

(Mr. Kuznetsov, USSR)

gentlemen, which has helped to make our work here productive. We note with gratification the close and businesslike contact between the Chairman and the officers of the Committee and the audience, that is, the delegations here, we sitting on this side.

We should like to express our gratitude to the personnel of the Secretariat for their smooth and accurate work with the documents. We pay tribute to their skill and experience. We also benefitted from the press communiqués which were both concise and accurate, even when dealing with discussions which were sometimes complex and illogical. I also wish to thank the interpreters who performed a very difficult and at the same time accurate work, and I also thank them for their extraordinary patience. They performed their functions excellently and did not lose track even when we, in consistent violation of persistent warnings, spoke neither very clearly nor at a sufficiently moderate pace.

In conclusion, I should like to express gratitude to the officers of the Committee, and to the Secretariat for their very good work.

Mr. MICHALOWSKI (Poland): Mr. Chairman, let me, on behalf of the countries of Eastern Europe, express our appreciation for the spirit and manner in which you conducted our deliberations. I think that I can also offer you our congratulations for the results which our Committee achieved this year -- and those results are very important unanimous decisions.

I wish to offer our appreciation to all officers of the Committee, to the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, to the Secretary of the Committee, the Under-Secretary, the representative of the Secretary-General.

I wish to thank all the press officers, verbatim reporters, document officers and all those who work backstage and, last but not least, our distinguished interpreters who deserve all fleurs et couronnes for dealing so wonderfully with our semantic problems.

The CHAIRMAN: May I thank all the Members who spoke in such a flattering way on my Chairmanship, and I wish you all again a very happy future.

The Committee has completed its business.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLYFOURTEENTH SESSION  
Official RecordsCOMMITTEE, 1080th  
MEETINGFriday, 11 December 1959,  
at 8.30 p.m.

NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Franz MATSCH (Austria).

## AGENDA ITEM 25

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/4141, A/C.1/L.247, A/C.1/L.248) (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE AND CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/C.1/L.247) (continued)

1. Mr. MATSUDAIRA (Japan) said that the report submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/4141) was fair and impartial and its conclusions left the General Assembly complete freedom of action. The United Nations should play as distinguished a part in connexion with the peaceful uses of outer space as it had in the case of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In paragraph 17 of part IV of its report, the Committee suggested certain general functions and tasks that might appropriately be undertaken within the framework of the United Nations at the present time, stressed the need for international co-operation in the conduct of space activities, and stated further that there was an evident need in some areas for efforts of co-ordination and encouragement by the United Nations by way of support for international co-operation in that field.
2. Japanese scientists had a keen interest in the international co-operation involved in such joint projects as the international use of launching ranges and the instrumentation of satellites and of deep space probes, as well as the simultaneous launchings of sounding rockets. Japan had participated in the International Rocket Week in 1958, during the International Geophysical Year, and Japanese scientists were exploring the feasibility of launching sounding rockets which would reach to a height of 100 to 150 kilometres (62 to 93 miles), in order to observe the density of electrons and ions, the variation of geomagnetic fields in the ionosphere, etc.
3. International co-operation was desirable in all the fields of the peaceful uses of outer space. It was therefore unfortunate that the Ad Hoc Committee had not seen fit to discuss the vehicles used for the exploration of space. It was to be hoped that the countries concerned would without delay make public and exchange as much information in that field as was possible without impeding their national security.
4. The Japanese delegation was happy to co-sponsor the twelve-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247),

which was the outcome of the co-operative and patient efforts of the United States and USSR representatives. He expressed the hope that, from 1960, international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space would be promoted on a global basis by the adoption of the draft resolution.

5. Mr. MICHALOWSKI (Poland) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the agreement achieved between the two Powers chiefly concerned, the United States and the Soviet Union, on the composition of the committee on the peaceful uses of outer space and on the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247), of which Poland was one of the sponsors. There could be no doubt that that happy result was due to the relaxation of international tension which had already become apparent during the session and which had been promoted to a large extent by the visit of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Mr. Khrushchev, to the United States.

6. The Ad Hoc Committee would have to perform universal tasks in an entirely new field. Unfortunately mankind was hardly prepared to meet the complex problems raised by the new era of the conquest of cosmic space, which demanded unity of effort and international co-operation on an unprecedented scale. The International Geophysical Year, in which Poland had actively participated, had been one of the best examples of such co-operation, and it was gratifying to note that the draft resolution provided for continuation on a permanent basis of the outer space research carried on within that framework.

7. The principle of the sovereign equality of States, as laid down in the United Nations Charter, was binding on Member States in outer space as well as on the earth. The international scientific conference proposed in part B of the draft resolution therefore met a real need. It was unfortunate that the Belgian delegation had submitted its amendment (A/C.1/L.248). The problem was not a legal or formal one, as maintained by the Belgian representative (1079th meeting), and the First Committee should not base its documents on nebulous formulas which took no account of reality. The problem was a political one: certain delegations were attempting to deprive a group of States of their right to participate in an international conference which, by its very nature, would be of a universal character. It was unreasonable to try to discriminate against certain States which were not yet Members of the United Nations. The Polish delegation would vote against the Belgian amendment.

8. The success of any programme of scientific co-operation in the exploration of outer space was closely related to another important issue, that of entirely peaceful uses of outer space. All mankind had hailed the remarkable successes of the scientists of the Soviet Union, then of those of the United States, in launching rockets and artificial earth satellites. Joy, however, had immediately been followed by the justifiable anxiety that those memorable triumphs of human

ingenuity might be turned against mankind. One of the most important tasks of the new committee would be to avoid the extension of present earthly national rivalries and conflicts into outer space. The achievements of science and technology should serve to promote better understanding and remove the causes of international conflicts. The Polish delegation therefore commended the draft resolution to the First Committee and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

9. Mr. JHA (India) paid a tribute to the United Nations for having realized, immediately upon the placing of the first man-made satellites in orbit, the importance of that event and its incalculable consequences for the future. General Assembly resolution 1348 (XIII) had established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, whose report (A/4141) the First Committee was now examining. Following President Eisenhower's State-of-the-Union message of 10 January 1957, the United States had proposed, during the debate on disarmament in the First Committee at the eleventh session of the General Assembly, that the testing of outer space objects should be brought under international inspection and control to ensure their development exclusively for peaceful purposes (821st meeting). That proposal had been followed up by the Disarmament Commission and at the twelfth session the General Assembly had adopted resolution 1148 (XII) which, *inter alia*, called for the joint study of an inspection system designed to ensure that the sending of objects through outer space would be exclusively for peaceful and scientific purposes.

10. The Indian delegation had consistently taken the position that agreement between the great Powers, and in particular between the United States and the Soviet Union, was essential for any progress in such questions. For that reason it had, together with Burma and the United Arab Republic, submitted a draft resolution at the thirteenth session (A/C.1/L.224/Rev.1) which requested the United States of America and the Soviet Union to try to reach an agreed solution to the question of the membership of the proposed Ad Hoc Committee. Unfortunately those efforts had been unsuccessful. The Ad Hoc Committee, established by resolution 1348 (XIII), had met in 1959, but five of its members, including India, had not participated in the meetings. India considered that any machinery which did not include one or the other of the two countries most advanced in the field would not serve the purpose of resolution 1348 (XIII) and of other earlier resolutions concerned with the matter. While not belittling the results of the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee, the Indian delegation was convinced that those results would have been far more satisfactory if the question of the membership of the Committee had been settled at the thirteenth session.

11. A recent happy development in a similar field confirmed that the essential element in such matters was agreement between the Powers directly concerned. On 1 December 1959 the Antarctic Treaty had been signed at Washington by twelve nations, including the United States and the Soviet Union. Article I laid down that Antarctica should be used for peaceful purposes only and that any measure of a military nature, such as the establishment of military bases and fortifications, the carrying out of military manoeuvres as well as the testing of any type of weapons, should be prohibited. That was the type of treaty that India thought should be concluded in the field of outer space. Although in that field there were several problems

that did not apply to Antarctica, there was no doubt that, given good will and co-operation, it should be possible for the Powers directly concerned to settle their differences and reach a mutually acceptable agreement.

12. As the Chairman of the Indian delegation had stated at the thirteenth session (994th meeting), it was not the medium of outer space that was likely to lead to man's destruction, but what traversed that space. The scope of the proposed committee as indicated in paragraph 1 (a) of part A of the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247) was wide enough. Nevertheless, whatever might be the immediate objectives or possibilities of the proposed committee, the ultimate objective of any consideration of the problem must be the prohibition of the use of outer space for any military purposes whatsoever and the conclusion of a convention aiming at the solely peaceful utilization of outer space for the benefit of man. Needless to say, simultaneous progress should be made towards disarmament and the outlawing of weapons of mass destruction, such as missiles with nuclear warheads and chemical and bacterial weapons.

13. The sincere efforts of the great Powers, notably the United States and the Soviet Union, to submit a joint draft resolution, of which India was one of the sponsors, justified the hope that the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution would lay a firm groundwork for international co-operation aimed at the peaceful utilization of outer space.

14. Mr. BRUCAN (Romania) also expressed pleasure at the agreement which had been reached regarding the draft resolution before the Committee. The fact that agreement had been reached showed that, if due regard was paid to the views and interests of all parties concerned, the United Nations could, as the Charter prescribed, be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends.

15. International co-operation for the peaceful use of outer space had now become imperative. The launching of the first artificial earth satellite had marked the turning of a glorious page in history, but, like man's other great discoveries, the exploration of outer space had raised the problem of the uses to which it would be put: would it be used for the establishment of a better world or for general destruction? It was to be hoped that reason would prevail and that man would make the only choice that could be made. The number of sponsors of the draft resolution was a good omen in that respect.

16. It was, however, deeply disappointing that the Belgian delegation was insisting on submitting an amendment (A/C.1/L.248) which in fact sought to make the proposed scientific conference adopt a policy of discrimination. It could not be maintained that such practice was standard and customary; indeed the conference concerned was supposed to be scientific in character and, consequently, no political strings should be attached if it was to be a success. The Belgian amendment amounted to maintaining that Member States had a monopoly of knowledge on outer space. His delegation would vote against the amendment, and he hoped that all those who wished to make the conference a success would do likewise.

17. Mr. BERARD (France) said that, if scientific discoveries and achievements in recent years were well in advance of efforts towards international organ-

ization and co-ordination, that fact was neither surprising nor disturbing. It would be serious only if the international community had turned away from the problem and had so far made no effort to study the many opportunities of solving the problem or to define methods for making use of those opportunities on behalf of the whole human race.

18. The fact was, however, that the results so far obtained were far from negligible. It had first been agreed at the thirteenth session that a study should be made of the peaceful uses of outer space without waiting for agreement on other aspects of the problem. It would in fact have been unreasonable to put off for an indeterminate period international decisions which were needed at a time when a new field of study, outer space, was being opened up to mankind.

19. After that first step, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 1348 (XIII), had established a Committee which had met and submitted a report (A/4141). The report was a valuable source of information, although it was only a preliminary work, and its authors had not claimed to have found any final settlement for any problem, nor did they seek to impose any solution. The spirit of friendly understanding and the constructive attitude shown during the Ad Hoc Committee's work augured well for future international co-operation in that field.

20. There was, however, a serious obstacle. One large country whose scientific and technical achievements were recognized by the whole world had not seen fit to take part in the Ad Hoc Committee's work, as it disapproved of its membership. The question had now been settled, thanks to the efforts of the United States and Soviet Union delegations, and the membership of the new committee, the establishment of which was proposed, would be different from that considered equitable by the majority of Members at the previous session of the Assembly. The French delegation, for its part, was still attached to criteria of geographical representation and technical and legal competence which must guide the United Nations each time that a similar body had to be set up. By giving its approval to the new committee, the French delegation expressed the wish that the concession it thus made to the cause of international co-operation would not be in vain.

21. It would be the new committee's responsibility to review and, if necessary, to make a more complete and thorough study of the questions which had been entrusted to the Ad Hoc Committee. Later, the committee would also have to study suitable means for carrying out concrete programmes of international co-operation. In addition, the committee would continue the legal documentation work which had already been begun and could submit suggestions for the solution of problems which arose in that connexion. It would, however, have to avoid laying down over-precise rules at the outset which would not make sufficient allowance for technical developments, as by so doing it might hamper developments later.

22. The French delegation joined with those who had welcomed the proposal made by the Soviet Union (823rd plenary meeting) to call an international scientific conference on the peaceful uses of outer space in 1960 or 1961. The committee would have to undertake preparatory studies to determine methods of work, the agenda, and the place and date of the conference.

23. The foregoing considerations were well expressed in the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247), which France had co-sponsored. His delegation also shared the concern which had led to the submission of the Belgian amendment (A/C.1/L.248). He stressed the hope that the text as amended would be adopted unanimously.

24. Mr. SCHURMANN (Netherlands) recalled that at the thirteenth session all delegations had by unanimously adopting resolution 1348 (XIII), agreed that outer space should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. In view of the many legal, scientific, administrative and political problems which arose in that connexion, it would be naive to think that the exclusively peaceful use of outer space could be ensured within a short time. Attention should therefore be turned for the moment to promoting international co-operation for the exploration and exploitation of outer space. In that connexion a wealth of interesting information had been provided by the Ad Hoc Committee, which should be congratulated for three main reasons. First, it had carried out its task in a dispassionate and thorough manner in spite of the absence of some of its members; secondly, it had borne in mind the exigencies and limitations of the real situation and had thereby made its report a precise, instructive and useful document; thirdly, it had placed before the General Assembly a certain number of recommendations which could serve as a guide for future work.

25. The Ad Hoc Committee had recognized that the exploration of outer space was still in its infancy and that it was therefore necessary to avoid establishing rules and regulations or multilateral agreements which might turn out to be too restricted and consequently prove more hampering than beneficial to international action. In addition, the Committee had fully realized the value of ensuring early inter-governmental co-operation and promoting its development. His delegation unreservedly approved the legal recommendations and suggestions which the Committee had made in its report, including the list of legal problems susceptible of priority treatment and the view that a comprehensive codification of the law of outer space was neither practical nor desirable at the present stage (A/4141, part IV, para. 7). He noted with satisfaction that the Committee recognized that outer space was by nature indivisible and the notion of State sovereignty could not apply to it, everybody being free to explore and use outer space in accordance with international law and existing and future international agreements. The Committee had also acted rightly in classing the question of where air space ended and outer space began as one that did not demand priority (*ibid.*, para. 28).

26. The scientific part of the report was correctly based on the idea that international co-operation was desirable and sometimes even essential, if the greatest benefits were to be derived from outer space activities, not only in so far as increasing scientific knowledge was concerned, but also in the practical application of such knowledge to meteorology, telecommunications, television and broadcasting. International organizations, such as WHO, ITU and ICAO, would have their parts to play and the best possible co-ordination of the activities of those specialized agencies would have to be ensured. In conformity with the opinion expressed by the Economic and Social Council in the appendix to resolution 743 D (XXVIII), such co-ordination should

in the first instance be directed by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, before any of the agencies concerned started on a programme of its own.

27. As stated in paragraph 122 of part II of the Committee's report, space activities must be conducted in an orderly manner and all countries must have an opportunity to take part. In that connexion, there must be a reasonable guarantee that the maximum use would be made of the scientific material and technical talent available in the world, and that there would be a continuous exchange of information. The Netherlands was keenly interested in the legal and scientific problems connected with the exploration and use of outer space. Its scientists could make a useful contribution to supporting research and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences was at present studying how they could most effectively take part in the development of space science and space research.

28. The conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee with regard to the tasks and functions of the proposed new committee (A/4141, part IV, para. 17) seemed sound. His delegation was happy that agreement had been reached on the composition of that committee, but as that agreement was the result of a compromise reached after lengthy negotiations, it would refrain from commenting on it. The proposal concerning the establishment of a technical unit within the Secretariat (*ibid.*, para. 14) should be given further study, perhaps by the new committee, for although such a unit might be able to do useful work in the future, it was first necessary to have a better insight into the character and limits of the Secretariat's task in that field.

29. The responsibility of Governments in connexion with outer space should not be allowed to overshadow the importance of the part played by scientists and by the international scientific organizations to which they belonged. Various non-governmental organizations were concerned with questions relating to outer space, among them the International Council of Scientific Unions and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR); the latter was to hold an international space-science symposium in 1960, in which scientists from all over the world would take part. Care should therefore be taken not to embark on activities that could be better undertaken by those organizations. A cautious approach also seemed indicated to international co-operation in order to give relations between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations concerned time and opportunity for harmonious development.

30. His delegation was in favour of holding an international scientific conference on outer space, but there again it was necessary to allow sufficient time for adequate preparation. That time could also be used to analyse, adapt and apply the experience gained in the organization of the two international scientific conferences on atomic energy. In addition, the international organizations concerned, particularly COSPAR and the International Astronautical Federation, should be asked to participate in the preparations for the conference.

31. His delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247) and of the Belgian amendment (A/C.1/L.248).

32. Mr. KURKA (Czechoslovakia) stressed the tremendous strides made by science and technology in the Soviet Union and in other countries and the events which would make the year 1959 a landmark in the history of interplanetary travel: the launching of an artificial planet in the solar system, of a rocket reaching the moon, and of an automatic laboratory transmitting extremely valuable information on outer space and photographs of the hidden side of the moon. The information obtained during the current year exceeded in quantity and value all the knowledge hitherto accumulated in those branches of science. Czechoslovakia welcomed those achievements with the greatest satisfaction.

33. The question of the peaceful uses of outer space concerned all the peoples of the world, who were facing the future with mixed feelings of hope and apprehension. He was convinced that the United Nations would do its utmost to ensure that science and technology were placed at the service of mankind. Czechoslovakia, whose scientists had made their contribution to the International Geophysical Year, would support all measures intended to increase scientific co-operation among nations and thus to promote respect for the principles of peaceful coexistence. International co-operation was particularly important in the study of outer space. His delegation accordingly felt that the proposal, initiated by the Soviet Union, to convene an international scientific conference for the exchange of experience deserved the support of all Member States. On the other hand, it would vote against the Belgian amendment; it felt that all the world's scientists should be able to take part in the conference.

34. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the agreement reached on the composition of the proposed committee. It was regrettable that, owing to the failure to reach an agreement in 1958, a year had been wasted. It was to be hoped that the work of the new committee would be successful and that the joint draft resolution, of which Czechoslovakia was a sponsor, would enjoy wide support in the First Committee, thus providing a firm basis for the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

35. Mr. NESBITT (Canada) was pleased that the Powers concerned had reached an agreement providing for the establishment of a United Nations committee in which the countries with the most to contribute in the field of outer space would be able to participate. No effort should be spared to avoid, in that field, the difficulties which had arisen with respect to nuclear weapons as a result of the failure to develop international agreement at the outset. The establishment of a United Nations committee was an indispensable first stage in order to maintain the freedom of space for peaceful purposes, for the promotion of international scientific co-operation in the exploitation, for the benefit of mankind, of the potentialities of outer space, for the establishment of the rule of law in outer space while there was yet time, and for the promotion of an international régime for outer space. Canada, which was a member of the new committee as it had been of the old, would do its best to make a contribution consistent with its knowledge and resources. While the establishment of that committee was in itself a welcome development, the questions of substance which it involved should not be lost sight of. Obviously the

ultimate objective must be to promote international co-operation in, and international regulation of, the peaceful uses of outer space.

36. In considering the work of the new committee, it had to be borne in mind that international co-operation in the scientific field covered a whole range of activities: the traditional informal exchanges of information between scientists of different nations, exchanges of a more formal character arranged by international non-governmental scientific organizations, and the arrangements reached through inter-governmental organizations such as the United Nations. As the first of those activities was of great importance, the objective of inter-governmental scientific activities should be to facilitate and supplement such exchanges. In that connexion, the proposed international scientific conference should play an important part in the exchange of experience in the peaceful uses of outer space. Of course, space research presented special problems because of its significance for defence and because of its extension beyond national boundaries. Even in that field, however, the best form of international co-operation was still the informal exchange of information among scientists. The United Nations could contribute by ensuring that scientists throughout the world could pursue research with their traditional freedom to exchange ideas and information. However, the United Nations had a more direct part to play. There were large areas of activity in space research that must ultimately become the responsibility of the United Nations, if only because activities in space were outside national boundaries and raised legal and regulatory problems which could be settled amicably only in an international organization. It was clear that some of the specialized agencies also had a part to play. Their activities should be co-ordinated from the outset so as to avoid any unnecessary competition. That was one of the questions which should be looked into by the new committee at an appropriate stage.

37. In approaching its task, the new committee would have the benefit of the very useful preliminary study done by the Ad Hoc Committee. The Canadian delegation endorsed the observations and tentative conclusions contained in that study. The report was objective and comprehensive, and all those concerned with its preparation should be commended. The Ad Hoc Committee recognized that the pace of developments in the exploration of outer space had been so rapid that progress, plans and needs in connexion with the peaceful uses of outer space should be reviewed by the United Nations in about one year. In his view, it was even more necessary to undertake a similar review in respect of legal problems. In the course of such a review, early consideration should be given to the whole range of problems relating to sovereignty. The Canadian delegation agreed with the Ad Hoc Committee that, while a comprehensive codification of space law was not practicable or desirable at the present stage of knowledge and development, it was none the less necessary to take timely constructive steps and to make the law of space responsive to the facts of space. One of the questions which the new committee should consider as a matter of priority was the formulation of a rule, and the means to gain universal acceptance of that rule, that no part of space or of any celestial body could be appropriated by or be subjected to the

jurisdiction of any State. The General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the new committee, might adopt a declaration establishing that principle. Failure to adopt some such measure forthwith to prevent the acquisition of legal rights in outer space might well prejudice the ability of the community of nations later to devise equitable and wise rules to reflect the common interest and rights of all mankind in the utilization of space.

38. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) recalled that, as had frequently been pointed out, co-operation between small and large countries was of major importance, not only for the further extension of knowledge of outer space, but for the development of technology and the achievement of even more striking advances in that field. He was therefore gratified that agreement had been reached on measures for undertaking the exploration of outer space on an international scale. It was to be hoped that that would make it possible to overcome the difficulties which now confronted the various international and national agencies concerned or which might confront them in future. To that end, all countries, without distinction, should be able to take part in the work and conferences which were to be organized. In the circumstances, it was regrettable that some countries were still discriminating against other States in that respect. He hoped that those who had helped to bring about the agreement did not support the sponsors of the amendment, which had the effect of limiting the scope of the agreement and undermining the prospects of fruitful co-operation among all States in future. The amendment was contrary to the spirit and letter of the draft resolution in which the Assembly expressed the desire to avoid the extension of present national rivalries into the new field. By excluding those countries which, though desirous of and qualified for admission, were not yet members of the United Nations or the specialized agencies, it injected an element of discrimination which created new obstacles to international co-operation both in the specific field of space and in that of disarmament and peace.

39. The Bulgarian delegation hoped that the solution of the problem of co-operation among all countries in the peaceful uses of outer space might contribute to a solution of the military aspect of the question. The problem would not arise and the danger of outer space being used for military purposes would be eliminated if, at the same time, nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction as well as other facilities and equipment for transporting and guiding them were also abolished. In any event, the Bulgarian delegation was convinced that the co-operation foreshadowed by the agreement on the draft resolution was conducive to even more brilliant achievements. It would therefore vote for the draft resolution. On the other hand, it would vote against the Belgian amendment and urged the same course on all who genuinely and sincerely wished to achieve tangible results both in the specific field of outer space and in that of international co-operation, and who truly desired peace.

40. Mr. LOUTFI (United Arab Republic) said that he had had great pleasure in joining other delegations in submitting the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247). That draft was the result of an agreement reached primarily by the great Powers, which should be commended on their efforts. He hoped that the draft

would enable the committee to work for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space with the help of all Member States.

41. His delegation welcomed the progress achieved by the Soviet Union and the United States in the peaceful uses of outer space. The work of the scientists, whose research had contributed to that progress, would be very useful. The new committee would have to settle major political and legal issues. If all efforts were bent towards attaining the desired goal, namely, the peaceful use of outer space, great progress could be made for the benefit of all mankind.

42. The treaty recently concluded on Antarctica was a significant precedent for international co-operation. Few Powers could advance alone in that field and carry out the necessary experiments, owing to the magnitude of the expenditure they would have to incur. International co-operation was therefore imperative; it also made it possible to co-ordinate observations.

43. He was glad to note that the draft resolution gave due recognition to the work of the International Geophysical Year. The convening of an international conference for the exchange of experience in the peaceful uses of outer space would be a valuable contribution to progress in that field.

44. His delegation hoped that the international co-operation to be established in the peaceful use of outer space would serve the interests of all mankind, and the United Arab Republic would do everything in its power to make a modest contribution to the work proposed.

45. Mr. ORTONA (Italy) said it was encouraging to find that many of the difficulties in the way of true international co-operation in the field of outer space had been overcome and that space was not yet associated with political, racial, territorial or economic problems.

46. Despite the absence of some of its members, the Ad Hoc Committee had been able to present a report of considerable interest. In the period since it had completed its work, there had been further progress in space exploration, and the cultural exchanges which had taken place between the United States and the Soviet Union held out hope that the two countries might conduct joint projects in future. Moreover, the Antarctica Treaty regarding the peaceful uses of that continent was a splendid example of co-operation in the exploration and development of unknown territories. In fact, articles II and III of the treaty could be applied forthwith to the peaceful uses of outer space.

47. Once outer space was demilitarized and separated from air space, it would be more feasible to solve the practical problems arising from its exploration and use. It would be a mistake to fear that an early preventive regulation of the field was impossible or prejudicial, since there was a precedent for such regulation, for example, in the early years of aviation. Basic principles could certainly be established to guide future activities both in the interest of a more detailed study of legal rules and in that of ensuring orderly progress in future.

48. The draft resolution reflected the great importance of international co-operation in the peaceful use

of outer space. By adopting that proposal, the Committee would be defining a programme of work extending into 1961 and would enable the United Nations to guide the forces of the world into new scientific adventures. It was gratifying to note that the rights of all States were guaranteed and that space exploration was to be for the benefit of all. Rivalries among nations should be replaced by co-operation, and it was to be hoped that the proposed international scientific conference would bear out that hope.

49. He had been glad to hear the representative of Argentina refer (1079th meeting) to the possibility of establishing a special centre for studies, experimentation and co-ordination relating to the peaceful use of outer space, in accordance with the proposals made at the previous session. Italy was, of course, ready to give every assistance to that project, in particular, by offering a site for such an agency.

50. Mr. UDOVICHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) emphasized the importance of the successes achieved, particularly by Soviet scientists, in the conquest of cosmic space. Those achievements had shown that the world was not so large as it might seem, and it was therefore natural that several delegations had stressed the need for effective international co-operation in the exploration of space. In the observation of the phenomena occurring in the upper layers of the atmosphere, in the study of the earth's magnetic, gravitational and electric fields, and in a number of other types of research carried out with the aid of artificial satellites, co-ordinated international action was essential. Co-operation between all States would provide the means of exploiting all possibilities in a rational, effective way, and of solving far more rapidly the problems involved in the conquest of outer space. The proposal to convene an international scientific conference, which the Soviet delegation had announced during the general debate at the 823rd plenary meeting of the General Assembly and which was now the subject of part B of the draft resolution was therefore particularly timely, as a number of delegations had already stated. The Soviet Union, the country which was most advanced in rocket technology, had always advocated fruitful co-operation in the field of space research and had never made any secret of the data obtained from its launchings. Moreover, Soviet artificial satellites had always been so designed—in terms of their size, their orbit and the power of the radio equipment which they carried—as to facilitate their observation. A spirit of co-operation was a characteristic of Soviet science and technology, and one of the reasons for their success. The Ukrainian people was proud that its scientists had made a contribution to the Soviet Union's achievements, and that astronomical observations carried out by a number of Ukrainian scientific institutions had been put to use in the launching of various space vehicles.

51. His delegation hoped that the proposed conference would help to strengthen scientific ties between States. Reference should be made in that connexion to the success of the First and Second United Nations International Conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held at Geneva in 1955 and 1958. He was pleased that agreement had been reached on the composition of the proposed new committee, which would certainly play a major role in space studies. In the conviction that no State should be excluded from international action in that field, his delegation would vote

against the Belgian amendment. It would, however, vote for the twelve-Power draft resolution.

52. Mr. WEI (China) said that four areas of activity were open to the United Nations in regard to the peaceful uses of outer space: the promotion of international co-operation, the co-ordination of national programmes, co-ordination of the programmes of the various organizations concerned, and the gradual development of international law. It was imperative that the new discoveries should, like atomic energy, be used for peaceful purposes only. In that connexion, the Ad Hoc Committee was to be commended for its excellent report and for the modest programme which it recommended, despite the spectacular impact which artificial satellites and space vehicles had made on the general public.

53. Three arguments could be advanced in support of a limited programme. In the first place, there was little prospect of early practical application of the data obtained in the study of outer space. Secondly, it was neither desirable nor practicable at the present time to formulate a comprehensive code governing outer space; nevertheless, the Ad Hoc Committee had acted properly in defining the legal problems posed by the implementation of programmes for the study of outer space, and his delegation was in general agreement with the sections of the report entitled "General Observations" and "Legal problems susceptible of priority treatment". Among the principles which should be adopted in order to ensure the orderly exploration of outer space were the following: outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only; the principle of the sovereign equality of Member States should be upheld; the United Nations Charter and the Statute of the International Court of Justice should be applicable to space activities; and outer space should be, on conditions of equality, freely available for exploration and use by all in accordance with existing or future international law or agreements.

54. The third reason for a limited programme was that a number of international organizations, both non-governmental and inter-governmental, were already active in the field of outer space, as was shown by part I of the Ad Hoc Committee's report. In that regard, the draft resolution before the First Committee was in line with the Ad Hoc Committee's conclusions.

55. The United Nations' primary objective in the field of outer space was to ensure the latter's free and orderly use for peaceful purposes only, and for the benefit of mankind. The new committee should therefore give preferential consideration to the legal aspects of the question and should start by examining those problems which merited priority treatment, so that it could report on the matter to the General Assembly. On the scientific and technical level, the committee should endeavour to co-ordinate rather than duplicate the efforts of other bodies. The experience of the International Geophysical Year and of COSPAR showed that many Governments and scientists would take a more active part in space research if they were given the necessary encouragement and assistance at the international level.

56. His delegation had some reservations as to the advisability of holding the proposed scientific conference: science and technology were not so highly developed in the field of space exploration as they had been in the field of atomic energy at the time of

the First United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. Moreover, radio-isotopes had practical applications which, in the present instance, were lacking. Consequently, he welcomed the United States representative's suggestion (1079th meeting) that the scope of the conference should be broadened. His delegation would support the Belgian amendment, which was quite logical—since the conference was to be held under United Nations auspices—and reflected the practice adopted by the United Nations for conferences of that kind.

57. Mr. GRYAZNOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) emphasized the historic nature of what had been accomplished during the past year, and listed the principal successes achieved by the Soviet Union in the field of space exploration. The space rockets and artificial satellites had shown that there was no limit to man's capacity to solve the problems involved in the mastering of nature; those boundless possibilities opened up for all peoples the prospect of a lasting peace, happiness and prosperity. The Byelorussian people also wished to congratulate the scientists of the United States on their country's accomplishments.

58. Co-operation between the scientists of the entire world could not but expedite new scientific discoveries. Such co-operation was particularly essential in the study of the universe, which had no frontiers and involved the interests of all mankind. If scientists in the various countries, especially the Soviet Union and the United States united their efforts, it would be possible to carry out the most daring projects, and man's knowledge of outer space would rapidly increase. The part which the United Nations must play in that regard was a vital one, and the International Geophysical Year had provided an example of the spirit of mutual understanding and friendly co-operation in which scientific work on a world-wide scale could proceed.

59. In 1958 the Soviet delegation had proposed the establishment of a United Nations body for international co-operation in the field of space research (A/3818). Unfortunately, that idea had, at the time, encountered opposition from a number of countries. It was gratifying that agreement had now been reached on the composition of the new committee proposed. It was also encouraging to note the favourable reactions to the Soviet proposal for the calling of an international scientific conference. His delegation hoped that adoption of the draft resolution would help to promote international collaboration in the field of outer space, for the benefit of mankind. The Belgian amendment was at variance with the need for broad international co-operation in the matter. His delegation, convinced that all countries without exception should take part in the proposed conference, would vote against that amendment.

60. Mr. NISOT (Belgium) said that he shared the general feeling of relief and satisfaction. It was remarkable that agreement between those with different points of view should have proved possible. That fact was, in his delegation's opinion, the best augury of success. The machinery provided in the draft resolution before the First Committee was, moreover, eminently calculated to ensure the international co-operation without which it would be impossible to solve, in a useful way, the agonizing scientific, political and legal problems that presented themselves. Centres and institutions of various kinds were being

set up everywhere for the purpose of studying those problems, both in their over-all dimensions and in their specific aspects. The generous proposal which the Italian Government had just renewed was a particularly noteworthy example of that trend. His delegation, which had taken a full share in the work of the

Ad Hoc Committee, would show equal zeal in striving for the success of the efforts to be made—in the present instance, by common agreement—under the terms of the resolution which the Committee was to adopt.

The meeting rose at 11.10 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



LIMITED

A/C.1/PV.1080  
11 December 1959

ENGLISH

Fourteenth Session

FIRST COMMITTEE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND AND EIGHTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 11 December 1959, at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. MATSCH

(Austria)

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses  
of Outer Space [ 25 ] (continued)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will appear in mimeographed form under the symbol A/C.1/SR.1080. Delegations may submit corrections to the summary record for incorporation in the final version which will appear in a printed volume.

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