sierra Leone)

since there is this desire among the developing countries to develop and participate in the benefits to be derived from space research and exploration, it was felt that a method ought to be devised for the most efficient use of the resources and manpower of those countries. Their limited resources and scarce manpower demand this. Developing countries, to be able to utilize the knowledge, would have to be aware of the knowledge available and how to use it. Their scarce resources make our suggestion for the setting up of this kind of centre for information and consultation a valid one. Indeed all countries, and not just the developing ones, can use such a service and benefit from the information which the two space Powers, other States and other organizations are supplying but which most cannot use for lack of manpower, technique and resources.

In short such a proposed centre could do several things. For instance, it can put in digestible form the knowledge of what is being done in the area of space activity relating to the benefits to be derived. It can help countries to recognize the significance of specific activities and results which are applicable to the economic development or the social and educational progress of those countries. It can also help countries to evaluate their capability to use this knowledge and adapt it to their special needs. It can further provide expert advice on the practical application of such knowledge for the increased benefit of those countries. These are some of the reasons for making the proposal and we believe it would contribute greatly to the better utilization of the knowledge which space Powers have promised to share.

Let me now turn my attention for a moment to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee. Earlier this year, the Agreement on the rescue of astronauts and the return of objects launched into outer space was opened for signature. Some seventy countries have signed the Agreement and a number of countries including the two major space Powers have ratified it. This co-operation augurs well for future work. However, the progress on the complementary agreement, that is the convention on liability for damage arising from space objects, is painfully slow. We had hoped for a draft this year. My delegation would like to stress the urgency of the matter, for while the Agreement already in force serves the interests of the two space Powers, the latter convention will cover all States.

(Mr. Williams, Sierra Leone)

For small and developing countries such as Sierra Leone as well as for large and highly industrialized countries, communications satellites have a great potential. We welcome the initiative of the representative of Sweden on this matter in setting up a working group to study aspects of the use of such systems. As a natural consequence of what I have said so far, we co-sponsor draft resolution A/C.1/L.463.

Finally, man has accepted the challenge of space and we are on the very verge of sending for the first time men to circumnavigate the moon. Let it not be said that when man turns to the solution of problems on his own earth, his prowess in space disappears.

Miss ERCOKS (Liberia): At this late hour, I shall be very brief. The delegation of Liberia joins in welcoming the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. From annex I of that report, it takes note that in the judgement of its President, the Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space fulfilled its mandate, that is to say, (a) the examination of the practical benefits to be derived from space research and exploration and the extent to which non-space Powers, especially developing countries, may enjoy them and (b) the examination of the opportunities available to non-space Powers for international co-operation in space activities and of the role the United Nations will play.

My delegation further welcomes the promising possibilities mentioned in the field of communications as regards new concepts and solutions to intercontinental communications traffic through the use of communications satellites as well as the indication that in the particular situation of many developing countries the use of communications satellites could facilitate the establishment of modern communications systems, and thus make an important contribution towards rapid progress in the educational, economic and social development of such countries. We note the equally promising prospects in the field of weather observations and forecasting through the use of meteorological satellites, and in the field of navigation, international sea and air traffic through the use of navigational satellites.

(Miss Brooks, Liberia)

My delegation recognizes the efforts of the Legal Sub-Committee to elaborate an international agreement on liability for damages caused by the launching of objects into outer space as well as the work done by that Sub-Committee in connexion with the definition of outer space and the utilization of outer space and celestial bodies. However, because there is rapid progress in the exploration of outer space, it is the hope of my delegation that the Legal Sub-Committee will soon be in a position to present a draft agreement as regards liability for damages caused by the launching of objects into outer space, perhaps by the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

The delegation of Liberia is pleased that the agreement on the rescue and return of astronauts and the return of objects launched into outer space has come into effect.

If I may refer to the outer space treaty itself, my delegation regards it as a significant step forward towards achieving disarmament control, for we believe strongly that military rivalry on earth which has led to failure of an agreement regarding disarmament is too dangerous to project into outer space. We believe, further, that all activities in outer space should be subject to the rule of international law and that there must necessarily be equal opportunity for peaceful, significant initiatives.

My delegation is pleased to note the progress being made at the Thumba launching station in India.

I must refer now to the note of the Secretary-General which mentions the fact that discussions in the Conference indicated for the practical application of space research <sup>and</sup> could assist materially in alleviating some of the economic and social problems created by the explosive growth of population, the serious shortage of food and the spread of diseases which are problems of great concern to the vast majority of mankind. We must admit that we also share the concern of the Secretary-General that because of the lack of knowledge in space technology of the developing countries, the space age is increasing the gap between the developed and the developing areas of the world at an alarming rate. This is indeed a serious problem.

(Miss Brooks, Liberia)

We are thankful that the United Nations agencies stand ready to play their part in harnessing the practical benefits that can accrue to man from the vast practical and technical advances made through space exploration.

My delegation wishes to extend congratulations to the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for their achievements made in space exploration since the twenty-second session of the General Assembly.

Finally, it is the hope of my delegation that, through the United Nations, the developing countries will be ensured their fair share of the benefits to be derived from the exploration of outer space, and that all mankind will be saved, in the venture of space exploration, from the danger which now looms over it due to the creation and stockpiling of such deadly arms as nuclear weapons.

Mr. PIRADOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The delegation of the Soviet Union would like to take advantage of the opportunity that has been given us in order to express its gratitude to those representatives who congratulated the Soviet Union on the occasion of the efforts which it has been making in exploring outer space and promoting international co-operation in this field.

The Soviet delegation, together with a number of other delegations of States Members of the United Nations, is, as representatives are aware, one of the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.463. We consider that this draft resolution accurately sums up the activities of the United Nations during the past year with regard to the promotion of and international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. It gives a balanced view of the Vienna Conference, which was used positively by all the speakers who have preceded me, and notes the very ample tasks which must be fulfilled during the coming year.

For its part, the Soviet Union, as before, will contribute every effort to resolve these tasks, including that of urgently completing a convention on liability for damages.

(Mr. Piradov, USSR)

The draft resolution stresses an important principle which was embodied in part D of resolution 1721 (XVI) of the General Assembly, to the effect that satellite communications must be made available to all countries of the world on a global basis without discrimination. We welcome this principle and its reassertion because it is from that principle that the Soviet Union sets out in the concrete field of space activities and in its negotiations with other States in space communications.

At yesterday's meeting the representative of Belgium dealt with the need to retain in its natural condition the environment of Venus, Mars and other planets, referring in this connexion to article IX of the Agreement of Principles which guide the activities of States in the exploration and uses of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies. I would assure the representative of Belgium that the problem which he has raised is one of constant concern to the Soviet scientists, and the Soviet Union was one of the countries which insisted on the inclusion in the Agreement of article IX, the provisions of which the Soviet Union has respected consistently and by which it is guided in its space activities.

I would also recall that in the official communication on the landing of Venus 4, which was given wide publicity in the Press, it was pointed out that this device was subject to the most careful sterilization.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Belgium in exercise of his right of reply.

Mr. DENORME (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I merely wish to thank the representative of the Soviet Union most sincerely for the attention which he was kind enough to give to the statement made in this Committee by the Belgian delegation, and also to thank him for the additional information that he gave regarding the questions which the representative of Belgium asked him yesterday.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes before the voting begins. The first of these is the representative of Uganda.

Mr. BIGOMBE (Uganda): My delegation would like to reserve its position on paragraph 3 of the operative part of draft resolution A/C.1/L.463, which urges those countries which have not yet become parties to the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, to give early consideration to the Agreement. My delegation will not be in a position to advise the Uganda Government to do so until the draft convention on liability for damage arising from the activities of outer space vehicles has been concluded to the satisfaction of my delegation. You will recall that Uganda is already a party to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. Should the need arise for Uganda to rescue astronauts, my Government will no doubt co-operate as usual, but we have no intention of assuming obligations while no remedies are as yet provided.

My delegation also notes the preambular paragraph that reaffirms the belief that it is in the interest of all countries, and of the developing countries in particular, that knowledge and understanding of the achievements of space science and technology should be widely disseminated and that international co-operation in this field should be promoted. We very sincerely hope this is not included as "opium of the poor".

Egotism is the norm of human behaviour and, while my delegation will support this draft resolution, my delegation equally hopes that international co-operation and peaceful competition in this field will not overshadow the need to help the needy.

Mr. YANGO (Philippines): My delegation would wish briefly to explain its vote on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.463. The Philippines was one of the seventy-eight countries that participated in the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. After our participation, my delegation thought that the Conference had achieved its main purpose of examining the practical benefits derived from space technology and the opportunities available to non-space Powers for international co-operation in space activities, with special relevance to the needs of developing countries.

Our delegation to the Conference was composed mainly of government officials. Because of the Conference, our eyes were opened to the need for participating through international co-operation, either bilateral or multilateral, in order for us to see the practical benefits arising from space technology. But, like many other countries, we have to begin with the training and the education of personnel for a space programme. It is therefore imperative for us that the results of the Conference are followed up and implemented. By this we refer specifically and particularly to the portion of draft resolution A/C.1/L.463 concerning the proposals made by India that a small advisory group be constituted and that action be taken to arrange annual meetings, fellowships, surveys and technical assistance. During the Conference, the Philippines was among the very first countries that strongly endorsed that proposal.

We also refer, in this connexion, to the proposal of Sierra Leone for the use of expert services through a United Nations centre for information and consultation in the field of practical applications of space technology.

Those two proposals have been previously referred to by a number of delegations.

Furthermore, we are pleased to note that in the draft resolution before us there is a specific mention of the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to take up at its next session serious consideration of suggestions and views regarding education and training in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.

If only for those considerations, my delegation cannot fail to support that draft resolution. But more than that, we should like to take the opportunity, through the draft resolution and with this brief intervention, to express our appreciation to the Government of Austria for its interest and initiative in serving as host to the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. With the Conference, a very fruitful beginning has been made towards international co-operation in assuring practical benefits from outer space exploration and technology for the benefit of all countries. The momentum thus gained should be maintained and followed through.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee is now in a position to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/L.463. However, I should first like to draw the attention of members to document A/C.1/L.464, which reports on the administrative and financial implications connected with the draft resolution. I call on the Committee's Secretary to add some further information to that document.

Mr. VELLODI (Secretary of the Committee): As the Chairman has just indicated, the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/L.463 have been submitted to the Committee in document A/C.1/L.464. There is one point that I feel I should mention at this stage.

On page 3 of document A/C.1/L.464 there is reference to the working group on communication by direct broadcast from satellites, and the amount of \$19,000 is indicated. The Committee will recall that during this morning's meeting the suggestion was made that there should be two sessions of the working group during 1969. The financial implications contained in document A/C.1/L.464 were based on one session only. Therefore, since there are to be two sessions of the working group during 1969, I have been asked to inform the Committee that there will be an extra expenditure of \$1,900 in this connexion.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee is now in a position to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/L.463. I have heard no dissenting voice on the substance of that draft resolution; in addition, many members of the Committee have expressed the wish that the draft resolution should be adopted unanimously. Therefore, if no delegation requests that the draft resolution should be put to the vote, I would consider it to be adopted unanimously by the Committee.

As there is no request for a vote, I take it that the draft resolution is unanimously adopted by the Committee.

It was so decided.

Mr. THACHER (United States of America): I was not quite clear as to the additional expense for an extra session, and I was wondering if it would be possible for the members of the Fifth Committee and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to be advised, when they consider the financial implications, of the difference in costs for meetings held at United Nations Headquarters as against meetings held at the Geneva Office of the United Nations.

The CHAIRMAN: I can assure the representative of the United States that the Secretariat will take note of his request, which will be conveyed to the competent bodies.

I note that there are no delegations that wish to speak in explanation of their vote.

AGENDA ITEM 26

EXAMINATION OF THE QUESTION OF THE RESERVATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES OF THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR, AND THE SUBSOIL THEREOF, UNDERLYING THE HIGH SEAS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF PRESENT NATIONAL JURISDICTION, AND THE USE OF THEIR RESOURCES IN THE INTERESTS OF MANKIND: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PEACEFUL USES OF THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to remind members that tomorrow we shall take up the last item of our agenda, which relates to the sea-bed and the ocean floor. With respect to the draft resolutions in connexion with that item, I would inform members that the final text of draft resolution A/C.1/L.425 will be circulated early. We have not been able to have texts ready in all working languages. I understand that the English text is available. In order to give those delegations whose working language is not English information with respect to the changes introduced in the draft, which will be finally circulated as document A/C.1.L.425/Rev.2, I shall call on the representative of Belgium to give that information.

Mr. DEKORRE (Belgium) (interpretation from French): It is not at all easy to arrive at an acceptable revision of a draft resolution which, as is the case with document A/C.1/L.425/Rev.1, is co-sponsored by sixty-seven Member States. This explains why the co-sponsors were unable to submit sooner a second revision of the draft resolution.

This revision, the text of which has not as yet been distributed to the members of this Committee, is the result of long and patient negotiations. Its object is, first, to take into account the general agreement which, thanks to your efforts, Mr. Chairman, it was possible to reach with regard to the number of the members on the Committee. The first paragraph of revision 2 of draft resolution A/C.1/L.425 reads as follows:

"Establishes a Committee on the peaceful uses of the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, composed of forty-two States;"

But the basic aim of the revision is to take into account the objections that gave rise to the submission of an amendment by the delegation of the Soviet Union, appearing in document A/C.1/L.442.

The revised version of the draft does not change the terms of reference of the Committee but allocates its functions in a somewhat different fashion.

The new paragraph 4 takes up the formal aspects of the terms of reference as they appear in sub-paragraphs (f) and (g) of paragraph 2 and in paragraph 3 of the previous text. In other words, while infringement of the fields of competence of the specialized agencies and other organs dealing with the various aspects of the problem that the Committee will be dealing with is avoided, the Committee is called upon to make recommendations on the different questions falling within its purview and, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to report to the regular session of the General Assembly.

The new paragraph 2 sets out the powers of the Committee that are substantive in nature and that appeared in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (d) and (e) of paragraph 2 in the previous version.

(Mr. Denormé, Belgium)

What is involved here, essentially, are studies concerning the legal régime, exploitation of resources, exploration and research, prevention of marine pollution and contamination -- all matters which have one feature in common, namely, that they deal with the same region, that is to say, the sea-bed and the ocean floor, together with their subsoil, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

The new paragraph 3 which replaces the previous paragraph 2 (c), defines the role of the Committee with relation to the principle of reservation for exclusively peaceful purposes. If it was deemed appropriate to assign a separate paragraph to this aspect of the terms of reference, it was in order to avoid the possibility that the area to which the principle is being applied might be implicitly considered as being identical with the fields covered in each of the sub-paragraphs of paragraph 2.

To be sure, no study could be undertaken by the Committee unless it came within the framework of its competence as defined by the title of the subject. Should the Committee study the principle of reservation for exclusively peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor outside that context, it would be going beyond the terms of reference assigned to it. However, this context does not imply that we can prejudge the limits that may be agreed upon in defining the region that shall be reserved for exclusively peaceful purposes; and it is for this reason that the context imposed by the title is to be understood without prejudice to the positions of the States Members of this Assembly regarding the limits beyond which the principle of reservation for exclusively peaceful purposes is to apply.

It is in the light of this interpretation that the new paragraph 3 must be understood, and it reads as follows:

"Also calls upon the Committee to study further the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor within the context of the title of the item but without prejudice to the limits which may be agreed upon in this respect, taking into account the studies and international negotiations being undertaken in the field of disarmament;"

The CHAIRMAN: In this connexion, I should like to inform the Committee, before we adjourn, that the United Republic of Tanzania has joined as a co-sponsor of the amendments submitted by Trinidad and Tobago, contained in document A/C.1/L.465.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.