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Chairman: Mr. Agha SHAH (Pakistan).

AGENDA ITEM 103

The strengthening of international security (continued)*

1. Mr. JAKOBSEN (Finland): After an extensive debate on the question of the strengthening of international security, the Committee decided on the proposal of the Chairman to adjourn further consideration of this question in order to allow time for study and consultation. As we now revert to this item, it is appropriate to recall the general debate that took place in this Committee some weeks ago and to try to draw conclusions based on the views expressed during that debate and in the light of consultations which have taken place since then.

2. The fact that the great majority of delegations participated in the debate is revealing in itself and demonstrates that this item has provided a welcome opportunity for an exchange of views on questions of fundamental importance to the United Nations as a whole and to each of its Members. It has focused our attention on the primary purpose of the Organization, which is the maintenance of international peace and security; it has demonstrated the vital interest of Member States in the strengthening of the collective security system provided for by the Charter of the United Nations; and it has underlined the general awareness of the need to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations as an instrument for peace.

3. When we are dealing with questions that affect the very essence of the task of the United Nations, it is self-evident that any conclusions or recommendations we may adopt should reflect a broad consensus of views and should be based on the joint interests of the international community as a whole. Peace and security would run counter to the very spirit of such efforts.

4. In these circumstances, it is natural that many Governments have felt that in the comparatively short time available at the present session of the General Assembly, it would not be possible for them to define their views on the general principles on which international security must rest. Accordingly, a great number of delegations have expressed the opinion that appropriate recommendations of this nature could best be formulated on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of our Organization, when Member States will be called upon to reevaluate themselves to the purposes and principles of the Charter. With this in view, the thorough and constructive debate that we have had on this item will have served as a most valuable preparation, and it would seem logical that this preparatory work should continue.

5. In our view, Governments will wish to study and consider further the proposals and statements made in the course of the consideration of this question, and they should be given an opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General any observations they may wish to make on the subject.

6. While the formulation of general principles will be undertaken on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary, the debate has brought out the need to strengthen the ability of the United Nations to fulfill its primary task of maintaining international peace and security—to improve its effectiveness in peace-keeping and peace-making. According to the Charter, the Security Council is the organ having primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is natural, therefore, that any debate on international security focuses on the central role of the Council. While the effectiveness of the Council has undoubtedly increased in recent years, a further step in this direction will be taken by making use of the provisions of Article 38 of the Charter on the holding of periodic meetings of the Council.

7. Each Secretary-General of our Organization has in turn proposed that such meetings be held, and we believe that the time has come to take this idea up for serious consideration. During the debate, almost all the speakers who expressed their opinion on this particular aspect of the question supported the idea of periodic meetings of the Council. It would therefore seem to be appropriate to invite the Security Council to give consideration to the possibility of convening such meetings.

8. Any decision on this matter naturally belongs to the Council itself. It is equally natural that, in keeping with the established practice of the Council, such decisions would have to be taken on the basis of consultations and agreement among its members. If there is agreement on the usefulness of convening meetings of this kind, their success should be guaranteed in advance by adequate preparation.

* Resumed from the 1672nd meeting.
9. I have briefly outlined my delegation's assessment of the draft resolutions during the debate on this item, and the conclusions we have arrived at are contained in the draft resolution which has been distributed to you. In conclusion, I should like to point out once more to emphasize that in my delegation's view we should avoid division and make recommendations based on broad agreement in this spirit and we have wished to contribute towards reaching a conclusion on this matter.

10. I note that a number of delegations from Latin America have put forward a draft resolution [A/C.1/1/L.506] on this item. I note too that their draft is very similar to other proposals for the draft resolutions proposed by the Latin American delegations are, in fact, identical with the corresponding provisions of our draft. I am confident that it will be possible to present to this Committee a single draft resolution on which the Committee can take a decision tomorrow.

11. Mr. JACKMAN (Barbados): The Barbados delegation has the honour to introduce to the First Committee the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.506, which it presents in the name of Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. I have wearied the Committee, I am sure, with the sponsoring reasons, as a result of a technical error, Haiti and Mexico were not included in the list of co-sponsors, and I wish to make the point that those countries are co-sponsoring this draft resolution.

12. I am very grateful to the representative of Finland for the manner in which he presented his own draft resolution, which is contained in document A/C.1/L.505, in that he indicated that there is a possibility of some meeting of minds on this important question. The group of countries on which my delegation has the honour to speak is, in fact, very open to the possibility of changing its position or improving upon our presentation on the basis of suggestions concerning from other delegations and particularly from the delegation of Finland, which has worked very hard and loably to find a means by which this Committee and the General Assembly could take a right and commendable adequate action as a result of the important item introduced here by the delegation of the Soviet Union.

13. Mr. Jakobson just said, there are many points in common, and, in fact, points which are textually identical in the draft resolutions. I have the honour to present and the draft resolution he has just presented. Speaking on behalf of our co-sponsors, I have no hesitation in saying that we are very closely related to the delegation of Finland for a number of ideas which we have stolen wholesale, without any apology, from his text.

14. I think if you look at the two draft resolutions in the context of the debate which has taken place, it perhaps clarifies the motives he has behind him and the part of certain delegations that this important subject not be, that the General Assembly be seized of this matter, and that future consideration of which it take place without undue bitterness, controversy or unconviction. Therefore the delegations on whose behalf I have the honour to speak would prefer to see their ideas in a format which would meet with the widest possible support in the General Assembly and, first of all, in this Committee. We have not seen fit to express any more clearly, this view. However, we hope that the General Assembly and, first of all, in this Committee and the General Assembly, which has been discussing this item for the first time, will understand that we wish to put forward such a view, not only at this point, but as a matter of principle. And we believe that the General Assembly should bring this question up for more future consideration and have the advantage of the advance and opinion of Member States.

15. It is in this spirit that I take great pleasure in saying, first of all, that our delegations present this draft resolution, as it stands; secondly, we are not closed to the possibility of further modifications of a kind which would not affect the fundamental considerations which we have moved to submit this paper. It is not a sacred text, there is no sacred text in the General Assembly— we certainly insist on the fundamentally procedural nature of this approach. So long as a delegation or a group of delegations are prepared to accept and to honour this approach of ours, we should certainly be prepared to consider any modifications and adjustments in this spirit. I should like again to repeat our great appreciation of the openness the Finnish delegation has displayed and the manner in which the Finnish delegation has tried to take into consideration the views of other delegations, the points that my delegation was not included in the draft resolutions in this spirit and the delegations of Haiti and Mexico which were not noted in the text, to join me in expressing our thanks and appreciation.

16. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) [translated from French]: My delegation is keen to share the statements of the representatives of Finland and Barbados. It is aware of the importance of the subject under discussion and has supported the widest measure of approval of a draft resolution.

17. Nevertheless, my delegation feels that when we speak of international security we should call things by their names. There are of course certain concepts in the United Nations Charter which are now in common use in international relations, and I need not enumerate them here. But the fact that these general concepts are still in use in the Charter does not excuse us, in discussing the subject, from mentioning what is in fact the most serious threat to international security or to express as clearly and precisely as possible any action or measure that might strengthen international security.

18. My delegation has taken note of the two draft resolutions before us, one submitted by Finland [A/C.1/L.505] and the other by Argentina and other countries [A/C.1/L.506]. As a result of the very detailed analysis of the sponsors' statements, they are the two draft resolutions are not without merit, and my delegation will support them. However, the resolutions are limited to generalities, and this is not satisfactory, for the General Assembly really intends to take effective action to strengthen international peace and security and to eliminate the various factors in the world which are likely to threaten them, it should state its views in greater detail.

19. Accordingly, my delegation formally proposes certain amendments to the two draft resolutions, while reserving the right to revert to or reintroduce them at a later stage of the debate if it should decide to introduce a third amendment. I shall begin with draft resolution A/C.1/L.506 submitted by Argentina and other countries. In addition, after the third preambular paragraph, of a new paragraph reading as follows:

- "Considering that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under the Charter" [A/C.1/L.507].

20. My second amendment applies to the Finnish draft resolutions A/C.1/L.505, and commits in the addition, after the fifth preambular paragraph, of a new paragraph reading as follows:

- "Recognizing that military occupation and the acquisition of territory by force have aggravated the state of insecurity and international tension." [A/C.1/L.507].

21. Since, after some consultations, we have been fortunate enough to arrive at a joint text, I hope that the sponsors of this draft resolution A/C.1/L.505 and A/C.1/L.506 will see their way to including these amendments in their texts. In this sense, I hope, we should all agree that the sponsors of the draft resolution have introduced these amendments in a spirit of understanding and compromise, and we have prepared to discuss its point of view both with the sponsors and with any of the other members of this Committee who would do it honour to comment on its amendments.

22. The problems which are truly threatening peace and security in the world at the present time are those of military occupation and acquisition of territory by force. If, in my view, the General Assembly wishes to act effectively, I believe—my delegation firmly believes—that we must call things by their true names and have the courage to point an accusing finger at those who threaten international peace and security. In this sense, we shall honour the United Nations Charter and discharge a sacred obligation as representatives of our respective countries.

23. Mr. ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil): The delegation of Brazil wishes to state very briefly the reasons which prompted us to co-sponsor, together with many Latin American delegations, the draft resolutions contained in document A/C.1/L.506 on the item related to the strengthening of international security.

24. As a matter of fact I have very little to add to what has been expressed already by the Chairman of the Latin American Group, the representative of Barbados. In my delegation has regarded it with the utmost seriousness this crucial matter which comprehends and absorbs most of the efforts of the United Nations organs and councils. No matter how it was put, if the General Assembly is divided, this important item is sure to be concluded with success, there being no doubt that we shall not be able to go on doing without this important subject.

25. The debates held on international security and on the use for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and ocean floor and on disarmament were extremely revealing and fruitful insdie discussions on the subject on which the General Assembly can act.

26. We have repeatedly emphasized that we cannot accept the current trend to deplore the General Assembly of its duty to deal with the serious problem that is the danger to the United Nations. I should like to say in conclusion that we have a great deal of sympathy and concern for the members of this Committee who have taken the initiative in this matter, and we believe this initiative is likely to bring about some positive results. It is possible, in fact, that the question of this subject will be raised again at the next meeting of the Security Council, and this, we believe, is a step forward.
31. As it has already been stated by the Chairman of the Law Commission, Mr. Jekke, of Bangladesh, the co-sponsoring delegations are open to suggestions and views from other delegations and are hopeful that a common and unanimous stand can be taken on this all-important issue.

32. Mr. KHALLAF (Iraq): My delegation made a statement in the (10th) meeting on this question of the strengthening of international security. We said then, in our opinion there was no international security at this stage to be strengthened, and I refer to certain details of what is going on in our part of the world, in the region of the Middle East. The reasons are known and I am not going to report what I said in that statement.

33. In spite of this, my delegation had hoped that something might come out of some of the very important and substantive proposals made by the Soviet Union (A/C.1/L.468), and during the weeks that have passed, my delegation has always entertained the hope that some practical and constructive measures would be brought before the First Committee and the General Assembly to deal with this very important question. Now after all these weeks of waiting we have before us two draft resolutions (A/C.1/L.505 and A/C.1/L.506) at least as one speaker, a sponsor has remarked, are most unconstructive. The idea is in both, of course, to refer the question to next year's General Assembly, the most important reason given being that the War of the Falklands would be the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

34. At no stage of our deliberations in this Committee has my delegation believed that this is a sufficiently important reason for deferring this question to the next General Assembly.

35. The representative of Kuwait in his amendments brought some life into these draft resolutions and, at least, put his finger on one important aspect of this lack of international security. The Kuwait delegate supports these amendments and that many of these new draft resolutions are going to be considered separately and then put to the vote.

36. The representative of Finland and the co-sponsors of drafting resolutions A/C.1/L.505/1 have expressed the desire to simplify the matter and find some common ground to agree on a text.

37. My delegation has a certain preference for the draft resolution presented to us by the representative of Finland (A/C.1/L.505/1) because we see in it one of the important points that were mentioned in the original proposal of the Soviet Union. For example, we have here the reference to the desirability of the United Nations holding periodic meetings at a high level of representation. We also find the question of the strengthening of regional security, reference to regional organizations included in the important draft resolution. The Committee which has a relation to and an interest in maintaining peace and strengthening international security, such as thescaffolding that is shown by the representative of Kuwait in the current discussion on the Finnish draft resolution. The Committees which have a relation to and an interest in maintaining peace and strengthening international security, such as the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and other Committees, are asked in this Finnish draft resolution to contribute with their experience on international security and the strengthening of international security.

38. For these reasons my delegation would like to state that our position, even if we are strong in our reservations as to the practicability of either, would be for the Finnish draft resolution. However, we would like to see something that would work, that would work. The General Committee seems to work and he has made his comments also. In the third substantive paragraph of the resolution presented to us by the Kuwait delegate, he has put forward an argument against it, but our country's views are further discussed in the Draft Resolution presented by the Kuwait delegate and it is not a comment on the Kuwait delegate. We would like to see in both these draft resolutions this reporting and commenting by the Secretary-General, which is at present missing. All there is at present is that the Governments should communicate their views to the Secretary-General.

39. We know the Secretary-General has his own responsibilities concerning international security and also the work of the Organization to this effect. My delegation for one would like to see that he makes his comments and observations on the communications from Governments when he receives them. We know that the Secretary-General has made contributions to subjects discussed in this Committee and we would like to have him make his observations on this question.

40. To sum up, my delegation prefers the Finnish draft resolution with the suggestion I made concerning the communications of the Secretary-General. However, if the idea is to merge and marry the two draft resolutions, taking into consideration the comment made by the representative of Kuwait this afternoon, my delegation would like to see included in that unified draft resolution the three points I mentioned, which are in the draft resolutions presented to us by the representative of Finland this afternoon.

41. The CHAIRMAN: I have no more speakers on the item on the strengthening of international security. Therefore, I now invite the Committee to continue with the general debate on item 28, Outer Space.

AGENDA ITEM 28
International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (continued) (A/7621 and Add.1)

42. Mr. HILDYARD (United Kingdom): 1969 has indeed been a historic year, in the field of outer space. I do not feel that the number of events this year, as it is, is in and of itself the most important event this year, but send once more our warmest congratulations to the Government and people of the United States and to the astronauts themselves. The distinguished representative of the United States has well said that Apollo 11 and 12 mark not the end of an effort but the opening of a new horizon. We may return to the standards of earlier missions in the same way that we did with the first momentous leap, but the coming year seems certain to bring us new progress and possibilities. In particular, the role of the United States in regard to outer space resources and the technologies that may be developed for the exploitation of outer space. The United States is already beginning to establish the United States space program, and to conduct international co-operation in space technologies which may be able to make a very considerable contribution towards solving food, water and

resources problems. We hope that the United Nations will be able to play a useful part in enabling the benefits of these technologies to be shared by all countries, particularly the developing countries. Secondly, this Committee is mainly interested in the achievements and programmes of the two main space powers. I do not propose to speak of the space programme which is far from negligible: we have given some attention to this Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the time of this Committee is very limited.

43. Turning to the report of the outer space Committee (A/7621 and Add.1) there are four points which I should like to welcome. First and foremost, we would like to congratulate Goodwill on the establishment of its rocket launching station at Mar Chiquita. A United Nations expert mission, one of whose members was a French scientist, visited this station and attested that it meets the requirements for United Nations sponsorship, as set out in General Assembly resolution 1802 (XVII). The outer space Committee has recommended that the General Assembly should grant such sponsorship to the Mar Chiquita station. My delegation supports this recommendation. Secondly, we also support the recommendation that sponsorship of the Thumba station in India should be continued.

44. Thirdly, we welcome and support the recommendation in the outer space Committee's report that the Secretary-General should invite an expert who will be able to assist Member States in seeking information and advice on the practical applications of space technology. There has been as to the position this expert who should occupy within the Secretary-General, we have no doubt that the Secretary-General will wish to take into account the comments which have been made.

45. We also endorse the recommendation that there should be a special working group on the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites. We are convinced that this is a field of great importance, and one which presents considerable opportunities and problems for the future.


47. As well as achievements, however, there have been failures due this past year. We are all very conscious of the failure to agree on a draft convention on liability for damage arising from space objects.

48. An agreement on liability now has a particular significance and importance. It has been the major issue before the outer space Committee this year, and seems likely to remain so next year. I think therefore that it is up to the Space Treaty itself to set out their attitude to it. The Outer Space Treaty itself was the starting point on the Resolution on "Spacecraft, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of the Astronauts" to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [resolution 2345 (XXIV)] were important milestones on the road to

7 Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies; see resolution 2232 (XXI).

elaborating an international regime for the space age. They were, nevertheless, the stepping stones whose main substantive provisions were primarily of interest and assistance to the few countries which are conducting space activities. An agreement on liability is of direct interest to every Member State and has generally been considered as the counterpart to the co-operation which is promised in the Agreement on Orange and return.

49. The laws of chance will play a large part in determining whether accidents which may occur in space result in death or damage here on earth. And the laws of chance make no distinction between large countries and small ones, between the rich and the poor. They pay no regard to the state of technological development.

50. It is for this reason that my delegation has maintained throughout the negotiations on this matter in the outer space Committee respect that any agreement which may be concluded must be such as to ensure that those who, through no fault of their own, may suffer loss can be certain that they will receive compensation, and that this compensation will be fair and adequate.

51. To that end we have supported the view that in cases in which the launching State and the claimant State are unable to reach agreement about liability resulting from a launch accident, the claimant agreement should provide for arbitration by an impartial body whose decision would be final and binding. The claimant State would be bound to accept the decision and the amount of compensation awarded but, perhaps more important, the launching State would also be bound to pay that amount.

52. For the same reason we have advocated that if the agreement is to set any ceiling to the liability of the launching State in respect of any accident, that ceiling should be set at a realistic level and which would give genuine protection to the interests of all those who suffer damage.

53. Similarly, we believe that the assessment of liability should be based primarily upon international law and upon the law of the place in which the accident occurred to us that the interests of the victim of any damage are likely to be better secured, than any would, in the great majority of cases, be the law of his own country, designed to fit the circumstances in which he lives, rather than by the law of the launching State, which may be suited to a different social structure thousands of miles from the place where the damage occurs.

54. Having said this, I would add that the disappointment of my delegation at the failure to conclude an agreement on liability has been somewhat relieved by the fact that an agreement has been made in the outer space Committee this year and which is reflected in the statement by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. J. Pilskaln of Latvia, in the statement made by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. J. Pilskaln of Latvia, in the report (A/7621/Add.1). Here I would like to join in the tributes which have been paid to the Chairman of the Committee. That country has made great efforts to promote an agreement: one more we are deeply indebted to him, as we also are to the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee. As the statement indicates, a conditional measure of agreement has been reached on one of the four
main outstanding issues: the problem of liability in contin-
uation with the activities in space of international organiz-
tions. We must that what has been achieved on this problem
will effectively remove it from the area of its remaining
disappearance. I have already referred to the other three
principal differences between the Committee of the
settlement of claims, the closely related question of the
law to be applied in the settlement of claims, and the
question of the Outer Space treaty. On these, others, negotiations
in the outer space Committee have served to narrow differences of
view, even though these differences, unfortunately, remain.

55. My Government is ready to pursue negotiations in the
outer space Committee, during the forthcoming year, in a
more binding effort to ensure that the Committee can report to
us at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly
recommending the endorsement of a satisfactory draft
agreement on limitation. We greatly welcome the agreement
recorded in the Chairman's statement that consultations to this
end should be resumed early in 1970.

60. Mr. ÅSTRÖM (Sweden): It would not be possible for
me to take the floor to speak in this debate without first
expressing again the admiration felt all over the world at
the achievements of the United States in space this
year. The landings on the moon are the results of gigantic
technological and organizational efforts that are indeed
awe-inspiring. They have broadened immeasurably the
horizons of man and added a new dimension to the
understanding of man, his history, his present predicament
and his future.

67. Social and economic developments in all countries are
influenced to an ever-increasing degree by progress achieved
in the field of science and technology. In particular, space
science and technology will have a rapidly growing impact on
the life of people everywhere.

58. Yet both exploration and exploitation remain very
much the privilege of the super Powers. We strongly
believe that the time has come for a donor-cooperation
between the super Powers and all the other countries and,
indeed, among all the countries of the world. As to the latter, everyone of them
should contribute to the further development of space
technology that should share in the benefits to be won from
its application.

59. In order to make such cooperation truly international and
in order to reduce the risk of friction between the
Space Powers and the rest of the world, we feel that we
should strive to make the United Nations a focal point for
joint space efforts.

60. It is my intention to comment briefer on four
concrete subjects, namely, the question of international
co-operation in communications, earth resources satellites, direct
broadcasts from satellites and the liability convention.

61. The practical potentialities of space science and
technology have hitherto emerged most clearly in the field
of communications. International co-operation with regard
to communications has taken place largely outside the
system of the United Nations due to the importance of it for
the international community as a whole. The main vehicle for
this co-operation has been the International Telecom-
munications Satellite Consortium (INTELSAT) in Washing-
ton, DC.

62. As is known, negotiations are at present under way in
Washington regarding the definitive arrangements for the
INTELSAT system. They have made some progress, but
many difficulties remain to be overcome. In view of the
provisionary nature of the negotiations, the Committee may
120 consider the paragraph 4 of General Assembly
resolution 2453 (XXIII) that has a direct bearing on these
negotiations, in the General Assembly unanimously.

"Reform in behalf, as expressed in resolution 1721 D
(XVI) of 20 December 1961, that communication
by means of satellites should be available to the nations of
the world and that any practical advance in a non-discriminatory
basis should be encouraged. In view of the difficulties
parties to negotiations regarding international arrange-
ments in the INTELSAT system the communication should
constant bear this principle in mind and that its ultimate
realization may not be impeded."

63. It would be in consonance with these principles to give
the United Nations a role and a competence in the
elaboration of the new system and its operation. However,
since this is not so far deemed to be within the reach of the
possible, we feel that if the principles that I have mentioned
are to be realized, the practical advance in the INTELSAT system will,
in any case, be necessary for Governments par-
ticipating in the current negotiations to reserve for them
the right to exercise certain political responsibilities
within the total system.

64. We also believe that close cooperation will be neces-
sary between INTELSAT and those specialized agencies
which have a particular interest in space communications, in
particular the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
the United Nations itself may provide. Such cooperation as
ICAO, IMCO, WMO, FAO and ITU, should, in our opinion, be
given the opportunity to take initiatives and to influence
the development, design and, particularly, utilization of
such specialized services as are of direct concern to them.

65. Next to space communications, it would seem that
exploration, surveying and control of the earth's resources
will be the outstanding development in the 1970s and
1980s. We have as yet only had a foretaste of what might
become possible in this field; but what is already known
is up-to-date prospecting. The survey and exploitation of the
resources of the earth, their possible utilization and, at
the same time, their protection for the benefit of coming
generations are fundamental problems for all peoples in
the world. I should like to stress, in particular, the importance
of using satellite surveys to gather basic data of use in
the fight for the protection and improvement of the human
environment.

66. It is obvious that the development of new methods for
studying the earth, the oceans and the atmosphere in all
detail rates fundamentals similar to those that are
required for radio techniques and subject to the same
difficulties in the field of satellite communications. Suffice it
to say here that the whole of new information that earth
resources satellites can provide should be available to all
countries and thereon, on a non-discriminatory basis to all countries and that
international co-operation in this field should aim at
benefiting the peoples directly concerned. As in the field of
communications, our endeavour here should be to make the
United Nations the focal point of discussions and negoti-
at.ion.

67. This new, exciting technique is still in its infancy and we
should not be enticed to lead developments in a
direction in full conformity with the principles of the
United Nations as well as the needs of a world which is
becoming increasingly interdependent. My country will
co-operate fully in all efforts to bring about increased
international cooperation in this field within the
United Nations system.

68. I should like to turn now briefly to the topic of direct
broadcasting from satellites. While it must be gratifying to us
that a special Working Group of the outer space Committee had
the opportunity during this year to look into the matter
from a technical, legal and socio-political point of view.
The full text of the first two reports of the Working Group are
reproduced in annexes to the report of the outer space Committee
[47/621/Add.1, annex III and IV]. I shall single out only a few points for comments.

69. I should first like to mention the time factor which, of
course, has to be viewed in the light of the present state of
satellite technology. The least sophisticated form of direct
broadcasting from satellites, which in one or two years.
may become a reality. If that is to be realized, the time
in this context to refer to the recent agreement
between the Government of India and the United States
space company on direct motion to world receivers,
which will be started in 1971.

70. Direct broadcast of television into augmented home
receivers could become feasible technologically as soon as
1975; whereas the most advanced stage, that of broad-
casting audio programs to world home receivers, would still
seem to be somewhat more distant. This would seem to
give us some time for reflection on how best to use this new
capability that is being developed.

71. I think that experience has taught us, however, not to
complain about the pace of technological develop-
ment. We feel, therefore, that the study started by the
Working Group should proceed with due dispatch and
be concentrated on some particular fields, indicated
in preliminary way, in the reports of the Working Group.

72. It seems to us essential that the international legal
aspects of direct broadcasting be further studied—and be
studied soon. Likewise, the complicated problem of con-
tent of broadcasts would require further attention, in order
to try to come to some sort of generally acceptable
codes of conduct on programme standards. Some experience in this field has already been gained from existing regional
capital in cooperation—"conventional"—if I may use this
word—TV broadcasting in Europe. Whereas such
studies of a legal kind, there is also a need for devoting all
the attention to the very important gains to be reaped from
direct broadcasting, both to the individual countries and to
the international community as a whole. Direct broadcasting
will be of particular importance to developing countries,
where the equipment required an extensive infrastructure of
conventional telecommunication links, and will offer im-
pacting possibilities for social and economic development,
such as teachers' training, improving agriculture, health
and facilitating family planning.

73. The outer space Committee, after study of the reports
of the Working Group concluded that the Group should meet for another session in 1970 to study some
questions which we have already mentioned. The Swedish
Government bore the expenses this time to participate
actively in that session. May I, in this context, express
my Government's sincere thanks to the Canadian Govern-
ment for their extremely valuable cooperation in working
out, together with us, some of the background papers for
the first two sessions of the Working Group. We express the
hope that this co-operation will be continued in the coming
work of the working Group.

74. May I also refer representatives to paragraph 27 of the
outer space Committee's first report [47/621], in which
the Secretary-General requested to transmit the reports of
the Working Group to Member States and to certain
international organizations for their early comment. Such
comments could clearly be of the greatest use to the
Working Group in its coming deliberations. Sweden, for its
part, will try to further elaborate its views on the use
and implications of direct broadcasting from satellites and
hopes that other countries will do the same.

75. The last item I should like to touch upon is the question of the draft treaties. My Government is
generally concerned and disappointed that no
progress has yet been reached. True, as can be seen from the statement by the Chairman of the
outer space Committee at the 70th meeting [47/621/Add.1, para. 14] on certain progress is discernible within the
framework of a package agreement on the four major
issues outstanding, namely, the question of a ceiling on
satellite launches, an international organization, the
applicable law and the settlement of disputes. Grave
problems still persist especially as regards the last
topics mentioned.

76. My Government's views on these two problems have
been stated clearly and unequivocally so many times that I
see no need to repeat them here. May I only say that as
far as applicable law is concerned, we continue to believe
that the best formula is that according to which compensation
shall be decided in accordance with international law and
the law of the claimant State, We have not become
convinced that there is any legal reason for taking as a
basis the law of the launching State.

77. We believe it is hard, not to say impossible, to find in
any existing international treaty or in the jurisprudence any
support for the idea that damage caused by one State on another State's territory should not be indemnified
according to the law in force in the State responsible. It has often
been stressed in the Legal Sub-Committee that the liability
Convention must be regarded as risk-oriented. It is
consequently only fair that the victim—whether a State or a
physical or juridical person—should be compensated against the State in whose territory the event occurred and
which bears the burden of damage. It seems that the important cases, and such an approach can be said to
apply on the whole in the International Law of armed conflict, which
agreed to in the Fourth Geneva Convention. It is, in our
view a possible, in the same financial position as before the
accident, that the State would have taken place. In the
particular case of injury or death suffered by persons in

a foreign State, it appears to my delegation just and legitimate. Persons and dependent family members respectively should have the right to be compensated for the costs of medical treatment, loss of earnings and other losses. In conformity with the law of the State where they live and not be dependent on a legal system perhaps quite alien to the social order of their own country.

78. Looking a bit deeper into the problem, it seems inevitable to establish, although the smaller and weaker among States, should voluntarily undertake an obligation in advance to be satisfied with a compensation, e.g. or small, that is provided for in a launching State whose identity is totally unknown until after the damage has actually occurred. There is, in fact, nothing to prevent a space-power from prescribing an arbitrary limitation in its own legislation on compensation for damage or to exempt certain kinds of damage from compensation, when caused by its objects launched into space.

79. In an effort to break the deadlock on this issue Belgium has presented a compromise proposal which would determine compensation, in accordance with international law and the law of the respondent State, or of the claimant State, at the discretion of the latter (ibid.).

80. My country could accept that proposal in order to expedite matters, although from a constitutional point of view, we continue to think that no convincing arguments have been advanced for including the law of the respondent State.

81. It has been pointed out, time and again, that the principal stumbling-block hindering the achievement of a satisfactory solution in the question of impartial third party settlement of disputes. On this point, may I say briefly, that Sweden—like the great majority of other members of the outer space Committee—strongly feels that there is an indispensable need for the use, in the last resort, of an obligatory machinery for solving disputes. Such a procedure would, in the Committee’s opinion, remove the necessity for appeals to the non-binding powers against involvement in endless bilateral negotiations.

82. It has also often been stated that our difficulties in coming to an understanding stem from differences of principle concerning State sovereignty. We think that this is to oversimplify the case. This problem is not one of classical State sovereignty, as in the case of a political or territorial dispute. Our problem is rather one of compensation for damage caused by a State which is engaged in an inherently or potentially dangerous activity, for which the State in question would certainly carry responsibility within its own national limits.

83. In our case it is a fact that certain activities automatically take place in such a scope and have such consequences—far beyond the borders of a national State—that it has a consistent responsibility to hold that such consequences—far cannot be coupled with definite and afe remedies for those, mostly private citizens, who might be exposed to damage because of this activity. In our view, a question of private international law.

84. We need just mention the increasing problems connected with atomic radiation and pollution to understand that those problems are likely to command increasing attention in the years to come in the point of view of compensation for damage. They are but examples of the clear trend towards the increasing interdependence of nations in the fields of Medical and biological research. In space is of great scientific and practical interest for all branches of medicine and health protection. Space medicine contributes to the development of knowledge required for early diagnosis and cure of disease, methods of remote recording of physiological functions, biological telemetry. Space medicine and practical application in the solution of such problems as the creation of closed ecological systems, cosmic micrometeorology, radiobiology, contributions to the development of biological instruments. The experience acquired as a result of space research is already being widely used in industrial technology. Ultra sound research has been stimulating technological and scientific development, particularly in regard to land and sea, the deepening of steel, welding, electro-moulding, etc. Space technology and practice for the solution of problems of dynamics in ship building and industrial machine building. The techniques for testing materials and quality control developed for space programs can be applied directly in industrialization, in particular in the industrialization of the developing countries.

85. The French delegation has put forward a compromise proposal (ibid.) which, while revising the word “binding” or “obligatory”, still keeps the essential meaning: that States shall conform with a decision reached by the Claims Commission. That is an acceptable solution to my delegation and we very much hope that it will be seriously considered by everyone concerned.

86. The convention on liability is the necessary corollary to the convention on the rescue and return to astronauts and, in fact, of infinitely greater importance to the vast majority of Members of the United Nations. A speedy conclusion of such a convention is an urgent matter. It will not be possible, however, until all negotiating parties are ready to accept that in this case they are working in a new field where new ideas are called for to make the world a little better than the one in which we now live.

87. Mr. GREKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (translated from Russian). As other speakers have noted before me, the year 1969 has seen great achievements in the exploration and use of outer space. This entire effort was characterized by the Soviet people, for the first time in mankind’s history, it launched a satellite into space. Since then, the world has many a time been told that their participation in the conquest of the exploration and conquest of space. These include manned flights into space, space walks, automatic docking of spacecraft, and the establishment of stations in orbit, and the blazing of new trails to the moon and Venus, to name but a few.

88. Quite recently, seven Soviet cosmonauts were launched into space in the three spacecraft Soyuz-6, Soyuz-7 and Soyuz-8—a feat without precedent in human history. During their flight they carried out a complicated programme of scientific investigation, gathered valuable and unique data and obtained important stage in the development of space technology.

89. Great achievements in the conquest of outer space have been made by the United States and other countries. My delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate the United States delegation on the remarkable flight of United States astronauts to the moon.

90. The exploration of outer space is not confined to the activities of the two major space Powers. The number of countries taking part in space exploration programmes is steadily increasing. More countries are carrying out joint space programmes.

91. At present, scientists in many countries are taking an active part in work to further space science and technology and their application in such fields as medicine and biology. Space medicine, for example, has become a very important branch of contemporary science, of joint concern to biologists and physicists, doctors and engineers, physio-therapists and engineers, professional and worker. In space is of great scientific and practical interest for all branches of medicine and health protection. Space medicine contributes to the development of knowledge required for early diagnosis and cure of disease, methods of remote recording of physiological functions, biological telemetry. Space medicine and practical application in the solution of such problems as the creation of closed ecological systems, cosmic micrometeorology, radiobiology, contributions to the development of biological instruments. The experience acquired as a result of space research is already being widely used in industrial technology. Ultra sound research has been stimulating technological and scientific development, particularly in regard to land and sea, the deepening of steel, welding, electro-moulding, etc. Space technology and practice for the solution of problems of dynamics in ship building and industrial machine building. The techniques for testing materials and quality control developed for space programs can be applied directly in industrialization, in particular in the industrialization of the developing countries.

92. My country, too, has been making its modest contribution to the development of space science and technology. Scientists of the Academy of Sciences of the Byelorussian SSR are conducting independent research on the nervous and hormonal action mechanisms of the organs and bodies of men and animals subjected to the effects of gravitational factors, linear and radial acceleration and vibration. The knowledge of the mechanisms coming into play during linear and radial acceleration and vibration is now being used in the somatic, vegetative and psychic rehabilitation of men who have been subjected after rotation and rocking. Byelorussian scientists are also studying the interaction of gases with fitly-porous bodies, and the sublimation of materials in high vacuum. These theoretical and experimental studies are of great practical importance in creating refrigerating systems, heat exchangers, and systems for cooling the surface of bodies moving at high velocities. Byelorussian scientists are also studying electro-magnetic processes in near-earth space, mainly with a view to investigating the structure of the earth’s crust. They are experimenting with artificial soil for growing plants in closed systems and evolving rational methods of soil exploration. They have already obtained useful data on this subject, and increasing the duration of use and improving the composition of such soil. The remarkable fruitfulness of artificial soil, yielding a crop of 170 to 200 kilograms per square meter, which has been obtained for ten years, a very important circumstance in raising crops in the limited room afforded by a space station.

93. The Byelorussian delegation takes a favourable view of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/47261 and Add.1) of the General Assembly, and also of the Committee’s programme of future work.

94. We hope that in carry out this programme, the Committee will be able to complete its work on the draft convention on liability for damage caused by objects launched into space and to take into account the fact that a certain progress has been achieved. The difference between positions that had existed on the liability of international organizations on liability was substantially narrowed. Nevertheless, we are still left with the most difficult of all the problems involved: the question
of the applicable law and that of the procedures for settlement of claims. Thus, the statement of the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, made at the close of the twelfth session, states:

"As to the question of the applicable law, differences of opinion still exist. Many delegations considered that the best basis for the solution of this question would be international law, taking into account the law of the place where the launching States and, where considered appropriate, the law of the respondent State, and that only in some cases the claimant, the applicable law would be that of the respondent State.\\n\n109. I have characterized these comments as being motivated by a fear of what we may call the "law of the sea" doctrine (see, for instance, the records of the earlier sessions of the Conference on the Law of the Territorial Sea of Ocean Space). The need for clarity and for a comprehensive, uniform approach to the problem of outer space activities, as well as to the question of Outer Space Claims, is self-evident, and is also reflected in the opinion of the United States, which considers that the applicable law in such cases should be that of the launching State, and of the respondent State, where that State is member of the United Nations.

110. It is clear from the above that the question of the applicable law is still to be resolved. However, I have already indicated that the United States considers that international law is applicable in such cases, and that the law of the United States should be considered when a claim is brought against a State which is not a member of the United Nations. In this connection, I would like to point out that the United States has consistently maintained that international law is applicable in such cases, and that the law of the United States should be considered when a claim is brought against a State which is not a member of the United Nations.
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124. From the agreed statement of the Chairman contained in the addendum to the report of the Committee, it is evident that the principles for progress and agreement reached in the negotiations that have been held so far, particularly on the eve and during the course of the resumed twelfth session of the Committee on outer space. And while we note, with satisfaction, the narrowing of the existing gaps, we cannot refrain from voicing disappointment at the inessentials of the last round of consultations, which seemed to begin with favourable omens and therefore gave rise to many expectations.

128. The CHAIRMAN: I have further speakers on my list for the general debate on the item under consideration. Therefore, if the Committee has no objection, I shall give the floor to the Permanent Representative of the United States to introduce a draft resolution which I have submitted for our approval.

129. Mr. THACHER (United States of America): I have the honour, on behalf of the delegations of Mexico, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, to express our agreement with the text which Mr. Beaufort’s statement to this Committee yesterday [17/5/75] with regard to earth resources survey satellites. If I may, I should like to describe the draft resolution briefly, in view of the shortness of time remaining before this Committee is asked to consider it.

130. In the preambular context, we recall General Assembly resolution 2453 (XXIII) of last year, and recall particularly the recommendation made at that stage during the work of the Committee on outer space this last summer with respect to the promotion of the application of space technology. We also remember resolution 1425 (XLV) of the Economic and Social Council, which stated that international cooperation through the United Nations should continue to play an important role in assisting Governments in the field of investigation and utilization of agricultural natural resources. We recognize the significant contribution of educational and technological advances to making a more complete understanding of man’s environment, and we express the hope that these programme proposals will be available to produce information for the benefit of the community as a whole.

131. It will be recalled – and the representative of Italy was good enough to remind us of this fact – that President Nixon, on 19 September [1755th plenary meeting] said of this programme that it would be dedicated to producing “towards the establishment of a world society in which the United Nations binds all of the world community, and that this is among the concrete steps we intend to take towards internationalizing man’s environment. What we wish to achieve is the sort of venture that belongs not to one nation but to all mankind.

132. Desiring to encourage the study of earth resource surveys programmes, including those related to airborne sensing techniques, and to encourage participation, to the extent feasible and practical, in their development, we present four operative paragraphs.

133. The first of these invites Member States with experience in the field of remote earth resources surveying to make such experience available to other Member States which do not have experience and to become familiar with this field. The United States is proud to be operating on a very active basis with the Governments, among others, of Mexico and Brazil in the perfection of remote sensing techniques principally from airborne platforms and also with Canada in the development of the sensors themselves. There are additional programmes under way, among others, with India, which are more specialized in terms of detecting particular phenomena on the face of the earth which require constant measurement. In this connexion I would recall that in the early part of this session of the General Assembly we called attention to an international symposium on the space environment which was held at the University of Michigan in October. I am proud to report that forty-one experts from twelve countries were able to attend and participate usefully in that conference.

134. In the second operative paragraph we invite Member States to join in exploring the various aspects involved in the analysis of data obtained through this new technique, its dissemination and practical applications. We also invite the Member States to consider the benefits to be obtained therefrom, taking into account the particular interests and needs of developing countries. In this connexion we refer to the previous Conference in Vienna last year, it was pointed out there that there is a demand of a surplus of information being derived from this system, and it is with this in mind that we are particularly concerned to encourage international study with regard to Earth Resources Operations in which an operation is made that the drawback of the various kinds of benefits described is that they provide almost too much information on parameters and not enough detailed information on composition.

135. Our third operative paragraph invites the Secretary-General to bring this matter to the attention of all organizations within the United Nations family of agencies whose efforts could perhaps be furthered by this developing technology. It would be a mistake to attempt to list all of the various components part of the Secretary
and the specialized agencies whose work stands to benefit as this technology is achieved, but among them we would have to include the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. We have already seen that the countries concerned are moving rapidly to implement this technology and to minimize the damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space. If we had to rely on the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, we would have to include all elements in the Department of International Affairs and we would have to include the Food and Agriculture Organization whose work in monitoring crops, whose work in the early detection of pests and other threats, is crucial in providing the same protection and the same benefits. We need to be aware that the food output of the world, which would be a challenge to all the countries and the world, would be a challenge to all the countries of the world except the United States.

138. In the fourth operative paragraph of the draft resolution, we request the outer space Committee to continue its work on the possibilities of a further international cooperation, in particular in the framework of the United Nations system, in connection with the development and use of remote earth resources survey techniques so as to ensure that the practical benefits of this new technology are achieved, they are made available to both developed and developing countries. I think that this paragraph reflects the principles which have been long established by the General Assembly and in the outer space Treaty, that there shall be no discrimination between developed and developing countries and it certainly reflects the recommendations arising from the work of the outer space Committee. I think that it is more active today than ever before to promote the application of space technologies for the benefit of all countries, to have in mind particularly the needs of the developing countries. If you consider the importance of being able to present this resolution and I hope it will enjoy broad support.

139. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon): I am in the delegation that has been elected to represent the countries of the United States and I stand here today to reflect the views of the United States and those of the countries that are to be included in this document. We wish to reiterate here our congratulations on the fact that the United States is included in this document. We wish to congratulate the General Assembly on the successful conclusion of the conference and we hope that these new areas will be explored to the advantage of mankind.

140. We also had occasion to extend our congratulations to the delegation, to the people and to the Government of the Soviet Union on the activities conducted in the year 1969. We wish both well and we hope the world that the exploration of outer space will open wide the road to development for the countries of the world but between all the countries of the world except the United States.

141. My delegation would have wished to add that it was impossible to add any new text to the draft resolution, which was presented by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It has been unable to conclude its work on the important task entrusted to it by General Assembly resolution 2453 (XXIII) which requested the Committee "to continue, without delay, the preparation of a draft agreement on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space."

142. We express our regret that the mandate given to the outer space Committee was of an urgent character. But even as we do so, we are aware that the Committee was unable to conclude its work because its members were not in a position to reach agreement on an international agreement which, should be mutually acceptable and the conclusion of which cannot be obtained by a simple majority decision.

143. Lebanon is a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We have always maintained that we could not resort to the majority rule in drafting the agreement we had to work on a consensus basis. However, we expressed the hope that the General Assembly, during its current session, would instruct the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to conclude its work on the agreement and present it at the next session of the General Assembly in celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary.

144. I wish to comment briefly as possible on the report contained in documents A/7612 and Add.1. We are informed in the addendum to the Legal Affairs Committee and its parent committee, namely, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, that four issues are outstanding. In reality, there are only three. They are, the settlement of claims, the question of applicable law and the question of a limit on liability.

145. As for the problem of liability in connexion with activities of international organizations in the exploration and use of outer space, it is not difficult that the three have been narrowed and the possibility of an agreement has emerged during the twelfth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It had been discussed during the past month. I shall comment on these three outstanding issues and place the decision of my Government on the record.

146. It is not possible to bind the Committee, or any part of it, to bind themselves to bind at this stage and it would be the arbiters themselves to say whether the degree of liability would not give the effective result we hope it would give. That is why we might ponder in our consideration of this item here and in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In addition, we would have indefinitely supported the possibility of qualifying as final the decision of the claims commission in order to help settle the dispute as quickly and as effectively as possible.

147. In order that the first two stages of the procedure be successful, diplomatic negotiations and the inquiry commission—possibly the parties to a dispute must know beforehand that they could reach a third stage in which the parties to a binding character might be taken. We have argued in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and we submit for the consideration of the members of the Committee, that if the decision of the claims commission were to be binding, it would give increased confidence and encouragement to reaching an agreement in the first two phases.

148. However, the delegation of Lebanon took a flexible attitude because we do not think the majority rule should necessarily be applied in drafting this agreement just as it drafting the principles of international law concerning friendly relations it could not have been applied as it could not be adopted easily. When we speak of international security arrangements, what we need is the joint will, the collective will of the international community in order to make whatever decision we take fruitful and effective.

149. We have taken a flexible attitude and we have argued that if the claims commission decision were not to be binding, some form of obligation must be arrived at. We cannot do without, for example, a mechanism for the registration of objects in France, appearing in the addendum to our report [A/7612/Add.1, para. 8], might offer such a compromise. We therefore went even further than that. We went one step further and the proposal submitted by the delegation of France were not to be compromise to a proportion of the membership of the Committee and perhaps the Member States of the United Nations also, could perhaps discuss the Brazilian proposal [W.4] which made an attempt to reach an agreement. But the difficulty was that they could not specifically say that the degree of claims commission should be, or would be, of a recommendatory nature therefore, that the degree of claims commission would not give the effective result we hope it would give. That is why we might ponder in our consideration of this item here and in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In addition, we would have indefinitely supported the possibility of qualifying as final the decision of the claims commission in order to help settle the dispute as quickly and as effectively as possible.

150. Whatever position we take on this item, we must remember what we have had occasion to say on the Committee whose report we are discussing today, that Lebanon is a small country and the possibility that it might become a claimant is rather remote. However, since in the composition of the subsidiary organs of the United Nations we represent not only the interests of Lebanon but the area and the Arab countries I would like to say that Lebanon is one of the founding members of the countries of the developing countries—we have kept very much in mind the interests of our Arab neighbors. We think that a developing country could suffer from damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space. We have consistently expressed our concern that a developing country, a criterion which influenced us strongly in the position we have taken on the three outstanding issues, which was to safeguard the interests of the victim.

151. I now come to the question of applicable law. If we were to accept the principle that the interest of the victim should not be foremost in our minds, then the applicable law should be the most favorable to the victim.

152. It might be argued that according to international law and practice the law of the country whose territory is violated is not relevant and should not be applied. But we are still firmly of the opinion that, should it be thought that it would be more favorable to the victim, the law of the country whose territory is violated is the law of the launching State. To say the law of the launching State is relevant under any other criterion would be to cast doubt on the validity of the operation. In the circumstances we may project because of damage caused by objects launched into outer space.

153. Basically, international law should apply, and effective consideration should be given to the law of the claimant. We have argued that we consider the law of the launching State relevant for the reason that, being from a developing country, we know that any reduction or compensation for damage caused in more developed countries is more advantageous than in underdeveloped countries. In any case, we were of the view that the law of the launching State could and should be invoked. We find our ideas reflected in the proposal submitted by Belgium [A/7612/Add.1, para. 8] which might offer such a compromise. We therefore went even further than that. We went one step further and the proposal submitted by the delegation of France were not to be compromise to a proportion of the membership of the Committee and perhaps the Member States of the United Nations also, could perhaps discuss the Brazilian proposal [W.4] which made an attempt to reach an agreement. But the difficulty was that they could not specifically say that the degree of claims commission should be, or would be, of a recommendatory nature therefore, that the degree of claims commission would not give the effective result we hope it would give. That is why we might ponder in our consideration of this item here and in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In addition, we would have indefinitely supported the possibility of qualifying as final the decision of the claims commission in order to help settle the dispute as quickly and as effectively as possible.

154. I come now to the third and last outstanding issue, namely the limitation of liability. The question is, should there be a ceiling or none. If we accept the criterion of the interests of the victim the problem would be solved. We are of the opinion that the fact that the launch country would be left for evaluation in the light of the damage caused, if the agreement should be reached with a ceiling set, the ceiling must be such to take into account the fall in value of substantiate damages, and the figure proposed must be a substantive, and to use a nicer word, a handsome figure. We will wait a proposition from the Committee which may offer the possibility of a compromise.

155. I might appear to be speaking somewhat at length, but I would very candidly say that as is usual in the United Nations, I give as an example the Committee we have been working on the sea-bed and ocean floor, that a country would entrust the safeguarding of our interests to those from the developing countries who represent us on such a Committee. Since we represent a developing country, we think we have a duty towards the developing countries to expose their views and explain our interests as they see them and, and also to the extent of understanding them. We do this in good faith and to the best of our ability and knowledge.

156. Two years ago we concluded the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects launched into outer space [A/2345 (XXII)] with the understanding that an agreement on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into}
outer space would be concluded in due time. I repeat that we regret that our hopes have not materialized. Members of the Committee have heard the representative of Brazil inform us that his Government has postponed signing this agreement until such time as the agreement on liability is concluded. We would urge the members of the Committee to recommend as clearly and as strongly as possible that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should conclude its work on this agreement not later than the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. If this is done, the chances for international co-operation would be enhanced and we ourselves would have taken one step further in the right direction.

157. Before I conclude, I wish to note with gratification the work accomplished by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space through its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. We have endorsed the sponsoring by the United Nations of the Mar del Plata station, and we will endorse in this Committee any resolution which gives effect to that endorsement.

158. We have noted with satisfaction the work accomplished by the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, and we think, as does the delegation of Brazil, with whom we have co-operated very closely in the Committee, that the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is helping those countries that are not space-powers, that are not even potential space-powers, to benefit to the fullest possible extent in the new world which has been opened to us through the useful exploration of outer space.

159. On behalf of my delegation I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Haymerle, the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to Mr. Souza e Silva, its Rapporteur, and to the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, Mr. Eugeniusz Wyzner of Poland, for work well done. I should also like to express on behalf of my delegation the hope that during the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly we shall conclude the consideration of the agreement on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space.

160. The CHAIRMAN: I would like to express my appreciation particularly to the representative of Lebanon for taking the floor this afternoon instead of tomorrow and thereby enabling us to utilize our time this afternoon more fully.

161. There are no more speakers on my list on either of the two items before us. No delegation is inscribed to speak at tonight’s scheduled meeting at 8.30 p.m. Therefore, bowing to the will of the Committee, I will cancel the night meeting.

162. The Committee will be glad to know that consultations have been taking place, and will continue after I adjourn this meeting, towards reaching agreement on a compromise draft resolution on strengthening international security, which would be acceptable to all concerned.

163. Consultations are also taking place with regard to the most appropriate action to be taken, taking into account the fact that we are on the eve of concluding the work of this Committee, as to the draft Treaty on the desegregation of the sea-bed and ocean floor, annex A, to the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

164. We may look forward hopefully to disposing of these two matters tomorrow. In regard to the remaining item on our agenda, namely, that relating to the peaceful uses of outer space, there are ten more speakers listed for the general debate. One draft resolution on this item has already been introduced, and I have been given to understand that another draft resolution is likely to be presented tomorrow. In order that we may complete our work by the target date we set, three meetings will be scheduled for Friday, including a night meeting. It is my hope that we will be able to achieve that target with the co-operation of all concerned, so that we will not have to meet on Saturday.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.