2. Mr. VAKIL (Iran): I am not sure whether the point I am going to raise is a point of order or a point of clarification.

3. At the 1718th meeting of the First Committee a resolution [A/C.1/1718 and Add.1] was adopted on agenda item 31 (a) and (c). Agenda item 31 (a) reads “Implementation of the results of the Conference on Non-Nuclear-Weapon States.” However, in resolution 2456 (XXIII) adopted last year by the General Assembly, which recommended the inclusion of this item on the agenda of the twenty-fourth session, there was another part concerning the question of the convening of an early meeting of the Disarmament Commission.

4. Mr. AKBAR (Pakistan): I am sure that the Secretary-General was requested to place on the provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly the question of the implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States. I assume that the part which was omitted—indiscretion, I presume or for the sake of brevity—from the wording of resolution 2456 (XXIII) will be included in the future consideration of that item.

5. Mr. JOHN (United States): Unless you will refer to the original resolution [2456 (XXIII)], which last year asked the Secretary-General to place this item on the agenda of the present session, you will see that the wording incorporates the phrase “after the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States.” However, for some reason—perhaps for the sake of brevity—it has been deleted from the wording on that point.

6. Mr. VAKIL (Iran): I would not be out of order if I were to point out that the General Assembly has decided to consider at its next session the convening of a meeting of the Disarmament Commission.

7. Mr. AKBAR (Pakistan): As the Chair, I would like to suggest that we, or at least the representatives of the countries concerned, re-examine the question of the convening of an early meeting of the Disarmament Commission.

8. Mr. AKBAR (Pakistan): The Chair: As the Chair of the First Committee, a similar question was raised by the representative of Iran. I noted that it was discussed by the Chair. I would not rule on this point, but I would be the representative of any delegation to interpret the situation.

9. Mr. JOHN (United States): As the representative of Italy has raised substantially the same point again today, I would like to add that it is important to consider, during the next session, the convening of a meeting of the Disarmament Commission.
was adopted by the General Assembly at its last session. In paragraph 7, the resolution states:

"Further requests the Secretary-General to place on the provisional agenda of the General Assembly the question of the implementation, taking into account the reports of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament and the International Atomic Energy Agency, of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, including:

(a) the question of convening early in 1970 a meeting of the United Nations Disarmament Commission to consider disarmament and the related question of the security of nations;

(b) the question of further international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with particular regard to the special needs and interests of developing countries."

10. At this session, when the First Committee considered agenda item 31, part (a) on which was "Implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States", this Committee had before it a relevant draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.497 and Add.1, which was adopted on 10 December 1969 by a vote of 87 in favour, none against, and 11 abstentions.

Paragraph 9 of that draft resolution reads as follows:

"Further requests the Secretary-General to place on the provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly the question of the implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States."

That paragraph is couched in general terms; it omits any particularization; it does not refer to what was put as clauses (a) and (b) of paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2456 A (XXIII).

12. Regarding the question put by the representative of Iran whether that includes consideration by the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Assembly of the convening of the Disarmament Commission in early 1971. That is a matter now before the Committee, and I should like to have the Legal Counsel to be present in order to give his opinion on the interpretation. It is a matter entirely for the Committee to decide but, considering the interest of the hour, I should like to ask the Committee to decide whether the general wording of paragraph 9 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.497 and Add.1, which has already been adopted should not also include the consideration by the General Assembly next year of the question of convening a session of the Disarmament Commission early in 1971.

15. Mr. VAKIL (Iran): That draft resolution [A/C.1/L.497 and Add.1] was submitted under agenda item 31 (a), "Implementation of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States". It should have included the part that was kind enough to quote from last year's resolution [resolution 2456 A (XXIII)]. I do not think that the statement of your remarks on that under agenda item 31 (a) and the Secretariat did not deem it necessary to include that part in the agenda this year, it is, I think, automatically included in the wording of the present draft resolution.

16. I am not reopening any question. Those who submitted that draft resolution did so under agenda item 31 (a), and by the wording of the agenda item agenda item 31 (a) that which you read out, Mr. Chairman.

17. The question is not whether to add something to the present draft resolution; it is to ensure that, since those words did not appear in the agenda item this year, it is nevertheless understood that the question was before the Committee, and, although you have not said so, Mr. Chairman, that the question will be before the twenty-fifth session. There is no question of "reopening", "re-examining", or anything of that kind. The agenda item under which that draft resolution was submitted is agenda item 31 (a).

18. The CHAIRMAN: I should like to remind the Committee that the statements I made in answer to the questions put to me by the representative of Iran at the 171st meeting were in my capacity as Chairman of this Committee and do not represent any Government statements.

19. If the representative of Iran has raised a question of legal interpretation, it is not the task of the Chairman or of the Chairman to profress such an explanation. But I suggest that, at this last moment and in order that we may conclude our business today, we agree that as much as it is within the competence of any delegation to put to the agenda of the next session of the General Assembly the question of convening the Disarmament Commission in early 1971 that it is open to a member of the Disarmament Committee to request such a meeting—which can be adopted by a majority—in order to cut this procedural discussion short, I take it that we can conclude that paragraph 9 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.497 and Add.1, which was adopted on 10 December, is sufficiently wide in scope to embrace the interpretation given by the representative of Iran.

20. I hope that the Committee can agree to that proposition, so that we can adjourn at this very late stage, on consideration of the other items of the agenda. It is essentially a procedural point and I sincerely feel that there is no need to expend the time of our Committee debating this matter.

21. Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (translated from Russian): I believe that the agenda item which we have decided to postpone until the next session in connection with the proposals of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States can be interpreted differently.

22. The CHAIRMAN: I was trying to be helpful and make a suggestion to the Committee in order to carry its deliberations to a conclusion. But, if representatives insist on different interpretations, I shall have no option but to request an opinion from the Legal Counsel.

23. Mr. ROSCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): Mr. Chairman, I fully agree with the statement made by Mr. Vakil and feel that your statement was completely accurate and fully covered the situation with which we have been faced. It will provide us with a perfectly accurate guide when the General Assembly meets next seat.

25. Mr. SEN (India): Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to take up the Committee's time, but at one stage it did seem to me that you were ready to put your interpretation of the letter proposed to the vote. I think that we have now moved away from that and that you are suggesting that the instant delegation, like any other delegation, can bring this matter up at the next session of the General Assembly if it so wishes.

26. If that is so, a set of circumstances arises. I should like to know exactly what your final ruling is.

27. The CHAIRMAN: I think the representative of India is clearly to the fact that it was not my intention to close the proposition that I had formulated to a vote. I have already quoted that part of the letter in question adopted on 10 December, contained in document A/C.1/L.497 and Add.1, it is a general formulation which includes the specific matters specified in paragraph 7 of resolution 2456 (XXIII) A and B and it will be for the Committee to consider the question of convening the Disarmament Committee in early 1971, if it so wishes. If it is acceptable to the representative of India to that proposition that we may proceed to the next item.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 28

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/7621 and Add.1, A/C.1/590 (contd.))

28. Mr. VAKIL (Iran): There has been much scientific and technological progress in recent years in the peaceful uses of outer space since the Assembly last discussed it. The world has had a number of successful launches by the United States, the Soviet Union, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, and China. It is a matter of concern to many countries that space activities are not being so far as possible subject to effective international control.

29. There has also been much progress in orbiting nuclear power stations for peaceful purposes. At the time of the last report to the General Assembly in 1969, the nuclear power stations in orbit were the USA 201, USA 202, and US 301. Since then, the USSR has placed several more nuclear power stations in orbit, and has also launched several more non-nuclear power stations. The United States has also launched several non-nuclear power stations. The United States has also launched several non-nuclear power stations. The United States has also launched several non-nuclear power stations.

30. Within our own Organization, there is progress in the field of scientific and technical co-operation for co-operation in this field. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on outer space has, through its working group, made progress of problems of direct broadcasting via satellite. A bulletin is circulated by the Secretaries of States and Canada for their initiatives, and to the Working Group for its two enlightening and helpful reports [A/7621/Add.1, annex III and IV].

31. I need not dwell on that part of the first report of the Working Group which relates to the technical and economic feasibility of future direct broadcasts via satellite. The Working Group's observations on a system of community satellites meets special notice, however. Such a system, which could come into being in the not too distant future, offers interesting prospects, especially to those developing countries which may be in the infrastructure of telecommunications by land. A community satellite system would make it possible to link isolated communities, with especially valuable results in the education and training of teachers, as well as in matters of health and agriculture. Most important is its promise of having a new dimension in respect of cultural diversity. The experiments along this line envisaged in India and Brazil should have our particular attention.

32. In view of the contribution already made by the Working Group, my delegation is eager to press that it should be prolonged so that it may assist the work on outer space in examining other questions which the General Assembly decides to study.

33. For the last three years, my delegation has been studying the view that the United Nations must be enabled to keep pace with the scientific and technological advances in order to make its benefits available more widely. To that end, we have more than once suggested that by strengthening the Secretariat's Outer Space Affairs Division. We believe it to be important to increase Secretariat expertise so that reports for assistance may be co-ordinated and informative on the application of space techniques may be better channelled.

34. Two questions need further study: first, how to co-ordinate the activities of the specialized agencies with respect to outer space and, secondly, whether it would be useful to have the General Assembly establish an inter-governmental organization to deal with outer space matters.

35. I turn now to the unresolved problem outlined in the report of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on outer space [A/7621, annex III].
36. The stately urgent task of drafting a convention on liability for damage by the launching of objects into outer space still eludes the efforts of the Sub-Committee, despite the earnest and businesslike approach of all delegations to which the report refers.

37. The concluding statement by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/4721 [Add.2, p. 13]) to whom I pay a tribute here, sets out the four issues on which negotiations remain outstanding. Looking deeper into them it is evident that basically there is really only one problem, how to avoid a cleavage between States with major space capabilities and those without them. From the beginning of the discussions we have taken the position that it was essential to strike a proper balance between the interests and responsibilities of these two groups of States so that the balance were implicit in the two conventions which the Sub-Committee was charged to draft. It is in no self-serving sense that I affirm that the failure to strike the necessary balance has not been caused by unreasonable or excessive demands of the States without space capabilities. Their real recognition of the interests of the space Powers and acceptance of the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 2245 (XXII)]), which serve these interests predominantly needs no demonstration.

38. This sequience was given in the faith that the space Powers, too, would approach the question of satisfying the claims of the rest of us in the same spirit of fine-minded rivalry of which we have had occasion to speak in the discussions. We wish to be protected against the hazards of the space experiments and enterprises which multiply on every hand and to be made sure that the innocent suffer no harm. The Convention on liability is the quint pro quo owing to us for the Convention on rescue and return. These modern expectations have been disappointed.

39. The simple issue of liability for damage to the innocent is joined with andlorious measure of responsibility to others, a liability which can only be absolute, has become entangled in a web of political, legal and economic issues, and likely to be in consequence of that principle of liability. The objectives are compatible neither with the requirements of international justice to the victims of the technological exploits of others nor with the rule of international law guaranteeing reparation for damage.

40. I shall review rapidly our position on the four questions in dispute. First, on the question of how disputes over claims are to be settled, we are in agreement on the partial agreement on procedures that appear to be in sight. We continue to believe, however, that a convention on liability cannot be satisfied with the present form of effective machinery of compulsory settlement. Remedies must be prompt, precise and certain if friction between disputants is not to lead to a kind of arbitration that is a hindrance to the development of the technological exploitation of outer space.

41. The second point on which I have expressed a desire to open a discussion is to find an equitable solution to the question of compensation for damage caused by a space object to the environment of the object from which it was launched. The Sub-Committee has apparently found itself at a deadlock and I am bound to uphold the ceaseless battle against this problem, a battle against a battle, a battle committed to the furtherance of the development of outer space technology and science.

42. The third issue is the most difficult and the one that has been in dispute the longest. It is the question of where the damage occurred. It is clear that the legal principles governing the questions of jurisdiction and liability are the same and that the same principles should be applied in both cases. Even the limited principle of the non-existence of an international status of outer space. The question is whether the space Powers should be held liable for all damage to objects in outer space or only for the damage caused by objects launched from their territories. The position of the United States is that it should be held liable for damage caused by objects launched from its territory.

43. The fourth issue is the determination of the object responsible for damage to space objects. The United States takes the position that no object is responsible for the damage caused by a space object. The position of the United States is that the United Nations should be responsible for the damage caused by objects launched from its territories. The position of the United States is that the United Nations should be responsible for the damage caused by objects launched from its territories.

44. In this connection, it may be of interest to note that the United States has decided to establish a special committee to study the question of liability for damage to space objects.

45. The United States has also decided to establish a special committee to study the question of liability for damage to space objects.

46. In this connection, it may be of interest to note that the United States has decided to establish a special committee to study the question of liability for damage to space objects.

47. Having started with this pleasant duty, allow me to express to the Executive Committee's órgans in general and to the Section on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (resolution 2245 (XXXI)) the hope that the draft convention will be adopted in the General Assembly and that it will be signed by the United Nations and the United States.

48. It is clear that the draft convention will be adopted in the General Assembly and that it will be signed by the United Nations and the United States.

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87. The draft convention will be adopted in the General Assembly and that it will be signed by the United Nations and the United States.
62. The Legal Sub-Committee considered a French proposal on registration of objects launched into space for the purpose of exploration. The proposal was discussed and rejected by the Committee, as indicated in the report on the 1st session of the Committee.

63. In conclusion, my delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the outstanding leadership of the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Mr. Hayhoe of Australia.

64. My delegation also wishes to express thanks to the Secretariat for the very useful documentation made available to us.

65. The CHAIRMAN: There are no other speakers on my list in the general debate on the item "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space".

66. It was my intention to give the floor to the sponsor of the draft resolutions on outer space to present their draft resolutions to the Committee. It appears that certain delegations require a little more time to consider the text of these draft resolutions, and, therefore, if there is no agreement, a motion for suspension of consideration of item 28 and resumption consideration of item 10 may be put to the Committee.

72. Having said this, I would respectfully ask the sponsors of the amendments, taking into account the context in which this draft resolution is presented, not to press their amendments to the vote.

73. My delegation spoke on the one hand on behalf of certain Latin American countries, and on the other hand represented the interests of countries that are not members of the Committee.

74. Mr. JAKOBSSON (Finland): I am happy to endorse what has been said so far. I should like to introduce the new draft resolution on the question of the strengthening of international security, now sponsored by several Latin American countries, in particular the delegations of Austria and Finland. The draft resolution will not give wide consultations not only between the sponsors of the two original draft resolutions, but also with other groups of delegations, and I believe it represents a broad consensus of views within the Committee.

75. The purpose of this draft is simple; it is to provide governments with the opportunity of considering the amendments and positions made during the extensive and constructive debate we have had on this question with a view to preparing the ground for consideration, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, of appropriate recommendations on the strengthening of international security.

76. In view of the character of the draft resolution, the sponsors have decided not to incorporate in it any statements of the principles on which international security must rest. Some of these principles are self-evident, such as the principle that the acquisition of territory by force is unacceptable to the Charter, a principle stated in the amendments submitted by the delegations of Kuwait, Morocco and Tunisia. A/C.1/507 and L.507.

77. It is a principle of universal validity, and by tabling the amendments the three sponsoring delegations have made it clear that they will not be bound by this principle. In accordance with our draft resolution, it is an essential element of any lasting and just structure of international relations. I believe that we should join with Mr. Jackman has already said, that all the sponsors will recognize the procedural character of our draft resolution and not consider it necessary to press their amendments to a vote. In fact, I am confident that the draft resolution commands general support in the Committee and it would be adopted without any objection.

78. Mr. VINCI (Italy): I should like first of all to congratulate the Committee on the discussion which was presented yesterday for their success in introducing this important resolution which is now contained in document A/C.1/511. We will support and vote in favour of this draft resolution despite the fact that here and there we would have liked a different wording.

79. For their part, the delegations of Kuwait, Morocco and Tunisia have introduced amendments which I should like to say, with all candor, would change the nature of the draft resolution which I believe, as the representative of Finland has said, commands general support.

80. We certainly have no quarrel with these amendments, and we endorse the views expressed by Mr. Jakobsson, and Mr. Jackman before him, that these are principles which we fully share. Nevertheless, I repeat that these amendments, if adopted into the draft resolution would change the nature of the former and would be in the view of us and would in some way diminish the unity of front that we think we should all take on this question which concerns all countries.
We believe that failure to work together on this issue will leave us with a greater responsibility and burden. It is for the good of everyone.

I would add one more thing. Besides the nature of the draft resolution, putting these amendments to the vote would offer an opening to some who might be interested in extended and interpreted in a way that other delegations, which take a certain position, would not like. We would like to keep this draft resolution in its correct and exact form, so I expect we would be doing a great service to our work at this moment if we keep the simplicity and united front.

Therefore, I would associate myself with the appeal made by the representatives of Barbados and Finland, on behalf of the African and Latin American delegations, to keep this draft resolution as procedural as possible. They should realize that if they do not press their amendments to the vote, they will not only be the principal which is now, in the view of some delegations, vital to international relations and peace and security among nations. I reiterate that the appeal to the representatives of Kuwait, Morocco and Tunisia by the understanding and interpretation of our position on the basis of the text.

Mr. DEJADJET (France) (translated from French): While the French delegation understands the principles motivating the sponsors of the amendment, it associates itself with the appeal made to them for reasons explained by previous speakers.

Mr. MAURUTA (Peru) (translated from Spanish): The Peruvian delegation wishes to state that, in its view, there are certain serious considerations that should be taken into account for the common good. In this regard, I should like to inform the delegation from the United States that they have not been as great as they were in the previous meeting.

We are convinced that the present text or any other text adopted by the Security Council, in a respect that it is important to the Security Council and to the progress of the work, is the only one we could accept. In any discussion on a draft resolution on the subject, these delegations would like to see that the amendment is taken into account for the common good. In this regard, I should like to inform the delegation from the United States that the present text is an improvement in this respect, but that the amendment is not as clear as it was in the previous meeting.

Mr. KHANDACHET (Kuwait) (translated from French): My delegation has listened with interest to the preceding speakers and wishes to commend both to the Security Council and to the delegation of Morocco and Tunisia, who have kindly considered the amendments and who have submitted a report to the present meeting. We hope that the Security Council will continue to consider the amendments in the same spirit, and in order to ensure that the amendment is not as clear as it was in the previous meeting.

As I said yesterday, my delegation wishes to cooperate with the authors of the two draft resolutions.
question of receiving communications from member Governments, the Secretary-General—especially with regard
to this important question—is requested to comment on it. If
that comment is favorable, it would be an improvement of
the draft resolution and it would give
the Secretary-General the responsibilities needed.

106. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Iraq.
With reference to his formal proposal, to add to operative
paragraph 5 the words "with his comments" between the words "the report" and "we report to the Assembly", it
seems to me, if I may be permitted to say so, that the
Secretary-General has wide latitude and discretion to offer
such comments as he considers appropriate and within
the terms of his competence as Secretary-General, taking into
account the fact that the views that have been transmitted
to him are the views of sovereign Governments. Therefore,
I would think that the suggestion made by the representative
of Iraq could be well taken into account by the Secretary-
General at his discretion. I wonder whether, at this late
hour, considering the consultations that have taken place
and the difficulties that have been surmounted in evolving
a text which would be adopted unanimously—or with near
unanimity—perhaps the representative of Iraq may be
satisfied with this explanation and not formally press his
proposal.

107. Mr. KHALAF (Iraq): Mr. Chairman, as much as I
should respect your kind comments for a quick
conclusion to our deliberations here, and as much as I
know that there have been consultations concerning these two
draft resolutions, I would like to say that the Iraqi
delegation would like to state clearly that we are not
requesting the Secretary-General to comment on the
communications that were transmitted to him. In this
draft resolution A/AC.75/511 there is mention of the state of affairs
of international security in the world today. There is mention
of being "deeply concerned" about the continuance of the arms
race, which diverts substantial human and material re-
sources from the urgent social and economic needs of the
poorest majority of mankind.

108. There are all sorts of questions on which the
Secretary-General has already commented in his previous
drafts and reports and it would not be out of place if we specifically
requested the Secretary-General to comment on those
things. If you recall, in the previous paragraphs, in every one of them
there is latitude and scope for the Secretary-General to
comment. I am not suggesting that the Secretary-General
comment on responses from governments.

109. Mr. Chairman, you say that it is taken for granted
that the Secretary-General will always comment on it there and then.
There is no limit, whatsoever, to say "with his comments" and we are
not adding a very difficult, complicated or detailed amend-
ment. It is very clear, straightforwardly; what we are
asking is the Secretary-General to comment specifically and in
writing, to do what you and we all think is that he is going
to say. I do not think that this amendment, which goes practically without saying, is going to delay the
Committee's work. If the intention is that this was some
kind of a transaction that was made outside this Committee
should be adhered to, then any delegation has different
views on that.

110. Mr. JACKMAN (Barbados): I am under great diffi-
culty as Chairman of the Latin American Group as a
group, almost without exception, forms part of the
member countries of the region. The proposal which has been made
by the representative of Iraq, as I read it, it also says
"requests the Secretary-General to report..." on the
number of cosponsors. The only way that he can do that is
to make whatever comments he may see necessary. I appeal
to the representative of Iraq to look at it in that light.

111. Mr. KHALAF (Iraq): I respect those appeals and
would like to accept them and follow them. One of my
colleagues referred to the question of compromise. I
believe compromise in both ways—it is a two-way street. Why
do they want us to compromise? Why do they themselves
not want to compromise?

112. Another question was the one of consultation. My
delegation, to be very frank, put forward some ideas
yesterday and—perhaps because we were absent from this
building—no one consulted us about those three or four
debat. Neither compromise nor consultation plays a very
large part in this question.

113. Another question is that of the Secretary-General not
being invited to the draft. But I can bring you scores of resolutions in
which the Secretary-General—when it was a matter of communications to him—was specifically told
that he was to report. I am sorry to delay the proceedings of this
Committee, but it was not our fault that this question was held in
abeyance for a period of weeks. It was not our fault that
the draft resolutions were presented to us only yesterday of
the day before. As the question is most important to us,
and I think it would be only fair to the Secretary-General
specifically requested to make his comments and report
them, I cannot see anything wrong with it. Some speakers
have said that that is taken for granted; the Secretary-
General is going to do it. We might as well ask him; What is
wrong with asking him? Does the Secretary-General not want to
be asked? That would change the picture. If I know from
the Secretariat that the Secretary-General does not want to
be asked, then my delegation would abide by the
wishes of the delegates of the Secretariat. But I believe the
Secretary-General would not say that.

114. I repeat—consultation is a two-way street—consultation
in a two-way street; and interpretation is also a
two-way street.

115. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Ceylon): I will not appeal
to the representative of Iraq to show a spirit of compromise as
I know he has already shown that spirit. I entirely agree
with all that he has said. I merely wish to refer to the text
of paragraph 5 of the draft resolution. It is quite clear from
that text that the Secretary-General is being asked merely
to report to the General Assembly the communica-
tions which he receives. He has been asked to report
concerning the communications. What does that word
"concerning" mean? Clearly, he has so many tasks to
mention on them. If that is the clear interpretation and understanding of that
word "concerning"—and I do not believe that anyone can
agree with that interpretation—then we need not proceed
with this discussion any further.

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Mr. KHALAF (Iraq): I am very sorry. I will maintain my amendment but put it to the vote.

123. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon): Usually when the Com-
mittee or the General Assembly does not agree with the
Secretary-General to report, it asks him to transmit. I am
sure the cosponsors, intentionally using the word "report", did not want the amendment merely to pass by
post-office. I add this explanation so that perhaps
the representative of Iraq will accept that explanation.

124. The CHAIRMAN: Is the Committee ready now to
report the adoption of the draft resolution in document
A/C.1/511?

125. Mr. KHALAF (Iraq): Mr. Chairman, I wish you to
put the amendment to the vote first.

126. The CHAIRMAN: The representative of Iraq has
proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 5 of
document A/C.1/511.

127. Mr. KHANACHEF (Kuwait) (translated from French): I
apologize for speaking at this stage of the debate. I believe that in considering this agenda item, the
Committee has been concerned with reaching a consensus and
arrived at a unanimous vote. As that is the general view, I would venture to propose that the meeting should
be suspended for a few minutes in order to enable the
author of the amendment and the co-sponsors of the draft
resolution to reach agreement, and in order not to prevent
resumption of agenda item 28 so that I might give
the floor to those delegations which wish to present draft
resolutions.

128. Mr. ANTOINE (Haiti) (translated from French): I
have listened attentively to the various comments on
the draft resolution sponsored by the Latin American group and
different European countries.

129. As several speakers have remarked, draft resolution
A/C.1/511 formally stated that the Secretary-General
was required to present a report. Before he can do so, he must
be informed of the views of the heads of State of the
entire world on the importance of strengthening international
security, and I see no reason for granting the Iraqi
representative's request for a consultation which would be
useless, particularly as the Security Council, by a query
powers, has already taken a decision which is not open
to discussion. I see no reason to suspend the meeting for a
consultation, in view of the vast amount of text that has already
been attained on draft resolution A/C.1/511. In this
view, I wish to congratulate all the delegations which have
already made an enormous effort to reconcile all the
opinions on the problem of international security which the world
faces today.

130. I feel that there is no need to suspend the meeting
for a consultation which I, convinced, would not
increase by one iota the unanimity now prevailing on draft resolution A/C.1/L.511.

133. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Haiti. I appreciate what he has said. However, I believe that the transition now to item 28 would enable the delegations concerned to have a little time to consult together in order to reach an agreement on the manner in which the Committee should adopt draft resolution A/C.1/L.511. I would therefore again respectfully suggest to the Committee that we resume consideration of agenda item 28 so that delegations concerned may consult together on agenda item 103.

134. Mr. Abu SINV (Sudan): One would have liked to have heard the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.511, replying to the proposed amendment of the representative of Pakistan. How was it pointed out by the representative of Liberia—that operative paragraph 5 means exactly what the representative of Iraq would have liked to see. Unfortunately, it seems to me that the interpretation has not come from all sides but from the sponsors of the draft resolution.

135. I would like to express my agreement with what the representative of Lebanon, and the representative of Cyprus, has said about his understanding of the word “concerning” in regard to the communications. Now I venture to suggest that if one of the sponsors of the draft resolution would let us know precisely what they mean, that they would like the Secretary-General to report and comment on the communications that he has received from the Federal Republic of Germany, this might prove satisfactory to the representative of Iraq.

136. The CHAIRMAN: It was facilitated by the very suggestion made by the representative of Sudan that the Chair proposed that we turn to consideration of agenda item 103. As we have seen, there is more than one sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/L.511 and they will need to consult among themselves, and it would make for much saving of time if we would now turn to the consideration of agenda item 28 and if the sponsors of the draft resolution, together with the representative of Iraq and other interested delegations, could consult regarding their ability to reach an agreement. Therefore, if the Committee has no objection, I shall take it that it decides to turn to consideration of agenda item 28, the question of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 28

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/7621 and Add.1, A/C.1/L.500) (continued)

137. Mr. HAYERMESL (Austria) (on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolian People’s Republic, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, United Arab Repubvic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America): In the course of the promotion of the Committee draft resolution A/C.1/L.510 on the item: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

138. The report to which this draft resolution refers was circulated. Consideration of separate documents, A/7621 and A/7621/Add.1, due to the fact that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which met in September resumed its work in November this year. The text of this draft resolution is the result of informal consultations in which, according to a well-established tradition, all the members of the outer space Committee were invited to participate.

139. Before explaining briefly the content and purposes of the draft resolution, I wish to recall that the consultations were conducted in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and co-operation. Although differences of opinion existed, it was possible to reconcile the various, and sometimes divergent, approaches to the subject. I should like to pay a tribute to the determination of all delegations which participated in the consultations to reach agreement on a generally acceptable text.

140. The draft resolution before us comprises two sections; the first section deals with the recommendations of the Committee, and so follows, with the exception that the question of the preparation of a draft convention on liability for damage caused by objects launched into outer space, which had earlier been brought before the Committee, re-enters the agenda of the Committee. As I have already said, in the opinion of the sponsors, the division of the draft resolution into two parts seemed warranted in view of the various urgent requests by the General Assembly to the Committee to complete its work on the liability convention, and in the belief that the special efforts which were made in the outer space Committee during the last months to achieve this goal.

141. May I now turn to the first section of the draft resolution before us. Paragraph 1 of the operative part would endorse in general the recommendations and decisions contained in the Committee’s report. These decisions would include a request to the Secretary-General to prepare two background papers as indicated in paragraph 22 of the Committee’s report. In the following paragraphs, the resolution deals with subjects of legal substance. It would request the Committee to continue its study of problems, such as the status of the outer space station in Argentina, in accordance with resolution 1802 (XVII) of 1962, as well as continued sponsorship of the thumb of Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India. It would also declare that the Committee recommended that “Member States should give consideration to the use of these facilities for appropriate space research activities.”

142. In the last operative paragraphs of the first section, the draft resolution would address different requests to specialized agencies, the IAEA and the United International Bureau for the Protection of Intellectual Property, and would finally request the outer space Committee and continue its work and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

143. The second section, as I mentioned before, the draft resolution deals with the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the preparation of a draft convention on liability. The problems involved, and the difficulties encountered, were the subject of most of the statements made during the course of the consideration of the present item. In my capacity as Chairman of the outer space Committee, I had the possibility two or three days ago of giving to the First Committee a detailed account of the efforts made by all members of the outer space Committee during the last months in order to fulfill the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

144. The second section of the draft resolution would reflect the present state of affairs in the preparation of that convention. It would express the regret of the General Assembly that the Committee has not been able to complete the task assigned to it by the General Assembly during the past six years. It would take note of the efforts made, and of the results achieved while, at the same time, express its deep dissatisfaction with the fact that its efforts have not been successful. It would urge the Committee to complete the draft in time for final consideration by the twenty-fifth General Assembly, and would emphasize finally that the convention is intended to establish international rules and procedures concerning liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space, and to ensure, in particular, effective and equitable compensation for such damage.

145. I trust that this draft resolution, which I have briefly introduced, will be acceptable to the members of the Committee, and that it will be adopted unanimously.

146. Before concluding, may I be permitted to add one word in my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In the course of the debate on the item under consideration, remarks have been made by several representatives referring to the activity of the Chair, and my colleagues of the Bureau of the outer space Committee. I wish to assure them that the Chair and my colleagues and myself to thank all those delegations for their kind words. The Bureau’s task was greatly facilitated if not made possible, by the constructive and co-operation of all the delegations, members of the outer space Committee, to which I should like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation.

147. Mr. DELEAU (France) (transmitted from French): My delegation is among the sponsors of the draft resolution just introduced by the Austrian representative, Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which is largely responsible for this text before us.

148. As a sponsor, I would recommend this text to the First Committee for approval. I would also draw attention to three points in the draft resolution to which my delegation attaches particular importance.

149. The first point relates to operative paragraph 3 of part B, paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, which has not yet become parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including, in particular, the non-belligerency rule, and the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those
154. My delegation has also given some thought to operative paragraph 4 of the same part of the draft resolution. That paragraph reaffirms the principles of resolution 1721 D (XVI) to the effect that communications by the committee should be available to the nations of the world on a global and non-discriminatory basis, and that States parties to the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space treaty should bear this principle in mind. My delegation would have wished this paragraph to contain a reminder of the obligations of Governments with regard to all space activities, especially those of the United Nations and its organs, and to the general principles of the Treaty on Outer Space. My delegation is very well aware of the fact that the United Nations does not have direct control over the activities of spacefaring States, and that it is always a great difficulty to draw up any international agreements that do not fall into the hands of the United Nations or into the control of the United Nations, but that the United Nations should not be excluded from this control, and that the United Nations should not be excluded from the control of the United Nations, and that it is always a great difficulty to draw up any international agreements that do not fall into the hands of the United Nations or into the control of the United Nations, but that the United Nations should not be excluded from this control, and that the United Nations should not be excluded from the control of the United Nations, but that the United Nations should not be excluded from this control, and that the United Nations should not be excluded from the control of the United Nations, but that the United 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184. Mr. JAKORSON (Finland): During the period that you had these negotiations on this issue of draft resolution had time to consult among themselves and also with the representative of Iraq. I should like to say first that I very much admire and respect the efforts of the Committee to consult the representative of Iraq. This failure is all the more regrettable since he made in his statement certain specific suggestions on which an agreement on the final text of draft resolution. He has therefore every right to put before the Committee at this stage any suggestions and amendments he may wish to make.

185. However, on the substance of his suggestion, I should like to say on behalf of the sponsors that the right of the Secretary-General to make any comments on any subject before the United Nations bodies is a self-evident right. He has used it repeatedly in communicating his views to delegations. He has, in fact, used in practice a variety of methods of making known his views on many subjects. In operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution the right of the Secretary-General to make any comments that he may wish to make is in fact and therefore the point made by the representative of Iraq is already inherent in the text. With this statement on behalf of the sponsors, I venture to express the hope that the representative of Iraq will not press his amendment to a vote and that we may proceed to adopt the text as it stands.

186. Mr. JACKSON (Barbados): I merely wish to endorse what has been said by the representative of Finland and to say that we have profited from the delay and have been able, therefore, to bring all the sponsors of the draft resolution. We have arrived at a consensus among the sponsors that the phrase in operative paragraph 5 of this draft resolution relating to the General Assembly at the twenty-fifth session concerning the communications has received is in their understanding perfectly capable of being interpreted, and that, I believe, that the rights of the Secretary-General may such comments as he deems appropriate within the ambit of the authority conferred on him by the Charter. We have also had the opportunity of discussion in some detail with the representative of Iraq, and I must add on behalf of the Latin American group our own regret that this delay did not give us the opportunity to consult with every person and delegation which had made suggestions of one kind or another as far as we are concerned. I think that the delegation of Iraq is owed a serious and sincere apology. I hope, with this explanation on behalf of the representatives of Finland and on my own part, that we will be in a position to represent the interests of Iraq that he does not press his amendment to a vote and that this resolution will be received by the First Committee with acclamation.

187. Mr. KHALAF (Iraq): I am most appreciative of the consideration shown to me by the sponsors and many other delegations concerning this important question. I am also very much pleased to note that the second phase of the draft resolution was not made any more difficult. I think I would not be one of those who would ignore those very forceful and indeed friendly appeals towards me. Therefore, I withdraw my amendment on the understanding that this the last paragraph of the draft resolution before us and also on the understanding that the opinion of the delegate be shown and reflected in the report of the Committee.

188. The CHAIRMAN: I assure the representative of Iraq that his statements will be fully reflected in the verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

189. I now invite the Committee to adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.511.

190. The CHAIRMAN: I take it that the sponsors of the other draft resolutions and amendments to the strengthening of international security and also for keeping this item before the United Nations and resuming a discussion of it at the sixtieth session of the General Assembly. As everyone knows, in the course of those consultations my delegation, for its part, did not press for an unqualified adoption of its draft appeal to all States of the world on the strengthening of international security, contained in document A/C.1/L.468.

191. Faithful to this attitude, my delegation did not insist today that the draft appeal should be put to the vote. It has consulted with other delegations and has given due attention and consideration to their opinions, proposals and arguments. In this connexion, the USSR delegation wishes to express its special appreciation to the Indian delegation and personally to Mr. Sengupta, for their statement in support of our position and to the delegation of Finland and personally to Mr. Jakoskin, its valuable repentant proposal. I wish to thank Mr. Jackson, Chairman of the Latin American Group and personally to Mr. Stambolov, as well as to many other delegations and particularly to the representatives of Finland and on my own part, that we will be in a position to represent the interests of Iraq that he does not press his amendment to a vote and that this resolution will be received by the First Committee with acclamation.

192. Mr. MENDLEVEICH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): The statement I am about to make will be made on behalf and on the responsibility of the USSR delegate, Yablonskii Aleksandrivich Malik, head of the USSR delegation to the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, who is unfortunately unable at the moment to be present in person.

193. During the broad discussion on the strengthening of international security which took place in this Committee, my delegation had an opportunity to express in great detail the USSR position on this highly important international problem. It also explained all the aspects of the USSR proposal that had been commented on by various delegations.

194. At this closing stage of the Committee's consideration of that proposal, the USSR delegation would once again note with satisfaction that the initiative taken by the Soviet Union in placing the question of the strengthening of international security before the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly has been widely received and supported by a great many States Members of the United Nations. As is generally recognised, the discussion of this question has been fruitful. The importance and urgency of the problem were noted by virtually all delegations, while those who tried to minimise its importance or to pass it over in silence received no support.

195. As my delegation stated earlier, the USSR took this initiative with renewed force to strengthen international security not in order to engage in polemics of controversy. Its initiative was high-minded and constructive. The purpose was to transmit our views and proposals on the strengthening of international security. All States will thus have this important problem drawn to their attention and will be in a position to study the first session of the General Assembly to prepare themselves for a resumed discussion of this question, so that the Assembly can adopt an appropriate resolution with the participation of all States. In sum, the draft resolution just adopted by the First Committee lays the groundwork for a further and more specific discussion of the question of international security.

196. My delegation was accordingly able to support this draft resolution. Such are the comments it would like to make in explaining its vote, now that the discussion of the question of strengthening international security, raised by the Soviet Union, has been ended and the First Committee has adopted a resolution on the matter.

197. At the present stage of our deliberations, I should like to express my opinion that the General Assembly could most appropriately have taken on this question.

198. At the conclusion of the general debate on this subject two things were noticeable. First, there was general recognition that the subject was of great importance and significance in the context of present international affairs, and, secondly, most delegations were concerned with finding a most satisfactory way of disposing of this item at the current session. This was the reason why several delegations took the opportunity to formulate appeals and proposals in an attempt to engage a wide discussion, declaration or resolution on the question of international security. We proceeded on the assumption that for our consideration was as serious as it was urgent, and that it should have been possible to work out a substantive document outlining concrete measures and principles for the strict implementation of which would substantially strengthen the state of international security. Our consultations were based on the proposition that this general approach which was expressed in the constructive and extensive general debate on this item.

200. It is true that the time at our disposal for the possible formulation of a document which objectively gave expression to the general considerations of the majority of Member States was perhaps less than might have been desirable for such a complex and demanding exercise.

201. However, a sufficiently wide degree of support—sufficiently wide for our delegation's point of view—for some form of modest but clear step forward was forthcoming. This cannot be attributed so much to the shortage of time but much more to the absence of the necessary political will to act in concert through a process of mutual understanding and accommodation.

207. Yesterday, the Committee had before it two draft resolutions (A/C.1/L.510 and A/C.1/L.506) and this afternoon one document (A/C.1/L.506). In each of these documents we voted on the principle, and at the present time the present resolution is at the stage of the second reading. It is not a question of an absolute majority, nor of a qualified majority. It is a question of the principle, as was the case with the previous resolution.
resolution just adopted not only indicates a disappointing minimum by way of action, in the light of the detailed and significant waterbides debate but also the presence of many conflicting political tendencies within the Organization, which are perhaps inevitable in the present state of international opinion. The manner in which that emerges as a result cannot augur too well for the future of this Organization on the eve of its twenty-fifth anniversary.

208. From what I have stated, it should be clear that the draft resolution just adopted fell far short of our expectations. But we approach the imminent stage of consideration of this question in the most constructive manner possible and supported the draft resolution in the hope that its adoption is calculated to widen the area of agreement and would leave the doors open to bring in many elements for proper strengthening of international security which were not mentioned in the text before. If quite of these hesitations and reservations we voted for the draft resolution it is in the high expectation that its adoption would pave the way for the most serious and non-controversial consideration of this important question next year. It is possible that by then some of the clouds that darken the international political horizon will have dispersed and a better spirit of co-operation, free of fear and cant, will prevail.

209. In conclusion, I should like to thank the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the kind words he has spoken about our delegation and about me personally.

AGENDA ITEM 28
International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/7621 and Add.1, A/C.1/L.509) [adressed]

210. The CHAIRMAN: I should like to ask the co-sponsors of this draft resolution A/C.1/L.509 whether they have been able to reach agreement with the Indian delegation in regard to the amendment suggested by the representative of India.

211. Mrs. BLACK (United States of America): We have consulted with our co-sponsors and we are prepared to respond to the first question raised by the representative of India, Mr. Sen. We propose that in the seventh preambular paragraph we substitute the words "remote sensing" for "airborne-sensing" and, I hope the Secretariat will pay particular attention to the translation of "remote sensing technologies" which I understand is difficult for many of the representatives in the translation; I do hope that this will prove acceptable to the representative of India.

212. I understand that the representative of Sweden will speak to the second question raised by Mr. Sen.

213. Mr. ASTROM (Sweden): The representative of India has asked for an explanation with regard to some words in the last operative paragraph of the draft resolution A/C.1/L.509. Responding to his request, may I say the following: this, of course, is the first time that the United Nations takes cognizance of the potentially very important use of satellites in the form of earth resources survey programmes. We feel that it is too early to prepare any more detailed or definite decisions with regard to the application of this particular form of space technology. This is the reason why the first operative paragraph of a general character and, as we see it, do not prejudice in any way the consultations, negotiations and agreements that may follow in this important field.

214. The most significant part of the draft resolution, in our view, is paragraph 4 which gives a direct mandate to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to take up this exciting aspect of space technology for detailed consideration. Precisely because we feel that this is so crucial, we would like to stress the importance of the words: "... in particular in the framework of the United Nations system ..." as much as we would like to see as much as possible of the international co-operation that hopefully will be possible in this field take place within the framework of the United Nations while, at the same time, not excluding the possibility of other forms of international collaboration. This is the explanation for the use of the particular words in the last operative paragraph.

215. Mr. SEN (India): Only a little while ago the representative of Iraq fell a victim to appeals; I am now going to fall a victim to explanations as particularly as they come from such charming quarters as Mrs. Black and Mr. Astrom. I am completely satisfied with the substitution of the word "remote" for the word "sensing" and I think the paragraph will make sense, technically. And after the explanation by Mr. Astrom I shall not insist on the deletion of the words referring to the United Nations.

216. The CHAIRMAN: Before I invite the Committee to vote I shall give the floor to the Secretary who wishes to make a statement.

217. Mr. CHACKO (Secretary of the Committee): Before proceeding to the vote on the two draft resolutions A/C.1/L.509 and A/C.1/L.510 I should like, in accordance with rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to draw the attention of the Committee to the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.510. With regard to operative paragraph 8 of the first part of the draft resolution concerning appointment by the Secretary-General of a qualified individual with the full-time task of promoting the practical applications of space technology, the financial implications are already contained in annex V of the report of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space contained in document A/7621.

218. Operative paragraph 1 in the first part of the draft resolution "Endorses the recommendations and decisions contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space," including the decision paragraph 22 of the Committee's report.

219. In that paragraph: "...the Committee would invite the Secretary-General to prepare: (a) a background paper for the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee on the question of the definition and/or the classification of outer space; (b) a background paper on the results of the studies to be furnished by the specialized agencies and IAEA in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2453 B (XXIII)".

220. In this connection, I should like to inform the Committee that the preparation of these two papers is estimated to involve an expenditure of approximately 90,000.

221. The CHAIRMAN: I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution A/C.1/L.509 and Add.1, sponsored by Argentina, Mexico, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, France, Japan and Italy.

Draft resolution A/C.1/L.509 and Add.1 was adopted by 94 votes to 8, with 5 abstentions.

222. The CHAIRMAN: I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution A/C.1/L.510.

Draft resolution A/C.1/L.510 was adopted unanimously.

223. The CHAIRMAN: I shall now give the floor to any member of the Committee who wishes to explain his votes on the draft resolutions A/C.1/L.509 and Add.1 and A/C.1/L.510.

224. Since no representative wishes to explain his votes, I take it that the Committee has adopted the consideration of agenda item 28, international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, is concluded.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 29

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

225. The CHAIRMAN: I now invite the Committee to turn its attention to agenda item 29, and in particular annex A of the report of the Conference on Disarmament (A/7714/D/222) which contains the draft treaty of the United States and the United Nations Standing Committee on the prohibition of the replication of nuclear weapons, and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and in the ocean floor in the Subsoil Thereof.

226. I should like to inform the Committee that the delegation of Italy wishes to be added as a co-sponsor of this draft resolution.

227. Mr. RUDA (Argentina) (translated from Spanish): Despite the threat of the hour, my delegation wishes to submit formally to the Committee the working paper circulated by the Secretariat under the symbol A/1012 which relates to articles 1 and 2 of the draft Treaty on the Prohibition of the Deployment of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof.

228. This working paper is the outcome of intensive consultations and, in our view, it reflects the comments made in the First Committee in the course of the debate without in any way affecting the aims of the draft Treaty.

229. I turn now to the differences between the text we are placing before the Committee and that of articles 1 and 2 of the draft Treaty submitted by the Co-Chairmen of the Conference on Disarmament, which appears in annex A to the report of the Conference.

230. Article I, paragraph 1, introduces a substantial change in the text submitted by the Co-Chairmen. The concept of superpower status as defined in that text, the legal consequences of which we had occasion to criticise when we commented on the draft Treaty, is now replaced by another which is more in keeping with the true nature and aims of the instrument, as we see it. The reference to the "maximum contiguous zone", in defining the zone to which the instrument applies, has been deleted and replaced by the concept of the "sea-bed zone", which derives logically from the geographical area covered by the draft Treaty. This new expression in, addition, of a technical character, confers strictly to the draft Treaty, and its use cannot give rise to any legal consequences relating to the law of the sea. Treaty that this is, beyond any doubt, the best solution in view of the "non-territorial" approach of the draft Treaty.

231. Article I, paragraph 2, likewise refers to the concept of the "sea-bed zone", rather than the "contiguous zone". Apart from this reference to the Committee the working paper which has been made affecting the scope of this provision, as set forth in the draft of the Co-Chairmen.

232. Article I, paragraph 3, is retained as it stands in the original draft, since it presents no difficulty for those delegations which have expressed reservation regarding the subject dealt with in our working paper.

233. Article II reflects the substantial change in article I, paragraph 1, regarding the nature of the zone to which the draft Treaty applies. The new text seeks to define the outer limits of the sea-bed zone referred to in article I. It merely cites various provisions of the 1958 Geneva Convention on the Law of the Sea.
the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, for the sole purpose of determining the configuration of the sea-bed zone and supplying a system of measurement to establish the zone of applicability of the law of the sea in the geographical area covered by the commitments provided for in the draft Treaty. This procedure obviates lengthy and difficult enumeration of the criteria for measuring the zone.

234. To show that the reference to the Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone is simply incidental and thus ensure that the differing positions of Member States regarding the law of the sea are in no way affected by it, the provision contained in article II, paragraph 2, of the Co-Chairmen's draft has been expanded to make it much more comprehensive. We believe that the best way of doing this is to make certain necessary additions to the present wording and insert the provisions of a new article, article IV, after the substantive provisions of the draft Treaty.

235. With regard to the additions incorporated in this new article, we wish to point out that they also conform to the principle that no formula or criterion that might have specific legal consequences in matters relating to the law of the sea should be adopted in connection with "navigational" measures. Accordingly, the first part of the text adds the phrase: "...with respect to existing international conventions, including the 1958 Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone ...".

236. As I said earlier, the purpose of this explicit reference to the Geneva Convention is to reaffirm that principle with respect to the new concept that is mentioned by name in draft Treaty, solely in order to define the limits of the sea-bed zone referred to in article I.

237. Similarly, to avoid any erroneous interpretation of the strict "navigational" character of the draft Treaty, the provisions which relate to the question of including the "disputed territorial sea and contiguous zones" and "including continental shelves".

238. We feel that making these additions and placing this provision in a different position in the draft highlights the change made in articles I and II and, broadly speaking, avoids any prejudicing of the positions of Member States regarding the law of the sea.

239. In submitting the working paper contained in document A/C.1/1997 for the consideration of the Committee, my delegation is convinced that the paper constitutes a fitting solution to the legal difficulties raised by the original version of the draft presented by the Co-Chairmen of the Conference on Disarmament. In fact, at the same time, we believe that the delicate political balance achieved in the negotiations which culminated in the preparation of the draft Treaty now before the Committee.

240. For these reasons, my delegation hopes that the paper will be favourably received, not only by the other Member States of the United Nations, but also by the other Member States of the sea-bed.
that work on the treaty can be speedily brought to a successful conclusion.

256. The USSR delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the representatives who took part in the useful and constructive discussion on disarmament, which took place in the First Committee. Its appreciation also goes to the delegations which took part in elaborating the draft treaty before us. It believes that the solution of this question by the General Assembly is in the interests of all countries and will be helpful in ensuring that the sea-bed and the ocean floor are protected from the nuclear arms race.

257. My delegation regards the comments made and considerations advanced by various delegations with respect to the draft treaty as constructive and deserving of attention. These comments and considerations should help in completing the work on the text of the treaty. We believe that this work is urgently necessary and we trust that the Committee on Disarmament will take it up at its next session, so that the drafting may be rapidly completed and the resultant text be submitted to the General Assembly, with a view to the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof—a worthy addition to the international treaties on disarmament now in effect.

258. It is with this purpose in mind that thirty-four delegations submitted a draft resolution A/C.1/1/L.512 on the item under discussion.

259. My delegation hopes that this draft resolution will receive broad support in the Committee.

260. As to the amendment just proposed by the representative of Ceylon, the USSR delegation, for its part, is ready to accept it. I am not empowered to speak on behalf of all the delegations that have been able to consult them all, but I would say that I did consult a good many and that they are all prepared to accept the text.

261. With regard to the remarks of the Argentine representative, I would draw his attention and that of all members of the Committee to the provision in operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.1/1/L.512 that in the event that a future work on the text of the draft treaty all the proposals and suggestions made at the present session of the General Assembly should be taken into account. Consequently, on the basis of the text before us, I have no hesitation in assuring the Argentine representative that the proposals and suggestions contained in this document will be taken into account in the future work on a draft treaty on the sea-bed and the ocean floor, in accordance with the draft resolution now before the Committee.

262. Mr. ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil): The purpose of my intervention today is to express very briefly the initiatives the Brazilian delegation took in presenting a revision of its working paper contained in document A/C.1/1/L.512, in the provisions of article 3 of the draft treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof.

263. As will be noted, the only change in relation to our original text [A/CONF.1953] is to be found in paragraph 4 (a) and (b), which deal with the role to be played by the coastal States in verification procedures that take place in areas under their national jurisdiction. We have only changed words in words in order to refer to "ocean floor" or "sea-bed and ocean floor" and in the subsoil thereof to be regarded as comprising "the common interest of mankind in the reservation of the sea-bed and ocean floor exclusively for peaceful purposes".

264. I wish to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that an error cropped up in document A/C.1/1993/Rev.1, to which I referred the issuing of a corrigendum [A/CONF.1953/Rev.1/Corr.1].

265. We have introduced the modified language in our working paper with a view to facilitating future agreement on appropriate control provisions of the sea-bed treaty, which would help to fill a gap in the General Assembly's recent resolution on this subject and which would further be in keeping with the role of the coastal States in verification procedures that are conducted in areas under their national jurisdiction.

266. We are confident that the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament will be able to report at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly on a widely supported draft resolution which could then be considered and finally agreed upon at the General Assembly's next session.

267. I should like to take advantage of this opportunity to state, for its part, that the delegation of Brazil welcomes the amendment proposed by Ceylon and has no objection to its adoption.

268. Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): At our next meeting on 1 December [707th meeting], we will attempt to analyze the situation we then faced with regard to the draft Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof. I listed a number of obvious facts and then said:

...the two main alternatives before the First Committee, the Mexican delegation would unhesitatingly opt for the idea of the General Assembly's retaining the draft to the Committee on Disarmament and attaching the report of the debates of the First Committee and any working paper on the subject that may have been submitted to it, with the recommendation that the Committee on Disarmament should be asked to try to prepare a new draft acceptable to all members of the Committee and likely to be accepted also by all the Members of the United Nations. [707th meeting, para. 107]

269. I think that these words are enough to explain why all delegations are especially pleased to include its name among the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.512. This is an eminently constructive draft and we hope that the Committee will adopt it by acclamation.

270. I would simply like to point to some of the provisions which I feel merit special support.

271. To start with, the first preambular paragraph recognizes "the common interest of mankind in the reservation of the sea-bed and ocean floor exclusively for peaceful purposes".

272. Secondly, the last preambular paragraph expresses the conviction that a treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof is to be regarded as comprising "a step towards the exclusion of the sea-bed, the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof from the arms race".

273. Thirdly, a provision providing the whole-hearted support of my delegation is in paragraph 2 of the draft, which calls upon the Committee on Disarmament to take into account all proposals and suggestions that have been made at this session of the General Assembly and to consider on the subject—and this is particularly important—so that the text of a draft treaty can be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration.

274. In connexion with this provision, I should also like to point out that on 1 December, I have just mentioned, I, 707th December, my delegation submitted a working paper which was circulated as document A/C.1/1995.

275. Lastly, my delegation is, needless to say, happy to accept the suggestion made by the representative of Ceylon.

276. So far, I have spoken about this draft resolution, but since I have the floor and to avoid having to ask for it again, I would like to mention to Mr. Chairman, to make an earnest request to the Secretariat.

277. The verification records of our meetings have, generally speaking, been issued with commendable promptness. However, this week there have been some delays, including, for example, the record of the 175th meeting, held on Tuesday morning.

278. My delegation—and I am sure that many other delegations find themselves in the same difficulty—has to report back to its Government before the closure of the General Assembly, and I would request the Secretariat to do everything possible to make that record and any others that are missing available by Monday morning.

279. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Mexico for his statement. I assure him that the Secretariat will take due note of his statement with regard to the verification records.

280. Mr. DE SOTO (Peru) (translated from Spanish): The Peruvian delegation has co-sponsored draft resolution A/C.1/L.512 in the spirit of the first preambular paragraph, namely in recognition of the common interest of mankind in the reservation of the sea-bed and ocean floor exclusively for peaceful purposes.

281. We hope that this draft resolution will be adopted, if it is, in the competence of the General Assembly in this matter.

282. We welcome the incorporation of the amendment proposed by the delegation of Ceylon and also take this opportunity to state that it is our understanding that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor shall report within the limits of National Jurisdiction will still facilitate the role of the Committee in its mandate as such and in accordance with the action taken by the General Assembly.

283. The CHAIRMAN: There are no more speakers on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.512 which includes the amendments submitted by the delegations of Ceylon, Chile, Kuwait and Malta.

284. No delegation has asked for a formal vote on the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.1/L.512 was adopted by acclamation.

Completion of the Committee's work

285. The CHAIRMAN: With the conclusion of this item, the Committee has concluded its work for the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly. I should like to thank the Committee that the pace at which it has set has been somewhat overwhelming to me, with the result that I am not quite ready to make my final statement. However, I shall improve as I go along, and I promise the Committee that I shall not take long, but it is my duty to thank all those who have helped us to accomplish the results that we have achieved.

286. I express to you my heartfelt gratitude for your unstinted co-operation in enabling me to conduct the business of the First Committee in the short period of time set for us. I offer you my respectful congratulations. Your achievement is proof that the procedures of the United Nations can not need be dilatory, and that even representatives of Governments of sovereign States dedicated to the protection and promotion of their national interests are willing to take due account of the expectations of the peoples of the world that the General Assembly of 126 sovereign States can act in harmony on the burning issues of peace and war with dispatch and efficiency.

287. This Committee has had a busy agenda and has taken important decisions on a number of matters before it. I should like to thank everybody on all of us, for their efforts to evaluate them. This does not in any way imply that I consider some of the decisions to be less important than others. I shall on any first statement as Chairman of this Committee that to me, in my capacity as Chairman, all the items on our agenda are equally important. I therefore do not refer to all the draft resolutions adopted by the Committee. I shall not be misunderstood.

288. The first item that we considered was that of strengthening international security on the initiative of the Foreign Minister of Peru. We have had a most extended and constructive debate on 18 December on that subject which, by general consensus, must be characterized as one of a high order. I must congratulate the delegations which took part. It would perhaps be tedious to single out the interventions for special mention, and therefore I shall not, though tempted, do so.
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289. It is indeed heartening that draft resolution A/C.1/L.511 has been adopted unanimously. Though mainly procedural in nature, it nevertheless assures that henceforth the question of disarmament and the strengthening of international security will remain a primary purpose — will be accorded a central place in our deliberations henceforth, as before the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Organization. This is not to exaggerate the significance of the adoption by acclamation of the resolution on the strengthening of international security which is no doubt a procedural one. All of us are only too conscious that major differences exist in regard to the nature of the measures to be proclaimed, and as to the ways and means of acting upon them. But it has become equally clear from the debate that many of the differences are by no means impossible to reconcile, and that hopefully by the twenty-fifth anniversary it will be possible for the General Assembly to take some meaningful action in regard to strengthening international security.

290. On the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, the Committee has adopted two resolutions which give guidance to the Committee on the peaceful uses of the sea as to its work in the coming year.

291. On the disarmament items, the First Committee during this year was both more conscious and more involved than on previous occasions. Nearly one hundred statements were made in the general debate and the discussions proceeded on a high level with great earnestness and veracity in their substance. Our deliberations took place against a background of a number of favourable developments, including:

292. Twelve resolutions — a record figure for disarmament — have been adopted. While it is obvious that on a subject of such complexity it is not easy to arrive at recommendations which would meet the wishes of everyone, I think we can take considerable satisfaction from the progress achieved during this session.

293. The Committee has taken a very important step in the resolution declaring the decade of the 1970s a Disarmament Decade, and in requesting the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to work out and report to the General Assembly a comprehensive programme.

294. The Committee has also adopted important resolutions on the question of nuclear weapons tests. The resolution concerning the provision of certain information by Governments, in the context of the creation of a world-wide nuclear test ban, may well turn out to have been a step of the greatest significance in finding a solution to the deadlocked problem of verification of nuclear tests, and hence towards the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

295. One unanimous resolution was adopted on chemical and biological weapons calling for the immediate prohibition and destruction of the chemical weapons kept in Soviet Union and the United States and the U.S.S.R., and requesting the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to consider urgently, and to reach agreement on, the prohibition of the use of such weapons, and in the meantime not to use them in the course of any armed conflict.

296. It is my belief that the draft resolution A/C.1/L.500, which was adopted unanimously, gives clear guidance to the Committee on the question of the prohibition of the development, production and testing of chemical and biological agents intended for use as weapons of war. In my view, we must act now to avert a widespread threat when I say that one of the most fitting ways of observing the twentieth anniversary of our Organization would be the adoption of an effective convention on the prohibition of the development, production and testing of chemical and biological weapons.

297. The opening of the bilateral talks on strategic arms limitations was welcomed with satisfaction by all Members. In that context, the Committee, following the suggestion of the Secretary-General, adopted a draft resolution appealing to the Soviet Union and the United States to agree on a moratorium on further testing and deployment of new offensive and defensive high-technology systems. Though the principal parties and several other delegations awaited the appeal on the moratorium, I am nevertheless persuaded that in their negotiations they are in the right mood to respond to the call of the peoples of the world concerning the potential threat of total annihilation by advanced nuclear-weapons systems.

298. I should also like to refer to the adoption by the Committee of a noteworthy draft resolution declaring its views on the scope of the generally recognized rules of international law as embodied in the Geneva Protocol of 1925.

299. Finally, in regard to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.509, in which the Committee has just adopted by acclamation, on the elaboration of a draft treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction from the sea-bed and ocean floor, the Committee's debate has by common consent been an outstanding one. Significant contributions have been made by a number of delegations in their proposals and working papers, which reflect support from the vast majority of the delegations represented here. I believe that the debate on the sea-bed and seabed demobilization treaty has truly promoted a process of mutual understanding and that, judging from the admirable statements made just a few moments ago by the President of the United States and the Soviet Union, they will give serious attention to the proposals to improve the text of the treaty so as to make it unambiguously acceptable. This augurs well for the future of our work, and in particular it raises the hope that, in addition to the convention on chemical and biological weapons, the treaties to demobilize the sea-bed and ocean floor will also be adopted by next year.

300. I should not like to take the time of the Committee to refer to all the draft resolutions on outer space. I do believe that the two drafts that were adopted are important and which the Committee, and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and the annulment of the list of the developing countries.

301. It is now my pleasant duty to acknowledge the great assistance and cooperation rendered to me by the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur. Vice-Chairman was always ready to take on new responsibilities, and I am deeply grateful for his kind and self-effacing approach, and to all of you, and I should like to thank him for his splendid cooperation. I should also like to thank our Rapporteur for his counsel and advice.

302. I should be failing in my duty if I did not acknowledge the great assistance with which the Secretary-General has provided us in this debate. Several of the important draft resolutions adopted according with his suggestions. We believe that he has contributed very greatly to the outcome of our deliberations.

303. The Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Katsav, has always been by my side, giving me whenever he felt it was necessary his advice and help. I am sure we shall all keep clear all the time. I am grateful to him for his invaluable assistance.

304. As for the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Checchi, I should acknowledge the outstanding contribution he made to our work. I should also say that his private counsel has been invaluable to me.

305. I should like, on behalf of all my colleagues, to express our heartfelt thanks to the Secretariat to the interpreters, the secretariat personnel, the Press officers, the conference officers, the hotel staff, the security officers, the sound engineers, the guards and the messengers. Without their assistance, it would have been impossible for us to proceed with our work.

306. I should also like, on behalf of the Committee, to express the gratitude of all other delegations, especially all the delegations who, in their offices, unseen by us, have assisted us in our work.

307. Finally, I should like to express our deep appreciation of the great service rendered by the news media, the reporters and their correspondents who are not present here. Without their assistance and co-operation, we would have been living in a world of our own, unable to communicate with the world outside. They have played an indispensable role, and if anyone has worked harder than the representatives and members of the Secretariat I am sure that it is the correspondents and representatives of the news media, who so often sacrifice and work in a responsible manner in preserving the wealth of the ideas and the information that reach us from the world. I should like to be able to pay my respects to the journalists who have worked so hard, and I should like to give them my sincere thanks.

308. Having said this, I should like once again to thank my colleagues for their cooperation in concluding our work.

309. If the Committee has no objection, may I reiterate my appeal to dispense with compliments? I think it is the practice of the Committee to dispense with compliments. I should declare the meeting adjourned.

310. Mr. HAMMOND (Liberia): Mr. Chairman, despite the fact that I have asked you to dispense with compliments, I think that after your speech I may have a few words to say. I do not think that the compliments that I have expressed today will be embarrassing to you, the officers and everyone concerned on their excellent performance and the accomplishement of what we consider to be one of the most interesting and fascinating of these committee meetings. I think, in fact, that the whole of the years of the General Assembly.

311. I ask for a rising vote of compliments to the Chairman.

The representatives stood and applauded.

312. Mr. HAMIBOR (Norway): I feel that, Mr. Chairman, I was waiting to give you a vote of thanks on behalf of the countries of Western Europe. I shall not do so now, since you have asked me not to, but I should like to say that it gives me a feeling of frustration, disappointment and self-abnegation.

313. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) (translated from French): I should like to associate myself with the statement of the Norwegian representative, as, to my regret, I have not been able to attend the sessions of the First Committee. I wanted to come to the latter, however, in order to express to you, Mr. Chairman, our sympathy and admiration. I have now asked that there should be no long speeches, I should comply with your wishes and merely add something in a popular vein in order to lighten the atmosphere in this Committee as it approaches the end of its work.

314. I should merely say that during this session, you have given us a picture of international co-operation which we have not given before, and sometimes are sometimes in disaccord. I trust, nevertheless, that in the end we shall grow to resemble that image.

315. If you, Mr. Chairman, should tell me a story about the writer Gertrude Stein and Picasso, who painted her portrait. When she asked him, "Does that portrait look like me?", Picasso replied, "No, but you will grow to resemble myself." I therefore trust, Mr. Chairman, that we shall end by looking like that famous international co-operation which you have drawn for us.

316. Mr. MASHIKOLO (Lesotho): In order to appease the African delegation, I should like to take this opportunity of the remarks of gratitude and appreciation that have been expressed by you, Mr. Chairman, and other Members of the Bureau and the Secretariat. The representatives of this Committee have taken up on us a very extensive tour, down to sea-bed and ocean floor (back to earth) and into outer space and we are back here faithfully under your very able guidance.
317. Mr. SOUVANLASY (Laos) (translated from French): Despite your request, Mr. Chairman, some of my colleagues have spoken at greater length than I intend to do. Now that we are about to end our work, I wish to associate myself with the preceding speakers in order to express to you, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of Asian delegations, including my own, our deep gratitude for the great skill with which you have conducted our work in the course of these long months.

318. Our sincerest gratitude also goes to the other officers of the Committee and the members of the Secretariat, whose invaluable assistance enabled us to do useful work.

319. Lastly, I wish to assure you, Mr. Chairman, that your presence at the head of the First Committee does honor to the Asian group, which will long remember this extremely fruitful session.

320. Mr. JOUEJATI (Syria): In compliance with your wishes, I merely say thanks on behalf of the Arab delegations to the United Nations. You have given us an outstanding example of dynamic leadership. We believe that you have enhanced the process of international harmony through the conduct of your work and we think some of the resolutions adopted augur well for more progress towards international peace and justice and towards international security. Thank you very much, we are indebted to you, to the Members of the Bureau and to all Members of the Secretariat.

321. Mr. POLYANICHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (translated from Russian): Mr. Chairman, I can only regret that, in compliance with your wishes, I am unable to speak at length to express my delegation’s satisfaction at the successful completion of our work under your wise guidance. I would therefore associate myself with the remarks of the preceding speakers, in which you were rightly described as a great diplomat, a marvellous organizer and a man of stature. Allow me to extend my very best wishes to you.

322. Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): Your statement, Mr. Chairman, has spared me and above all the Committee from taking up too much time in saying how the Latin American Members of the United Nations feel about the way you have presided over our work. It was only a few moments ago that I was given the honour of speaking on their behalf and, since I do not have your facility for speaking at a moment’s notice, this is to the Committee’s advantage. So I shall simply recall what one of our colleagues said at the beginning of our deliberations when, in complying with a decision by the Chair, he said that he would congratulate not the Chairman, but the Committee because it had such a Chairman. You have proved how right our colleague was. May I modestly add our thanks to the Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Kado, the Rapporteur, Mr. Barnett, and all the members of the Secretariat, both those we see and those behind the scenes.

323. Mr. BAYULKEN (Turkey): I shall be very brief and I shall try to follow the example that you yourself set. I would like only to say this, that a moment ago the Committee took a unanimous vote of confidence in appreciation of your very high and admirable services to the Chairman of our Committee. I would like to say that I myself as a long-standing friend of yours, and my delegation, join in this tribute with heartfelt thanks and admiration.

324. Mr. LEONARD (United States of America): May I, on behalf of the country which has the honour to be the host to this Organization, and if I might be permitted, perhaps on behalf of any Governments in the Assembly who have not been represented by a speaker so far, just thank you very much for a job extraordinarily well done.

325. The CHAIRMAN: Before I adjourn I should like to say, especially to the representative of Liberia, how grateful and touched I am by what he said and by the Committee for its gesture that enables me to complete my Chairmanship on a note of satisfaction.

326. However, I should not like to let this occasion pass without extending my deepest apologies to the representative of Norway and the European group for giving them a sense of frustration. I thought that perhaps many delegations have engagements, and after the applause by the members of the Committee I felt myself more than sufficiently rewarded and that I was appreciated more than I deserved, and therefore I felt a little ashamed of perhaps becoming the recipient of further compliments. I hope my European colleagues will understand and not take offence.

327. I thank you, distinguished colleagues.

The meeting rose at 7:40 p.m.