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CONTENTS

Chairman: Mr. C. W. A. SCHURMANN (Netherlands).

AGENDA ITEM 28

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5482, A/5549 and Add.1);

(b) Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VII, section IV) (A/5503)

1. The CHAIRMAN extended a welcome to the Secretary-General, whose presence testified to his interest in the item under discussion, and to the representatives of the various specialized agencies and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions.

2. He wished to point out that the verbatim record annexed to the additional report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549/Add.1) was provisional, since the corrections from delegations had not been received when the report was prepared. It would be issued later in final form.

3. Mr. STEVENSON (United States of America) expressed satisfaction at the progress already achieved towards freedom, peace, law and co-operation in outer space. He recalled that in an earlier great age of discovery—that of Ericson and Columbus—the rulers of Europe had failed to match the geographical vision of the great navigators with a corresponding vision of law and statecraft. In 1494 the two great nautical Powers Spain and Portugal had agreed to divide the New World between them; and for centuries a voyage of exploration had been a voyage of conquest and expansion. However, the nations of today had agreed that no nation could make sovereign claims in outer space; thus discovery was no longer a prelude to conquest.

4. He hoped that the pace of technological advance in outer space would not outstrip the progress of social invention. He recalled the principles of space freedom proclaimed in General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) and the two important steps, which had recently been taken to limit the arms race in outer space: the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water and the resolution adopted by the General Assembly in which it called upon all States to refrain from placing in orbit objects carrying nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction (resolution 1884 (XVIII)). Those measures would help to create the atmosphere of confidence needed for greater progress in disarmament and for intensified co-operation in all fields. The structural framework of that co-operation and of the space activities of all nations must be an international legal order. The General Assembly, in its resolution 1721 (XVI), had therefore asked the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to study the legal problems arising out of space exploration. After almost two years, the Committee had unanimously decided to submit to the General Assembly a draft declaration of legal principles. His Government hoped that the Assembly would adopt without dissent the draft resolution embodying those principles (A/5549/Add.1, para.6); it considered that the legal principles contained in the operative part of the draft declaration reflected international law as accepted by the Members of the United Nations. The United States intended to respect them and hoped the conduct they recommended in the exploration of outer space would become the practice of all nations. However, the declaration was only a first step; the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should now give priority to the drafting of international agreements on liability for space vehicle accidents and on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles. The General Assembly should ask the Committee to arrange its work programme accordingly. Study of space law should continue as the activities of States developed in the new environment, so that the United Nations could gradually create an international legal order for outer space.

5. Another task facing the General Assembly was that of promoting international co-operation in space. It had been his Government's policy, since the beginning of the space age, to encourage such co-operation. He cited in that connexion the many bilateral and multilateral arrangements concluded by the United States, which covered virtually the entire range of research and practical applications undertaken by the United States in the peaceful development of outer space. More than sixty countries had signed co-operation agreements with the United States. In August 1963 the Soviet Union and the United States had concluded an agreement providing for the exchange of scientific data in connexion with weather satellites and the World Magnetic Survey and for joint experiments in space communications with the aid of passive satellites. That was an important first step, and his Government hoped that the programme would soon be implemented.

6. Bilateral co-operation prepared the way for broader co-operation. Through COSPAR, with its three data centres—at Washington, Moscow and Slough, England—twenty-four countries were already taking part in scientific research on space. The United States also intended to play an active part in the International Year of the Quiet Sun in co-operation with scientists

from some sixty countries. That community of interest, which transcended national frontiers, was epitomized by the United Nations. The Secretary-General already maintained a registry of information on space launchings, and had built up a staff of experts on space matters. He hoped that, in implementing the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, that staff could draw up constructive proposals for defining more precisely the scope of the Committee's recommendations and its future programme. The Committee was already preparing to publish information on national and international programmes and on the resources of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international bodies concerned with the peaceful uses of outer space.

7. The expanding role which certain technical agencies were playing in that regard made international co-operation truly essential. He cited in that connexion the problem of allocating frequencies for space communications, radio astronomy and other purposes, and expressed satisfaction at the results achieved in that sphere by the 1963 Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference of ITU. There was also a need for international organization and co-operation in weather forecasting, for which the Tiros weather satellites could be of service to all countries. WMO had laid the organizational and financial basis for a world weather system designed to make the greatest possible use of both conventional and satellite weather data; his Government fully supported that programme. Similarly, the advances made in space communications called for the establishment of a single universal system in whose ownership, management and use all countries could participate; his Government and the Communications Satellite Corporation hoped soon to exchange views on that matter with other Governments and entities. Everything that was now taking place reflected a desire to ensure freedom in outer space under international law, and to initiate a programme of international co-operation designed to extend human knowledge and bring its benefits to all mankind.

8. The project for exploring the moon was not a stunt and must be regarded as a stage in man's struggle to conquer space. That project, in which the United States was co-operating with many other countries, would open the way to interplanetary exploration and thus marked both the culmination of one phase and the beginning of another. In that undertaking, too, the United States welcomed the greatest possible measure of international co-operation. In his statement to the General Assembly in September (1209th plenary meeting) President Kennedy had proposed to explore with the Soviet Union the opportunities for working together in that new phase of the conquest of space; President Johnson now renewed that offer. There were areas of work where practical co-operation short of integrating the two national programmes could be undertaken. The United States fully endorsed the statements contained in the draft declaration that in the exploration of outer space States should be guided by the principle of co-operation and mutual assistance, and that States should regard astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space regardless of their country of origin. It hoped that all countries would take part in the great moon exploration venture in the same spirit of universality.

9. Mr. FEDORENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that there had been a certain relaxation of international tension since the seventeenth session as a result of the signing of the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, so that there was now a better prospect for progress in the peaceful exploration of space. During the previous year important new advances had been made not only in space science but also in the legal aspects of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

10. The Soviet Union had carried out scientific research on conditions in outer space and had, by expanding its knowledge of space flight, been able to conduct new and more complex experiments. Thus it had developed the Vostok spaceships, in which Soviet cosmonauts had made their celebrated flights. During 1963, in Vostok V and Vostok VI, Valery Bykovsky and Valentina Tereshkova had established new records for distance covered and total time aloft. Those experiments had made it possible to study the effects of various factors on the human body, and television had enabled the people of many countries to see the cosmonauts in the cabins of their spaceships and to hear their voices. New qualitative progress had been achieved with the launching in November of a manoeuvrable vehicle, the Polet I, whose ability to move in any direction greatly widened the possibilities for space exploration. The United States, the United Kingdom, France and other countries had also achieved major successes in the exploration of space. Scientists in the socialist countries had greatly assisted the Soviet Union in the observation of satellites.

11. In June 1962 the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States had concluded an agreement on co-operation in the use of artificial satellites for weather forecasting, communications and the mapping of the earth's magnetic field. [1] That agreement, which was now to be implemented (see A/5482), opened the way to broader co-operation and to the working out of suitable solutions to major international problems with due regard for the interests of all concerned.

12. The prospects for international scientific co-operation in the study and use of space continued to widen, and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would obviously have a constantly increasing part to play. His delegation endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the reports of ITU (E/3770) and WMO (E/3794 and Corr.1), which were as useful as they were interesting.

13. In the sphere of law, the absence of rules on the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, pointed out in General Assembly resolution 1802 (XVII), had impaired the development of international co-operation. The Soviet Union had always endeavoured to reach agreement on the fundamental legal principles which should govern the exploration and use of space, and thereby benefit all States. Thus as early as June 1962 it had submitted a draft declaration containing a number of basic principles. [2] In the spring of 1963 it had submitted to the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space a revised draft declaration incorporating the provisions proposed by the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States, and other useful proposals brought forward during the debate (A/5549, annex III, A). As a result of considerable work by the Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee and of the negotiations held between

[1] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 27, document A/C.1/880.

[2] Ibid., document A/5181, annex III, A.

the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union, a draft resolution had been prepared containing a declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, which the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had unanimously decided to submit to the General Assembly (A/5549/Add.1, para.6).

14. The importance of that draft resolution lay first of all in the fact that for the first time a document had been drawn up in an attempt to regulate the activities of States in outer space. It contained some extremely important legal principles which had been mentioned in one way or another during the discussions. The Soviet Union hoped that its provisions were in keeping with the interests of all countries, both those in the forefront of scientific progress and those which had not yet undertaken any activity of the kind. The Soviet Union had always maintained that so important a document as the draft declaration should define not only the rights but also the obligation of States. Its point of view had been considered in working out the text of the draft declaration, and it had been possible through mutual concessions to reach agreement on a document providing that the space activities of a State might never prejudice the interests of other States or be used for war propaganda. Several of the provisions were especially important, particularly those concerning international consultations in the case of dangerous activities, and liability for activities undertaken by international organizations, States or private undertakings.

15. The Soviet Union continued to believe that the principles which should govern the activities of States in outer space should constitute an international document having the nature of a convention and containing clearly defined legal obligations. The draft declaration did not, and indeed could not, touch the use of outer space for military purposes. The Soviet Union had repeatedly declared that it was prepared to destroy all types of armaments as part of a programme of general and complete disarmament under strict international control, which would ipso facto solve the problem of prohibiting the use of outer space for military purposes. The USSR could not agree to the separation of that problem from other disarmament measures directly related to it, such as the elimination of military bases in foreign territories.

16. Nevertheless, with regard to international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, the draft declaration, in spite of certain defects of substance and form, unquestionably constituted a step forward, and the Soviet delegation hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

17. The United States representative had said that in his Government's view the legal principles contained in the draft declaration reflected international law as accepted by the Members of the United Nations and that the United States for its part intended to respect them. The Soviet Union, in its turn, undertook also to respect the principles enunciated in the draft declaration if it were unanimously adopted.

18. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space still had on its agenda certain questions which had come to the fore after the draft declaration had been prepared, namely, the rescue of astronauts and liability for material damage. The Soviet Union was prepared to agree to the establishment of one or two groups of experts—whose membership could be determined by the Legal Sub-Committee—to prepare draft agreements on those matters.

19. In conclusion, he reaffirmed that his country would spare no effort to promote the development of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space in the interests of all States.

20. Mr. MATSCH (Austria) reviewed the advances made in outer space during the previous year, and noted with satisfaction that progress in science and technology had been complemented by encouraging results in international co-operation. In August 1963, the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR had announced the approval of a first memorandum of understanding to implement the bilateral space agreement of 8 June 1962 on collaboration between the two countries in the use of artificial satellites for meteorological purposes (see A/5482). That agreement, although limited in scope, was significant because it showed that there were some technical areas in which the United States and the Soviet Union had found it possible to undertake joint action. Moreover, the signing at Moscow on 5 August 1963 of the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water should remove one of the great dangers of man's exploration of outer space: the hazard of radio-active pollution of space near the earth. Moreover, during the current session the First Committee, and later the General Assembly, had taken another important step in urging, in resolution 1884 (XVIII), that all countries should refrain from placing nuclear weapons in outer space.

21. Turning to the reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549 and Add.1), he noted that that Committee was presenting to the General Assembly a number of scientific and technical recommendations, which he hoped would be approved.

22. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, after long consultations, had finally reached agreement on most of the legal issues. His delegation was not surprised at those encouraging results, which it had foreseen during the meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee and the September session of the plenary Committee. Nevertheless, it was gratified that the agreement had been expressed in the form of a draft declaration of the legal principles which should govern the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space. To be sure, the draft declaration did not cover all aspects of the problem. For example, the Austrian delegation had said at the 1311th meeting of the First Committee, during the discussion of the draft resolution designed to preclude the placing of weapons of mass destruction in outer space, that that draft resolution was entirely in harmony with the work undertaken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and that its contents should be taken into account in formulating the legal principles which that Committee was studying. While regretting that a provision to that effect was not contained in the draft declaration, his delegation accepted the document in its present form and hoped that it would be adopted by the First Committee and the General Assembly.

23. Circumstances appeared propitious for a speedy resumption of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. On the legal side that Committee should endeavour to work out further principles, for the present draft declaration could in no way be regarded as complete and final. As for the preparation of draft international agreements on liability for space-

vehicle accidents and on assistance to and return of space vehicles and personnel, it was to be hoped that the adoption of the general principles would make it possible for work to proceed without further delay on the drafting of those legal instruments.

24. On the scientific side, the Austrian delegation believed that, besides implementing the concrete suggestions made in its report, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should concentrate on certain specific and important issues, and investigate how certain objectives could be achieved with the assistance of the competent international and national bodies. Those objectives would include in particular the establishment under the auspices of the United Nations of a satellite system for radio navigation which would free terrestrial navigation from the vagaries associated with the use of the earth's magnetic field. He understood that ITU had already started to study the technical aspects of the project; but it also had political aspects, such as co-operation among States, listed in General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) among the terms of reference of the Committee.

25. A second objective might be the establishment of a global space communication system, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 1721 D (XVI). That project should be considered by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for several reasons. First of all, the experiments made with the Telstar I and II, Relay and Syncom satellites had shown that the establishment of such a system was technically possible. Moreover, at the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference of ITU, held at Geneva in October and November 1963, seventy countries had signed an agreement on the allocation of frequency bands essential for the various categories of space radio communications and for radio astronomy. The representatives of thirteen European countries had met at Paris in May and at London in July 1963 to discuss the development, in co-operation with the United States, of a space communication system; and another session had been held at Rome on 27 November. In the United States the Communications Satellite Corporation was planning the first launching of commercial telecommunication satellites in 1966 and expected its initial system with global capacity to be in operation by 1967. The establishment of such a system would have far-reaching consequences: Governments or individuals could communicate anywhere and at any time by voice or television. It would also have important legal and political aspects, such as the participation of Governments in the ownership, use and management of the satellite system. All those aspects should be considered by the Committee. It might equally consider whether the global communication system mentioned in resolution 1721 D (XVI) should not be placed under the auspices of the United Nations.

26. Another area of study was that of weather and climate control. He noted with great interest from the second report of WMO that the Working Group on Research Aspects of Meteorological Satellites was studying the general circulation and the heat budget of the atmosphere in order to gain a better understanding of the nature of weather and climate and perhaps eventually to give mankind the power to influence them. The major factors in that connexion would be the observational data sent from weather satellites placed in the atmosphere and from a world-wide network of observation posts called the "World Weather Watch" which was to be established by WMO. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could consider those questions when it received the next report of WMO.

27. Finally, the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee might be requested to study and establish, in collaboration with COSPAR, a long-term programme of co-operation to explore the possibilities of making use of electromagnetic and other forces in outer space for the benefit of all mankind.

28. Mr. FAHMY (United Arab Republic) said it was encouraging that the discussion of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was taking place at a time when international tensions were abating. That détente had already been reflected in the conclusion of the partial test ban treaty and the adoption by acclamation of General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII). The next step was to build on those first foundations. In a number of documents, notably resolutions 1348 (XIII) and 1472 (XIV), the General Assembly had already expressed itself in favour of the peaceful use of outer space. The Committee would also recall that one of the legal principles on which there had been unanimity from the outset was that of the applicability of international law, including the United Nations Charter, to the activities of States in space. The Charter provided for co-operation among States solely in the interest of peace; the same should apply in the new dimension opened by the exploration of outer space. That was the mandate, which had been reaffirmed when the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had decided to instruct its Legal Sub-Committee to continue its consideration of legal questions connected with the peaceful uses of outer space in the light of section I of General Assembly resolution 1802 (XVII). Even resolution 1884 (XVIII) was based on resolution 1721 (XVI), in which the General Assembly had made it clear that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

29. Thus when, on 14 September 1962, the United Arab Republic had submitted its draft code [3] proposing to confine the use of outer space solely to peaceful purposes, it had simply been acting in accordance with the letter and spirit of the resolutions adopted unanimously by the General Assembly and calling for co-operation in peace and for peace. Its proposals had been advanced because it was essential to take measures from the outset to prevent an arms race in outer space. The representatives of Japan, Lebanon, India and Brazil, speaking at the 24th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (see A/5549/Add.1, annex), had likewise stressed the need to proclaim that outer space should be used solely for peaceful purposes. Many delegations had spoken in favour of general principles governing the exploration of outer space and had referred to areas where almost the same conditions existed as in outer space. He recalled in that connexion the Antarctic Treaty signed in 1959 by many States, including the nuclear Powers, which prohibited any measures of a military nature in Antarctica. It should be possible to attain a similar objective with respect to outer space. The United Arab Republic was not calling at the present stage for the conclusion of an international agreement or treaty, but it hoped that the General Assembly, by adopting any set of principles, would make it clear that that was the goal envisaged. While his delegation shared the view that the creation of a legal vacuum

[3] Ibid., annex III, E.

in space must be avoided, it believed that it would not be advisable to adopt a set of legal norms which could not win the full support of world opinion and would therefore have precisely the effect of creating such a vacuum. It was common knowledge that despite lengthy negotiations between the two principal space Powers it had not been possible for the draft declaration of legal principles to take into account some of the reservations which had been made. It was now the task of the General Assembly and all Member States to consider the situation in a spirit of real co-operation and to give due attention to the sincere convictions of Member States.

30. His delegation did not consider that in their existing form the legal principles set forth in the draft declaration constituted either a rigid framework or what might be called a law of outer space governing co-operation in space. They were limited to certain legal norms and were not the "general principles" the adoption of which his delegation had always advocated. Considering, moreover, the valid reservations expressed by many delegations in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the universality of those legal norms could be established only to the extent that they were accepted and put into practice. The principle set forth in paragraph 1 should not appear in the draft declaration, for it could hardly be called a legal principle. The principles enumerated in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 simply reiterated principles already established by the General Assembly in previous resolutions, but they raised the question of the application of international law and of the United Nations Charter to outer space. It should be stressed that there was as yet no international law governing outer space, and that a body of law applicable to that new field would evolve from the co-operation and experience of the various countries. The principles set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 were an improvement on previous formulas, and could be regarded as additional proof of the sincere desire of the two space Powers to co-operate. Nevertheless, he agreed with the Japanese delegation that States which launched objects into space should provide adequate information in advance and that other States should have the corresponding obligation to return space vehicles. Finally, the wording of paragraphs 7 and 8 was not clear, and would probably give rise to many legal problems, particularly with respect to the definition of a launching State, the legal status of joint programmes and the liability emanating therefrom, and the position of "lending States". Despite those reservations, however, his delegation would support the draft declaration, in the hope that it would be possible in the near future to adopt a more satisfactory and comprehensive set of principles.

31. He noted with satisfaction that in the scientific and technical fields the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had been able to adopt useful suggestions, particularly with respect to the exchange of information and encouragement of international programmes, the achievements of ITU in the field of satellite communications, international co-operation in satellite meteorological programmes, education and training programmes, and potentially harmful space experiments. COSPAR and the specialized agencies concerned deserved thanks for their valuable co-operation in that connexion. As those various proposals were still at the preparatory stage, the Committee had decided, in conformity with the wish expressed by his delegation, that the Secretariat should prepare studies on the implementation of those recommendations in consultation with the agencies concerned.

32. In view of the many tasks which the Committee would have to carry out in 1964 it was essential that it should have the support and guidance of the General Assembly so that it could ensure international co-operation in space and the peaceful exploration of space in the exclusive interests of mankind, as desired by the Assembly.

33. Sir Patrick DEAN (United Kingdom) said that the reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549 and Add.1) could be considered in the light of certain important events which had taken place during the previous year, notably the conclusion of the partial test ban treaty and the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII). His delegation also welcomed the projects for technical co-operation between the United States and the Soviet Union in space. The United Kingdom was strongly in favour of co-operative activities of that type; it was for that reason that it was to be a member of the European Launcher Development Organization (ELDO) and the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) and hope to participate in the establishment of a global system of satellite communications, and that it had supported the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which should be congratulated, together with WMO and ITU, for the constructive work accomplished during the year. His delegation was confident that the General Assembly would approve those developments in the technical field, and it was now preparing, together with other delegations, a draft resolution to that effect. [4]

34. His delegation felt that the draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space (A/5549/Add.1, para. 6) would have to be supplemented by detailed agreements at a later stage. Nevertheless, it noted with satisfaction that the efforts made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to narrow disagreements and emphasize areas of agreement had been crowned with success, as indicated by the fact that it had been possible to formulate a draft declaration. The two principles already enunciated by the Assembly in its resolution 1721 A (XVI) formed the basis of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the draft. The principle set forth in paragraph 5 concerning the international responsibility of States for their national activities in space should be acceptable to all States, whatever their social and political systems; private groups of lawyers, such as the study group set up by the David Davies Memorial Institute of International Studies in London, had strongly recommended a principle of that kind. His delegation was glad to note that the principle enunciated in paragraph 6 re-stated one of the principles it had proposed in its earlier draft declaration, [5] for it was important that States should have due regard for the corresponding interests of other States. Paragraph 7 appeared to make national registration of objects launched into outer space the criterion for jurisdiction and control. That was a satisfactory starting-point, but the concept should be further developed. Paragraph 8 was drafted in very broad terms and the principle which it expressed

[4] Subsequently circulated as document A/C.1/L.332.

[5] Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 27, document A/C.1/879.

could be satisfactorily applied only through bilateral and multilateral agreements. The question was one which gave rise to many difficulties, particularly in the matter of activities in outer space undertaken jointly by several countries; it should therefore be considered further when the question of liability for space vehicle accidents was taken up.

35. As a future member of ELDO and ESRO, the United Kingdom was particularly interested in the effects that those basic principles might have on the space activities of international organizations. The fact that an explicit reference to international organizations was contained only in paragraph 5 should not, in the view of the United Kingdom delegation, be interpreted as excluding such organizations from the scope of the rest of the draft declaration or as prejudicing in any way the position of international organizations conducting activities in outer space. Such questions as the liability of international organizations for damage caused by objects launched into outer space would have to be given further consideration when an international agreement on liability came to be drafted. The United Kingdom delegation agreed with the delegations of the United States and Austria that international organizations as well as the States belonging to them could be internationally liable in such cases. Moreover, the United Kingdom did not regard the draft declaration as in any way implying that such organizations did not have international legal personality to the extent required for the conduct of their activities.

36. Some of the new principles would have to be elaborated by means of subsequent agreements, particularly on such matters as liability for space vehicle accidents, a matter which had attained a certain degree of urgency. The United Kingdom delegation felt that it would be useful to recommend to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that that item should be given priority on the agenda of its Legal Sub-Committee. That Committee should also ask the Legal Sub-Committee to give further consideration, at its next session, to the question of drafting an agreement on assistance to and return of space vehicles and personnel.

37. The United Kingdom delegation supported the draft declaration because, although the principles were broadly stated and some of them would need supplementing by detailed international agreements, it constituted a significant contribution to the development of the law of outer space. The United Kingdom Government intended to respect those principles and believed that all States would apply them, thus ensuring that the exploration and use of outer space would be confined to peaceful purposes.

38. Mr. ATTOLICO (Italy) said it was gratifying to note that thanks to the conclusion of the partial test ban treaty and the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII), consideration of the question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space was taking place in a most propitious atmosphere. Significance was also attached to the practical ventures in international co-operation that had been undertaken in that field such as the agreement concluded during the previous year by the United States and the Soviet Union, the regional activities that were taking place in Europe within the framework of ESRO and ELDO and such international projects as the installation of sounding rocket launching facilities in India. In Italy, scientists and technicians were at work on the San Marco programme, which would per[mit] the launching of space vehicles from nautical pl[at]forms.

39. The agreement which had been reached on t[he] legal aspects of the question was a matter for sat[is]faction and it was to be hoped that the General Asse[m]bly would adopt by a large majority the draft decla[ra]tion of legal principles drawn up by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The declarat[ion] would only be a first step, and would have to be further developed by giving detailed consideration to potential problems and situations and by conclud[ing] international agreements. The questions of liabil[ity] for damage caused by space vehicles and of assista[nce] to and return of space vehicles and their person[nel] in cases of forced landing or distress required detai[led] regulation, and draft agreements should be elabora[ted] to deal with them. Furthermore, the technical advan[ces] that had been made in the field of outer space wo[uld] undoubtedly give rise to new legal problems; the le[gal] aspects of the question would therefore have to be kept under constant review so as to ensure that ou[ter] space was used for the benefit of all mankind and in a spirit of co-operation. The Italian delegation was therefore satisfied with the positive tenor of the di[s]declaration, which rightly emphasized the necessity of using outer space for peaceful purposes. For its part, Italy would conscientiously respect the principles set forth in the draft declaration.

40. The Italian delegation was happy to note the progress that had been made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the scientific and technical field. With regard to the collection and exchange of information, it felt that in view of the abundance of data the next step should be to determine exactly what information was needed, by whom, and for what purpose, so that the best possible use could be made of it. Detailed consideration would also have to be given to the question of training in space technology so that the developing countries could make full use of the advantages flowing from scientific advances made in the field of outer space. The recommendation to that effect contained in the Committee's report appeared to be somewhat weak, and the time had come for the Committee to act as a catalyst so that all the resources available within the United Nations system could be mobilized. It should be noted that WMO had established a special fund intended inter alia to provide for training in space technology, and it was to be hoped that that example would be followed by other specialized agencies.

41. Important work had been done by ITU in the field of space communications, and an extraordinary conference had recently been held for the allocation of frequencies for that purpose. At its next session the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would probably consider the report of that conference and add some useful recommendations to promote the development of international space communications for the use of all countries. However, to enable the developing countries to share in the benefits of progress achieved in that field, they would have to be given technical assistance for a survey of their telecommunications needs and the development of their national networks. It was therefore essential that the United Nations agencies should co-ordinate their efforts in that direction.

42. Similar considerations also applied, to a [lesser] extent, to the area of satellite meteorology. [In this] connexion, WMO was to be commended for the excellent work it had done with a view to establishing a global meteorological network, which would be of benefit to all countries. But to achieve that objective all the necessary measures would have to be taken to ensure a perfect World Weather Watch. The longer the project was delayed, the longer would be the delay in bringing about new and more ambitious programmes for land improvements in the developing countries, which needed them the most.

43. If all countries resolved to do their utmost to promote international co-operation in outer space, joint international projects could be undertaken for the peaceful conquest of outer space. It was in that spirit that the late President of the United States, Mr. John F. Kennedy, had mentioned the possibility of joint expeditions to the moon by the United States and the Soviet Union. For its part, the Italian delegation considered it essential that the area of co-operation in outer space activities should be enlarged, thus contributing not only to the material progress of mankind but also to mutual understanding among the peoples of the world.

44. Mr. DE PINIES (Spain), exercising his right of reply, wished to correct certain errors that had crept into the statement made by the representative of the United States. He wished to point out, first of all, that the discovery of the American continent by Christopher Columbus had been accompanied by a parallel breakthrough in the realm of law; Father Vitoria had been the founder of international law. Furthermore, there had been no division of spoils, but a joint effort to civilize the continent. Lastly, there had been no nationalist competition or imperialist war. The division effected by Pope Alexander VI in 1493 had been the first case of arbitration in international law. It should be added that if all voyages of discovery had resulted in a blending of races, as had happened in South America, the world would have avoided many conflicts.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.

Litho in U.N.

77101—November 1964—2,125

United Nations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
EIGHTEENTH SESSION
Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE, 1343rd MEETING

Tuesday, 3 December 1963, at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

Chairman: Mr. C. W. A. SCHURMANN (Netherlands).

AGENDA ITEM 28

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space (continued):

(a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5482, A/5549 and Add.1);

(b) Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VII, section IV) (A/5503)

1. Mr. CHAKRAVARTY (India) said that since the seventeenth session of the General Assembly great advances had been made in the exploration of outer space. The prospects opened up by those advances challenged man's capacity to regulate his actions in a new environment and were compelling mankind to focus its attention on the peaceful benefits to be derived from space exploration and on the question of the law to be applied to outer space. The conclusion of the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water and the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII) represented welcome steps towards the peaceful regulation of outer space. The willingness displayed by the only two States currently capable of exploring outer space to share their knowledge for the benefit of all was to be welcomed. Less developed countries could also help, by undertaking supporting research; however, the essential responsibility for co-ordinating all such efforts for the benefit of the whole of mankind lay with the United Nations.

2. Significant progress had been made in the previous year both in international scientific collaboration and in the formulation of a law of space. Under an agreement reached between the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (A/5482), joint experiments were to be carried out in long-distance radio communication by satellite, and the two countries planned to distribute meteorological information obtained from satellites to other countries for forecasting and research purposes. Both countries, as also ITU and WMO, were to be congratulated on the part they were playing in making possible such advances.

3. In India, too, the impact of the progress that was being made in the peaceful use of outer space was being felt. The Indian Meteorological Department had found some of the data obtained by the United States Weather Bureau satellites very useful for weather forecasting and research. Although India's own space activities were still modest, a sounding rocket launching site had been established at Thumba under the auspices of the Indian National Committee for Space Research, which had been established in 1962 to encourage research into the peaceful uses of outer space and promote international co-operation by keeping in close touch with COSPAR and other organizations. In paragraph 16 (a) of its report (A/5549), the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space approved the establishment of a group of scientists to visit the Thumba site, from which the first sounding rocket had been launched on 21 November, and United Nations sponsorship of the project could be anticipated following that visit, which was scheduled for the end of 1963. Aside from that activity, the Indian National Committee had set up a satellite tracking and telemetry station at Ahmedabad in collaboration with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration and had organized a space physics seminar. India would co-operate fully in the World Weather Watch and in the international space communications system.

4. The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space also dealt with the question of education and training—a subject of special significance to the developing countries, which would derive great benefit from training in weather reading and communications. The report also mentioned that UNESCO could help Member States in various ways; in India's case, UNESCO had offered financial assistance for the organization of a seminar, and had helped to meet expenses connected with the dispatch of Indian experts for advanced training in space research techniques abroad and with a programme of fellowships to be offered to foreign technicians for training at Thumba. His country was grateful to UNESCO for that assistance.

5. Although in adopting resolution 1721 (XVI) in 1961, Member States had agreed that international law, including the United Nations Charter, should be applicable to outer space and that State sovereignty should not apply there, serious differences had remained as to what further legal principles could be formulated at the present stage, and on the question whether space law should be expressed in another General Assembly resolution or embodied in a binding international agreement. There had been wide agreement on the need to formulate the laws of liability and assistance, but not on the broad principles to govern State activity in space. However, thanks to protracted negotiations and the statesmanship of the two Powers most intimately concerned, it had now proved possible for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to draw up a draft declaration of legal principles (A/5549/Add.1, para. 6), representing the

maximum area of agreement at present possible. Although the draft declaration mainly reflected the efforts of the two space Powers, it also took into account certain views expressed in the Legal Sub-Committee, notably regarding the applicability of General Assembly resolution 110 (II) to outer space, the idea that launchings need not be restricted solely to Governments so long as States retained full liability, and the principle of holding prior consultations before undertaking potentially harmful experiments. On the last point, his delegation had submitted to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on 22 May 1963 a working paper suggesting that all States proposing to carry out such experiments should seek from the COSPAR Consultative Group on the Potentially Harmful Effects of Space Experiments an analysis of their qualitative and quantitative aspects, and he was gratified that that body was now generally recognized as an appropriate forum for such consultations. There was now also general agreement that the legal principles should first be formulated in a General Assembly resolution and later incorporated, as and when appropriate, in international agreements. His delegation welcomed that compromise, which it had advocated in the Legal Sub-Committee, and presumed that the same procedure would be followed in future with respect to other legal principles.

6. While his delegation welcomed the draft declaration as a major advance and recognized that it represented the widest measure of agreement possible at the present time, it regretted the absence of any reference to the principle—contained in the draft code submitted by the United Arab Republic in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [1/] that the activities of States in outer space should be confined to peaceful uses. Although the question of the peaceful uses of outer space was undeniably connected with that of disarmament and it was sometimes difficult to distinguish peaceful from military uses, the enunciation of that principle would constitute a significant step in the development of the rule of law in outer space.

7. It was even more regrettable that despite the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII), which called upon all States to refrain from placing weapons of mass destruction in outer space, a corresponding legal principle was not embodied in the draft declaration. Although his delegation was not at present pressing for the formulation of a general legal principle prohibiting the military use of outer space, it felt that the limited agreement embodied in resolution 1884 (XVIII) should have been reflected in the draft declaration.

8. It had been argued at the seventeenth session by both the United States and the Soviet Union, first, that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was not competent to deal with the question of reserving outer space for peaceful uses, which was closely linked with the question of disarmament and therefore a matter for exclusive consideration by the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committeee on Disarmament; and secondly, that the adoption of a legal principle relating to the military use of outer space would be contrary to the accepted policy followed in disarmament negotiations, inasmuch as there would be no provision for verification. The Indian delegation could not agree that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was not competent in the matter, since the Committee had come into being because of the space Powers' concern to avoid any misuse of outer space. He recalled that in raising the question of outer space at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly the Soviet Union had stated in its explanatory memorandum [2/] that scientific and technical progress in outer space must be directed towards exclusively peaceful uses, while the United States, in proposing an item relating to outer space at the same session, had stated in its explanatory memorandum [3/] that action to further international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space could parallel the efforts being made to reach agreement on the disarmament aspects of outer space and that the two questions could be dealt with separately. Moreover, the General Assembly had recognized in the first preambular paragraph of its resolution 1348 (XIII) that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only.

9. If the exploration of outer space was to benefit mankind, there must be the widest possible measure of co-operation, embracing even those who were unable to engage in independent space exploration. At the previous meeting, the representative of the United States had informed the Committee that President Johnson had reaffirmed President Kennedy's offer of closer co-operation with the Soviet Union in the exploration of space. If agreement could be reached that all space exploration should be conducted on a joint or co-operative basis, it might be possible to achieve the objective of reserving outer space for peaceful purposes outside the context of general and complete disarmament, and the problem of verification would no longer arise.

10. He recalled that many members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had urged that outer space should be reserved for peaceful purposes only; moreover, the Chairman of that Committee, speaking in the First Committee on 16 October 1963 (1311th meeting), had stated that the draft resolution then under consideration (later adopted as General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII)) was entirely in harmony with the work of his Committee and should be taken into account in elaborating the legal principles under study by that body. In the light of those considerations, his delegation felt that it was too late to challenge the competence of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to deal with such questions.

11. With regard to the argument that a legal principle relating to the military use of outer space could not be formulated because it would not provide for verification, he would point out that the obligation embodied in resolution 1884 (XVIII) had been accepted without specific provision for verification. Thus, the adoption of a corresponding legal principle would not entail any added risk.

12. His delegation felt that it would be premature to draft a comprehensive space code at the present time, since the legal principles in question must evolve gradually with increasing knowledge of and experience in outer space. It was pressing only for the declaration of a legal principle that outer space should be reserved for peaceful purposes—a principle which could later be embodied in a binding agreement. In particular, a legal principle covering the agreement embodied in resolution 1884 (XVIII) should be formulated by the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. During the coming year, the Legal Sub-Committee should also endeavour to draft international agreements on the laws of liability and assistance and should consider what other principles were ready for formulation in binding agreements; it might, for example, take up the question of potentially harmful experiments in outer space, since the two space Powers had already agreed that there should be international consultation before such experiments were undertaken.

[1/] Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 27, document A/5181, annex III, E.

[2/] Ibid., Thirteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 60, document A/3818.

[3/] Ibid., document A/3902.

13. Mr. CSATORDAY (Hungary) said that conditions for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space had improved during the previous year, thanks largely to the conclusion of the partial test ban treaty and the ensuing international détente. Evidence of the progress already made could be found in the scientific and technical recommendations in the report of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549) and the recent draft declaration of legal principles (A/5549/Add.1, para. 6). He was gratified to note that the preamble and paragraphs 4 and 6 of the draft declaration referred to international co-operation in the scientific, legal and other aspects of space activities. Since he was aware of the great efforts on the part of the Committee that had been required in order to reconcile the differing views of the great Powers, the comments he was about to make were neither conditions of acceptance nor reservations, but constructive remarks meant to express his delegation's intention of improving the effectiveness of the legal principles.

14. Paragraph 2, which referred to the free use of outer space, must be interpreted subject to the understanding that such use was subject to the limitations of international law; no State was entitled to jeopardize from or in that environment the security of another State and its rights and interests in the exploration of outer space. Paragraph 6, which mentioned appropriate international consultations, reflected the necessity of concerting all space activities. Every sovereign State expected to be able to give its opinion before the initiation of any potentially harmful experiment. The more fully States complied with the rules of international co-operation and respected the interests of other States in space exploration, the fewer limitations would have to be enforced against States by the community of nations. As to the sixth preambular paragraph, in which General Assembly resolution 110 (II) condemning war propaganda was recognized as applicable to outer space, he agreed with the Brazilian representative in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, who had said, at the 24th meeting (see A/5549/Add.1, annex), that a ban should be imposed on the utilization of satellite communication systems for purposes of encouraging national or racial rivalries.

15. The principle of State responsibility set forth in paragraph 5 was the most important of the draft principles, since State responsibility was the safeguard necessary to ensure that space activities were kept within the bounds set by international law. An important aspect of international responsibility was liability for damage caused by space activities, a principle referred to in paragraph 8. The principle of territorial responsibility should be one of the main criteria underlying the international convention to be concluded on the subject.

16. He agreed with the Polish representative that the draft declaration did not constitute a closed chapter but was in fact the beginning of an all-embracing legal settlement. He welcomed the statements made at the preceding meeting by the representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom that their Governments intended to respect the principles of the draft declaration. It now remained for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to work out the legal principles in further detail, so that they might be incorporated in international conventions and adopted in a more effective form binding upon all; Hungary was ready to co-operate in that effort.

17. International co-operation had become broader, covering a larger field of common interests, as was evidenced by the recommendations made in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the exchange of information, the encouragement of international programmes, the establishment of international sounding rocket facilities and education and training. He stressed the significance of the sounding rocket launching site built at Thumba, India, for which United Nations sponsorship had been proposed. The recommendations relating to potentially harmful space experiments should be used as a starting-point for working out the necessary preventive and precautionary measures and finding means for their effective international application. He complimented WHO, WMO, ITU, UNESCO, IAEA and COSPAR on their international programmes and projects related to space exploration.

18. His delegation fully shared the view of the USSR that every large-scale space experiment necessitated thorough scientific and technical preparation and safeguards that reduced risks to a minimum. There was no point in carrying the competition in space exploration to excess for the sake of national prestige; the policies to be pursued were those which made allowance for realities and thus met the interests and expectations of mankind.

19. It was his Government's continuing intention to strive to broaden the extent of co-operation between States in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. It was clear, however, that until general and complete disarmament had been achieved—including the dismantling of all military bases in foreign territories—full, sincere and unrestricted co-operation among States having different social systems would always be limited by considerations of security. In the meantime, however, the draft declaration of legal principles offered a start toward the creation of the political and legal safeguards needed to protect the common interests of all mankind and the cause of international co-operation in outer space. His Government agreed with the recommendations and programmes contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and would be ready at all times to contribute to their implementation within the limits of its modest means.

20. Mr. ALI (Pakistan) said that the great strides made in all spheres of activity connected with the peaceful uses of outer space during the previous year were evident from the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the special reports prepared by ITU (E/3770) and WMO (E/3794 and Corr.1). The projects envisaged included a global telecommunication network making possible the worldwide transmission of radio and television broadcasts, the use of photographs taken from space to ascertain the extent of snow cover, thereby permitting more

accurate forecasts of water supply and potential flood danger, and perhaps the adoption of measures not only to forecast the weather but also to control and modify it.

21. The information submitted by Member States in compliance with General Assembly resolutions 1721 (XVI) and 1802 (XVII) indicated how many had already entered the field of outer space research. In Pakistan, the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Committee, a member of COSPAR, had carried out rocket launching experiments with the assistance of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and the Royal Society, and proposed to carry out further experiments in 1964 in connexion with the programme for the International Year of the Quiet Sun; that was an example of the contribution that even the developing countries could make to the joint effort to harness the knowledge and technology of space for the common good.

22. If all States, irrespective of the state of their economic and scientific development, were to benefit from the peaceful uses of outer space, they must be in a position to participate effectively in space activities within the limits of their resources and capabilities. For the developing countries, the first need was for education and training, and his delegation therefore attached great value to the recommendations contained under that heading in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549, para. 17). The time had come, as the Italian representative had said, to think in terms of a comprehensive and specific plan for the collection and exchange of information and for the assessment both of the training needs of developing countries and of the facilities that were or might become available for training purposes through bilateral, multilateral, regional or international programmes. He hoped that the draft resolution adopted by the First Committee would contain a provision enabling the Secretariat or, if it was preferred, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space itself to carry out that task.

23. If the promise held out by the peaceful uses of outer space was to be fully realized, outer space must not be allowed to become the arena of national rivalries and, above all, the competitive struggle between the two major space Powers must gradually be transmuted into friendly co-operation. Such co-operation in man's first flight to the moon had been suggested by the late President of the United States, Mr. John F. Kennedy, in his last address to the General Assembly (1209th plenary meeting); there could be no greater monument to that great man and the ideals he had stood for than that the very first expedition to the moon should be a joint venture of all mankind, carrying the flag of the United Nations.

24. The most outstanding developments during the past year in the field of outer space had been in the direction of peaceful co-operation between the great Powers. A beginning had been made toward the demilitarization of outer space by the conclusion of the partial test ban treaty and by the declarations made by the United States and the Soviet Union of their intention to refrain from placing weapons of mass destruction in orbit, which had been noted in General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII). In addition, co-operation in important spheres of space research had gone forward in pursuance of the space agreement concluded in June 1962 between the United States and the Soviet Union, as shown in document A/5482.

25. The draft declaration of legal principles constituted, in the light of the previous disagreement on such principles, a virtual break-through towards the goal of peaceful and orderly development in the exploration and use of outer space; however, it was not a closed book, nor was it comprehensive. He regretted in particular that it had proved impossible at the present stage to include a reference to General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII) on the banning of weapons of mass destruction from outer space, and he trusted that in due course the declaration would be amplified to cover the ideas and principles set forth in that resolution.

26. Of course, the spirit of the draft declaration was obviously opposed to the use of outer space for military purposes or other purposes prejudicial to friendly relations among States. Attention had been drawn to various shortcomings in the text, and it was clear that the questions of liability in the case of multilateral space ventures, liability of States which lent their territory to another State for the launching of space vehicles, and prior registration and notification of launchings all needed further study. He agreed with the Australian representative that the principles relating to State liability and responsibility should be embodied in a more comprehensive international liability agreement.

27. Nevertheless, the draft declaration was a major advance towards filling the legal vacuum in outer space. Congratulations were due to all who had contributed to it, and especially to the major space Powers, which had displayed a commendable and far-sighted spirit of compromise.

28. So commonplace had reports of manned and unmanned launchings become that it was hard to recall that the first satellite had been launched only six years ago. Yet, man's break-through into outer space was an event of portentous significance, the full implications of which could not yet be grasped. Certainly, the merging of day and night and of East and West as he orbited the globe should strike the astronaut as symbolic of the essential unity of mankind; but the fact that they were earthbound need not prevent politicians and diplomats also from drawing the inevitable conclusions from the facts and allowing themselves to be inspired by the exciting vistas that were opening up. It was for man now to use his new-found powers wisely and to avert in space the anarchy and injustice that had accompanied his discovery of his own world. There was hope that by demonstrating the unity of mankind the advent of the space age would finally teach man to live with himself.

29. Mr. GOLEMANOV (Bulgaria) said that thanks to the international détente and the efforts of the Powers directly concerned, substantial progress had lately been made in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space offered proof of that fact, and the recommendations contained in the report, which mapped the area of present understanding and provided a basis for future co-operation, deserved special attention.

30. But however promising the outlook might be, the fact remained that the development of international activities in outer space was a function of the degree of understanding achieved in other fields, especially in general and complete disarmament. So long as the cold war was allowed to continue, international scientific co-operation would be correspondingly limited.

31. States would have much to gain from the standpoint of scientific development and the improvement of international relations by keeping each other mutually informed of national space activities. The possibilities held out by such co-operation were clearly apparent in the field of space telecommunications; despite the difficulties that still remained to be overcome, he was convinced that a world without a space communications system would within a very short space of time have become inconceivable. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had therefore acted logically and wisely in asserting that international space communications should be available for the use of all countries without exception (A/5549, para. 14 (b)). It was also gratifying to note from the report the interest displayed by all countries in the establishment of a World Weather Watch, using data obtained from satellites and by conventional methods; that was a valuable project and deserved every support.

32. The recommendations concerning international sounding rocket facilities, education and training, and the potentially harmful effects of space experiments met the requirements of scientific and technological progress and would serve to promote international co-operation in those fields. In that connexion, the United Nations should give particular attention to the problem of ensuring that certain types of experiments did not interfere with other space activities.

33. The draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space submitted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was evidence that progress was being made in the legal regulation of relations between States in the peaceful uses of space; he was pleased that the relaxation of international tension and the useful work of that Committee had resulted in the acceptance of certain broad principles in that regard.

34. In particular, his delegation welcomed the basic idea underlying the draft declaration, i.e. that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried on for the benefit of mankind and of all States, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development. That principle ruled out any possibility of national appropriation of outer space or celestial bodies by claim of sovereignty, by use or occupation, or by any other means. Although the draft declaration was inspired by General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI), it marked the first occasion on which the General Assembly had sought to ensure, by means of such a declaration, that certain highly important scientific advances were made accessible to all mankind.

35. The draft declaration called for the achievement of that objective through close co-operation between States in the exploration and peaceful uses of space. The idea of co-operation was embodied in paragraph 6, which provided that States should conduct all their space activities with due regard for the interests of other States and should undertake international consultations before proceeding with any potentially harmful activity or experiment. The draft declaration also called for the space activities of States to be carried on in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Charter.

36. His delegation hoped that the legal regulation of space activities and international co-operation in space would go even further as time went on. A positive step towards that end was the formulation, in the draft declaration, of certain rules governing the rights and obligations of States in space. Thus, paragraph 7 provided that States should retain jurisdiction and control over any objects which they launched into space and that such objects or their component parts found beyond the limits of the State of registry should be returned to it upon identification. Paragraph 5 very properly enunciated the principle of international responsibility for space activities—which also applied to the activities of non-governmental entities—and provided that, when space activities were carried on by an international organization, responsibility was to be borne by that organization and the States participating in it. Paragraph 8 clearly stated the principle of international liability for damage caused by objects launched into space. Finally, paragraph 9 provided that States must assist astronauts in the event of accident, distress or emergency landing. The description of astronauts as "envoys of mankind in outer space" was a fitting tribute to the heroic role they were playing as pioneers in the exploration and peaceful uses of space.

37. His delegation would support the draft declaration, which represented an important advance in the development of international space law.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

Litho in U.N.

77101—November 1964—2,125

United Nations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
EIGHTEENTH SESSION
Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE, 1344th MEETING

Wednesday, 4 December 1963, at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

Chairman: Mr. C. W. A. SCHURMANN (Netherlands).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Csatorday (Hungary), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 28

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space (continued):
(a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5482, A/5449 and Add.1);
(b) Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VII, section IV) (A/5503)

1. Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) said his delegation was gratified at the advances made during the previous year in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. In the report on the work of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its second session, held in April and May 1963 (A/5549, paras. 19-20), it was stated that no agreement had been reached as to the character of the document in which the general principles governing outer space activities would be embodied, and that the participating delegations had limited themselves to recommending the continuance of contacts and exchanges of views. Today, only a few months after the publication of that relatively pessimistic report, a draft declaration (A/5549/Add.1, para. 6) had been unanimously referred by the Committee to the General Assembly, and the statements already made in the First Committee made it clear that the General Assembly would give that document its unanimous approval. The Belgian representative in the Legal Sub-Committee had repeatedly urged that discussion of the form of a document to summarize the law of outer space, important though that question was, should not be allowed to obscure the overriding need for speedy agreement on the substance of a body of rules governing outer space activities. The draft declaration before the First Committee would help to make possible new progress toward achieving that goal.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 1721 A (XVI), had commended two general principles to States for their guidance in the exploration and use of outer space; today the Assembly was being called upon to declare solemnly that States should be guided in that field by a set of principles whose scope was both wider and more precisely defined than that of the two principles contained in resolution 1721 A (XVI).

3. There were, to be sure, some omissions in the draft declaration and there was a lack of precision on specific points. For example, while the principle of international liability for outer space activities was mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 8, nothing specific was said about the exact nature of that liability or the respective obligations incurred by international organizations or States engaging jointly in the exploration and use of outer space. Similarly, some balance must be ensured between the protection of the States launching objects into space and the interests of countries called upon to return such objects which landed in their territory. Moreover, the draft declaration failed to give precise definitions of certain terms and concepts, such as the term "registry" used in paragraph 7. Those shortcomings would not prevent his delegation from giving its full support to the draft declaration. If the General Assembly approved the draft declaration, however, it would thereby be assuming the obligation to continue the work and ensure that the general principles contained therein were elaborated so that they could be put into practical effect through specific legal procedures.

4. In April 1963 the Belgian representative in the Legal Sub-Committee had submitted a working paper on the unification of certain rules governing liability for damage caused by space vehicles (A/5549, annex III, H). A number of other proposals had been drafted on that problem and on the question of assistance to and return of space vehicles and personnel. The Belgian delegation hoped that those and other proposals would be studied in the near future by the competent bodies; in that connexion, it had noted with great interest the Soviet representative's statement that his Government was prepared to agree to the appointment of groups of experts to draft new international instruments. The Belgian Government was fully aware of the practical problems involved in the activities planned by international organizations such as ESRO and ELDO; it held that precise proposals on liability and similar questions should be dealt with as speedily as possible by the competent experts, and it was prepared to co-operate actively in the discharge of that task.

5. The Belgian delegation had examined, jointly with the Netherlands and Luxembourg delegations, the recommendations in paragraphs 8 to 18 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549), based on the report of its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the reports prepared by ITU (E/3770) and WMO (E/3794 and Corr.1), and was satisfied with those recommendations. The measures concerning the exchange of information on national space activities referred to in paragraph 9 of the Committee's report were certainly worthy of

adoption. With regard to paragraphs 10 to 13 of the report, the Belgian, Netherlands and Luxembourg delegations wished to stress that much work was being done by existing non-governmental organizations, and the Committee should try to prevent any duplication; moreover, the measures envisaged in paragraphs 11 to 13 should not result in the publication of excessively long reports of dubious practical importance. Paragraph 16, relating to international sounding rocket launching facilities, deserved special attention, although it had to be borne in mind that the effective establishment and operation of such installations would entail considerable technological and financial effort. The views expressed in paragraph 18 on the subject of the potentially harmful effects of space experiments were also unexceptionable; while the seriousness of such effects had sometimes been exaggerated, it was gratifying that eminent scientists and specialists in COSPAR were working to ensure the safety of humanity.

6. The importance of the proposed global satellite communications system required no demonstration. His delegation considered that once such a system was functioning all the States Members of the United Nations should be able to participate in its operation and use and to acquire rights of ownership in it, and that all countries possessing the necessary experience and means should be able to take part in the advance discussions relating to the structure and the very concept of the system. In that connexion, it had noted with interest the remarks made by the representative of the United States.

7. Mr. HASEGANU (Romania), after reviewing the successes achieved during the previous year by the Soviet Union and the United States of America in the field of space exploration, said the fact that scientists in many countries were conducting research on outer space problems showed the great interest which Governments were now taking in that new branch of science. In the Romanian People's Republic, scientists had discovered a new and highly important method of determining the geocentric co-ordinates of satellites by means of the non-simultaneous observation of satellites, and had also made new discoveries regarding the structure of the ionosphere. Romania was also to undertake further research, within the framework of the International Year of the Quiet Sun, on problems relating to geodesy, meteorology, solar activity, terrestrial magnetism and technical currents, and the ionosphere.

8. A number of international agreements had been concluded during the year between States or between scientific institutes of different States regarding problems involved in the exploration or use of outer space. Of particular importance were the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, signed at Moscow on 5 August 1963, and the first memorandum of understanding to implement the bilateral agreement of 8 June 1962 between the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (see A/5482) providing for the establishment of a co-ordinated programme of meteorological satellites, the study of the earth's magnetic field by means of artificial satellites, and the conduct of a joint experiment with a telecommunications satellite.

9. The Romanian delegation had studied closely the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and those of WMO and ITU. The work done by the Committee during the previous year was mos satisfactory, a common point of view having bee arrived at on many important problems in the field o space co-operation. Many of the recommendation proposed by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Com mittee and approved by the Committee were valuabl in that they broadened the sphere of international co operation in scientific research on outer space. O special importance were the recommendations for th encouragement of international programmes, in par ticular the recommendation that a World Weathe Watch should be established, using data supplied b both meteorological satellites and conventional mete orological observations. The Romanian delegation al endorsed the Committee's recommendations concern ing the potentially harmful effects of space experi ments, the exchange of information on national spac activities and the preparation of a list of sources o scientific and technical publications concerned wit space and space-related areas. It also welcomed th establishment at Thumba, India, of the first inter national sounding rocket launching site, which was t be placed under United Nations sponsorship.

10. The two specialized agencies concerned wit outer space, WMO and ITU, had also had a fruitfu year. The Romanian delegation welcomed WMO' expanded programme for future meteorological re search and the series of valuable measures adopte by the Fourth World Meteorological Congress, in cluding the establishment of an Advisory Committe of eminent scientists to advise on general problem of space research. It was also particularly interested in the space studies made by the International Radi Consultative Committee of ITU and in the ITU pro posals for educational programmes in the field o telecommunications technology. It endorsed the Eco nomic and Social Council's expression of appreciatio of the activities carried out by the two specialize agencies contained in its resolution 980 C (XXXVI and supported the request in that resolution that th two agencies should include in their annual repor to the Council a section presenting information on th development of their activities relating to the peacefu uses of outer space.

11. In the legal field, the draft declaration of leg principles governing the activities of States in th exploration and use of outer space (A/5549/Add para. 6) was of particular importance. The Romania delegation endorsed the draft declaration, which, addition to including the principles laid down General Assembly resolution 1721 A (XVI), establishe a number of new legal principles. It particularly wel comed the principles that States should conduct the activities in outer space with due regard for th corresponding interests of other States (paragraph of the draft declaration), that States and internation organizations bore international responsibility for their activities in outer space (paragraph 5), th States retained jurisdiction and control over objec launched into outer space (paragraph 7), and th States should regard astronauts as envoys of mankin in outer space and should render to them all possibl assistance in the event of accident or emergen landing on their territories (paragraph 9). It al welcomed the inclusion in the draft declaration of preambular paragraph recalling General Assembl resolution 110 (II), which condemned propagan designed or likely to provoke or encourage any thre to the peace or breach of the peace, though it wou have preferred to see that paragraph included in th operative section.

12. While the Romanian delegation shared the view of a number of delegations that some of the new principles in the draft declaration could have been drafted in more specific terms, it realized that the present text represented a compromise between divergent views, and hoped that the sincere application of the existing principles would make up for any omissions. It also shared the view that new legal principles should be added to the declaration as the space activities of States developed. The Romanian delegation had frequently expressed its opinion that an international agreement of a binding nature would have been more satisfactory than a draft declaration, and it hoped that the present principles, and any new ones which proved necessary, would eventually find a place in such an agreement.

13. In the coming year the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Sub-Committee would have to begin the work of drafting international agreements on assistance to and rescue of astronauts and spaceships and on liability for space vehicle accidents. By establishing legal rules in that field, such agreements would help to promote international co-operation in the political field and to encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification, as laid down in Article 13 of the United Nations Charter.

14. The Romanian delegation was convinced that as legal instruments relating to outer space were developed and implemented, multilateral co-operation among States in that field would increase. As a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, it would do its utmost to further the regulation of the important problems involved in the space activities of States.

15. Mr. MATSUI (Japan), after paying tribute to the memory of the late President of the United States, Mr. John F. Kennedy, whose contributions to peace had been numerous, said that in taking over the Presidency, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson had pledged himself to continue his predecessor's policies. A similar continuity of endeavour was vital to the United Nations, which should redouble its efforts to reserve outer space for peaceful purposes. The Japanese delegation would co-operate whole-heartedly towards that end, for it considered that the exploration and use of outer space could and should be a universal enterprise of all countries, great and small.

16. The United Nations had made substantial progress during the previous year towards ensuring the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

17. The partial test ban treaty had been a step in the right direction, and the understanding reached between the United States and the Soviet Union to refrain from stationing nuclear weapons in outer space had been unanimously endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 1884 (XVIII). Similarly, the understanding reached between the United States and the Soviet Union regarding the legal principles which should govern the space activities of States had been incorporated in the additional report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the form of a draft declaration (A/5549/Add.1, para. 6), which both countries had agreed to respect as reflecting international law accepted by the United Nations.

18. All those measures represented gratifying steps forward. However, it was to be hoped that further progress would be made soon; in particular, the agreement to refrain from stationing weapons of mass destruction in space should be embodied in a binding international instrument, including provisions for verification, as soon as possible, and the draft declaration of legal principles should be developed at the earliest possible moment. The draft declaration was not the last word; it should be regarded as a starting-point for further work of expansion and elaboration. It was to be hoped that the day would soon come when the world community would declare unequivocally its intention to explore and use outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes.

19. It was also to be hoped that the principles set forth in the draft declaration would be clarified and drafted in more precise terms. For example, the principle contained in the third sentence of paragraph 7 seemed at first sight to be simple and clear enough; but closer study would undoubtedly reveal considerable ambiguity and bring out many problems of interpretation and application. In particular, the provision seemed to favour launching States unduly, since non-launching States would be obliged to return to the launching State objects which fell on their territory, without having been given any advance information about the type of vehicle involved. Such a provision was one-sided and legally untenable: the obligation to return space vehicles should be conditional upon an equivalent obligation on the part of launching States to provide adequate advance information—for example, by notifying non-launching States either directly or through United Nations registration. That view was endorsed by the resolution on the legal régime of outer space adopted on 11 September 1963 by the Institute of International Law, paragraph 9 of which referred to the return of space objects the launching of which had been officially notified. True, it was provided in paragraph 7 of the draft declaration that the launching State should furnish identifying data "upon request"; but a non-launching State would not be in a position to know which State had launched the vehicle found in its territory, and accordingly where to address its request, unless adequate information was supplied by the launching State. A similar problem arose in connexion with operative paragraph 8: to which country or organization to present a claim when damage had been caused by an unknown object. He wondered whether the aggrieved State would have to wait until the responsible country or organization made itself known, or until some hint was available from the information filed scantily and tardily with the United Nations. Since many such questions arose, it was to be hoped that the principles set forth in the draft declaration would be improved, both in their present form and on their subsequent elaboration into international agreements. At an earlier meeting, the USSR representative had advocated the establishment of groups of experts to prepare draft agreements on practical legal questions; the Japanese delegation would be glad to serve on such groups if they were created. He hoped that such action, which constituted the logical next step forward, would be taken at an early date.

20. Japan attached great importance to measures which would help to remove the obstacles to the peaceful and co-operative development of outer space for the benefit not of a favoured few but of all mankind. In that field, international co-operation was invaluable, and it need not be confined only to the great Powers, for other countries, no matter how small and poor, could also make a positive contribution to the common effort.

21. In that connexion, the modest efforts of Japan, which had no pretence whatever to being a space Power, might serve to illustrate the possibilities that existed for co-operation with other countries and international agencies. The first Japanese sounding rocket programme had been initiated in 1955 in connexion with the preparations for the International Geophysical Year, and the first launching had taken place in 1957. Since then, the Japanese space programme had developed apace. The Japanese Science and Technology Agency, which carried out research on rocket engines, electronic equipment and satellite control systems, had successfully tested a meteorological observation rocket in August 1963, and during the same year Japanese scientists had conducted ionospheric observations with rockets, the latest of which carried an instrument payload of 180 kilogrammes to height of over 500 kilometres and was to be used for observations of the Van Allen radiation belt. Launching tests had also begun at a new site, in Kyushu. Japan intended to participate actively in the International Year of the Quiet Sun and the World Magnetic Survey, in the context of the joint international studies undertaken in collaboration with COSPAR. In the field of space telecommunications, Japan was co-operating with the United States in the experimental reception of communications from United States relay satellites, and the Japanese Ministry of Postal Services had set up appropriate facilities jointly with a private company. Successful trans-Pacific television transmission tests via satellite had been conducted late in November 1963. He hoped that the progress his country was making in those various fields would prove useful to other countries as well.

22. The fact that he had dwelt on other matters did not mean that Japan was unaware of the splendid contribution that other Governments and the various international agencies concerned—not to mention the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space—were making to the endeavours of the United Nations to promote peaceful international co-operation in the use of outer space. As an expression of its approval of those activities, his delegation, together with a number of other members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, intended to submit a draft resolution [1] in which all those subjects would be covered.

23. He wished once again to pledge the sincere co-operation of the Japanese Government and people with all Member States and international agencies, especially the United Nations, in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

24. Mr. Víctor Andrés BELAUNDE (Peru) said that his delegation would vote for the draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, which represented an important advance. He regretted, however, that the draft declaration did not reflect the growing demand for an international order based on international law. It spoke of consultation, which was a valuable instrument that had won wide acceptance in Latin America; however, it made no reference to the need for an international authority with the power to act when consultation failed to achieve the desired end. He was not suggesting that an international authority should take the form of a super-State; there were already a number of international bodies which dealt with specific matters without in any way impairing national sovereignty. However, the idea of an international authority was inseparable from that of an international community, for some sort of co-ordination, at the very least, was needed in order to promote co-operation and prevent disputes.

25. In pointing out that the draft declaration requires objects falling from space to be returned to the launching State but made no provision for the security of the State in which such objects fell, the Japanese representative had underscored one of the difficulties resulting from the absence of an international authority and had drawn attention to the fact that the idea of exclusive State sovereignty still prevailed in international thinking. The crucial point was whether international co-operation was to advance towards the concept of an international community based on law or was to remain guided by the notion that the world was made up of sovereign States which could, whenever their interests dictated, evade their responsibilities to the international community.

26. He wished in particular to remind the young nations of Asia, Oceania, Africa and America that the question of outer space was more than merely a matter of curiosity and scientific enthusiasm. The way it was dealt with would determine whether there was to be an international community, whether there was to be a true international authority endowed with certain specific powers, and whether the United Nations was to be anything more than a debating society. He recalled, in that connexion, Ortega y Gasset's observation that Europe had existed as a spiritual and cultural unit long before the emergence of the nation-States which now claimed to derive their sovereignty from a kind of divine right.

27. Although there were at present only two States which could carry on large-scale space activities, many other countries could conduct highly important research and exploration of the kind described by the Japanese representative. Peru and other Latin American countries could benefit greatly from weather control measures, while the advances made in communications and in the utilization of nuclear energy could not but stir admiration. However, there must be a co-ordinating authority to ensure that all such activities were conducted on a co-operative basis and for the benefit of all mankind.

28. The banning of nuclear weapon tests in outer space and—through concurrent unilateral declarations—at all events—of the placing in orbit of weapons of mass destruction represented progress. However, he agreed with the Japanese representative that it was essential to conclude a treaty providing for verification and inspection by an international authority. The advances already made must therefore be a stimulus to further progress rather than an occasion for undue rejoicing. He hoped that, in continuing its work, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would take account of the Japanese representative's criticism of paragraph 7 of the draft declaration and of the observations which he himself had just made.

29. Mr. HAKIM (Lebanon), referring to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549 and Add.1), expressed satisfaction at the progress made by the Committee during the previous year in carrying out the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly in its resolutions 1721 (XVI) and 1802 (XVII). He was pleased to note that international co-operation was under way in the fields of scientific research, weather observation and space communications, and hoped that the Soviet Union and the United States, which had accomplished so much in the exploration of space, would co-operate fruitfully in that endeavour.

[1] Subsequently circulated as document A/C.1/L.332.

30. The draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space was an important advance in the formulation of space law. However, he agreed with the Indian and United Arab Republic representatives that an important shortcoming of the draft declaration lay in its failure to enunciate a general principle relating to the peaceful uses of outer space. It was clearly impossible for the exploration and use of outer space to be carried on for the benefit of mankind, as provided in paragraph 1 of the draft declaration, if States were permitted to use space for other than peaceful purposes. Although the principle that space must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes was related to the question of disarmament, it was not necessarily dependent on the achievement of general and complete disarmament. It should be noted that there were as yet no armaments in space which would have to be destroyed, so that the prohibition of military activities in space would in no way affect the military balance of power.

31. Since the General Assembly had unanimously adopted resolution 1884 (XVIII), calling upon all States to refrain from placing weapons of mass destruction in space, the two space Powers should surely be able to agree even more easily to bar less destructive weapons from space. He noted, in that connexion, that their present military activities were far less expensive than any which they might carry on in space. Since the rapid advance of space science and technology might soon make it possible to engage in military activities in space, a legal principle designed to prevent such a development should be formulated without delay; specific procedures for its application could be worked out gradually at a later time. The enunciation of a principle limiting space to peaceful uses would enable the energies and resources of States to be used for the benefit of mankind rather than for wasteful and destructive purposes.

32. In spite of the observations he had just made, his delegation would vote for the draft declaration and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

33. Mr. NOURI (Iraq) said that since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1802 (XVII), increasing co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space had been reflected in the signing of the partial test ban treaty, the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII) on the denuclearization of outer space, and the agreement reached between the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration to implement the bilateral space agreement of 8 June 1962 (see A/5482). His delegation welcomed the increasing interest in space displayed by a number of countries with limited technical and financial means; those countries would unquestionably benefit from the agreement providing for the establishment of international sounding rocket facilities under United Nations sponsorship. His delegation also wished to express its appreciation of the efforts made by UNESCO, WHO, ITU and COSPAR to promote international co-operation in space research and of the steps taken to establish a World Weather Watch.

34. His delegation strongly supported the recommendations in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549) concerning the future development of international co-operation in space research and shared the view expressed in that Committee that training and technical assistance should be provided mainly through an international organization. He also hoped that the idea of establishing a space science training institute would be given favourable consideration at the next session of the Committee.

35. The draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space represented a compromise agreed upon after two years of debate, and he shared the view expressed by many delegations in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the principles contained in the draft declaration were not precisely formulated and did not cover all aspects of space law. The principles therefore required clarification, and the declaration should in due course be formalized in an agreement. His delegation nevertheless regarded the draft declaration as a first step towards the codification of space law and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

36. Mr. LEKIC (Yugoslavia) said that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had for the first time been able to report concrete success in the legal as well as in the scientific and technical field. His delegation welcomed the draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, which represented a gratifying advance in international understanding and a substantial success for the international community. It marked the initial stage in the development of a law of outer space, the need for which was only too evident in the present era of rapid space conquest. It would also make it easier to adopt the other instruments that would be needed to regulate in greater detail the legal and political side of the various sectors of man's space activities, and would help to further scientific and technical progress in that field.

37. As other delegations had already pointed out, however, the principles contained in the draft declaration were by no means exhaustive. Indeed, they represented only a beginning, and further principles, as well as explicit legal regulations, would be required as space activities developed. Moreover, since principles, by their very nature, could not provide specific solutions, the principles in the draft declaration would have to be embodied in agreements as quickly as possible in order to give them legal effect.

38. It was essential that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only and that that should be, in fact, the supreme law; for that reason the Yugoslav delegation welcomed the recent statements made by the great Powers and the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 1884 (XVIII) calling upon all States to refrain from placing nuclear weapons in outer space. However, much more still remained to be done in that connexion. The peaceful use of outer space should contribute to the general goal of the peaceful settlement of existing problems and the preservation of world peace. A corresponding confirmation of that supreme law, therefore, would have been a stimulus.

39. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was to be congratulated on the results it had achieved, which had helped to make possible the agreement on principles. Considering the progress achieved by its Legal Sub-Committee also, it could be said that the

Committee was moving forward and contributing to international co-operation and the welfare of all mankind. In that connexion, the part played on that Committee by the smaller and non-aligned Powers in bringing the great Powers closer together and in promoting specific agreements was of particular interest.

40. The results so far attained in United Nations efforts to ensure the peaceful use of outer space provided a sound beginning and a basis for further agreement regarding both the regulation of the exploration and use of outer space and international scientific and technical co-operation in that field.

41. Mr. GAGLIOTTI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that he would confine his remarks to actions which had been taken by UNESCO since the seventeenth session of the General Assembly and were not reflected in the reports on outer space currently before the First Committee. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1721 C (XVI), a UNESCO expert, Mr. D. F. Martyn of Australia, who was also Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, had participated in two meetings of the WMO Working Group on the Research Aspects of Meteorological Satellites, held at Geneva in November 1962 and February 1963; and a UNESCO staff member had attended two meetings of the WMO Panel of Experts on Artificial Satellites. Pursuant to part D of the same resolution and to a related resolution adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its twelfth session, UNESCO, at the request of ITU, had prepared for the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference held at Geneva in October and November 1963 a report on the use of space telecommunication to promote the free flow of information and rapid progress in education. The report, published under the title Space Communication and the Mass Media,[2] had been circulated to the members of UNESCO with a covering letter pointing out that it sought to present a concensus of expert views on some controversial technical matters which were necessarily still under study.

42. In response to General Assembly resolution 1802 (XVII), UNESCO had entered into a contract with the international committee responsible for the planning and co-ordination of the International Year of the Quiet Sun; in 1963 it had contributed a sum of $10,000—about 30 per cent of the committee's total annual budget—towards the cost of the committee's meetings and publications, and it was proposed that a similar sum should be made available from UNESCO's regular programme in 1964 and subsequent years. In addition, discussions had been held between the secretariat of UNESCO and the World Magnetic Survey Board set up by the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics to plan and co-ordinate work on the World Magnetic Survey. In December 1964, UNESCO was to organize, in consultation with the Committee for the International Year of the Quiet Sun and the World Magnetic Survey Board, a training course in geomagnetic and ionospheric observation techniques for observatory staff from African countries. It was proposed that UNESCO should offer financial assistance to the World Magnetic Survey Board for a pilot mission of experts to intercalibrate the geomagnetic instruments used in African observatories and complete the training of observatory staff, and possibly for the preparation and publication of an information bulletin for the guidance of observatory staff in all countries. UNESCO had given and was to give financial assistance to COSPAR for the Fourth and Fifth International Space Science Symposia and for the preparation and publication of a world list of satellite tracking stations and a manual on the reception of real time telemetered signals from satellites.

43. The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space referred in its recommendations on the exchange of information to "a list of the sources of available bibliographies and abstracting services" (A/5549, para. 13) and in its recommendations on education and training to "reviews of information and facilities for education and training in basic subjects related to the peaceful uses of outer space in universities and other places of learning" (ibid., para. 17). In view of the very general wording of those two recommendations, UNESCO believed that it was essential to delimit the scientific subject areas to be covered, and would enter into consultation with COSPAR regarding that delimitation.

44. The Preliminary Draft Programme and Budget of UNESCO for 1965—1966 included proposals for the following: an operational programme of assistance to international research projects, including the International Year of the Quiet Sun; continued co-operation with WMO in the scientific aspects of the use of meteorological satellites and with COSPAR and other international scientific unions in the examination of problems, including biological problems, connected with the scientific exploration of outer space, and in the conservation and study of material of extra-terrestrial origin, particularly meteorites; and lastly, contractual arrangements with the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Services for joint projects, especially in developing new methods and procedures in the collection and analysis of astronomical data.

45. The projects just outlined were necessarily of modest dimensions, since UNESCO did not have at its disposal the vast funds required for outer space activities. However, by providing small but essential sums to meet the particular interests of member States in connexion with activities such as the International Year of the Quiet Sun, the World Magnetic Survey and the training of qualified personnel, particularly in developing areas, UNESCO was making its contribution toward meeting the needs indicated in General Assembly and General Conference resolutions, within the framework of its over-all programmes in the field of science.

46. Miss JEFFREYS (International Atomic Energy Agency) said that the activities of IAEA relating to outer space were largely concerned with the future rather than the immediate present. It was contemplated that the Agency's specialized services would be able to help in the exploration and use of outer space; conversely, research in outer space would perhaps increase man's knowledge of certain conditions which also applied in earthbound installations. Isotopic generators were already being used in satellites to produce small amounts of electricity for the transmission of radio signals. Nuclear propulsion of space vehicles themselves was being investigated in that connexion, apart from the problems of reactor design and choice of fuels and construction materials, IAEA was interested in problems of shielding against radiation; the development of shielding materials could have practical importance in other uses of atomic energy.

47. By the terms of its Statute, the Agency was concerned with and engaged in a number of measures to prevent personal injury or property damage resulting from the use of nuclear energy. Before nuclear operations in outer space became general, international problems of environmental contamination due to normal or abnormal operation would need to be studied. The Agency was also interested in the effects of the space environment on biological systems, and particularly of course on man, and in the effects of cosmic and solar ionizing radiation on materials used in the construction of space vehicles. For those reasons IAEA had co-operated with UNESCO, COSPAR and the International Astronautical Federation in exchanging information on radiation hazards. IAEA had taken the initiative, together with other international bodies concerned, in drafting conventions on the liability of operators of nuclear-propelled ships and on civil liability for nuclear damage caused by land-based nuclear installations. Both those conventions introduced new principles which might be relevant to similar instruments relating to civil liability resulting from the operation of space vehicles, a problem which was being studied by the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

48. For the reasons indicated, the Agency had followed and was following the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees, and would be ready when the time came to assist and co-operate with them in any way possible.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.

2/ UNESCO, Reports and Papers on Mass Communication, No. 41.

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United Nations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
EIGHTEENTH SESSION
Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE, 1345th MEETING

Thursday, 5 December 1963, at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

Chairman: Mr. C. W. A. SCHURMANN (Netherlands).

AGENDA ITEM 28

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space (continued):

(a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5482, A/5549 and Add.1, A/C.1/L.332);

(b) Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VII, section IV) (A/5503, A/C.1/L.332)

1. Mr. PORTER (Committee on Space Research of the International Council of Scientific Unions) said that COSPAR, as a purely scientific organization which operated under the rules of the International Council of Scientific Unions and attempted to ignore political considerations, could not possibly be considered competent in many of the subjects under study at the present meeting. Neverthless, it was appropriate for scientists to have a voice in deliberations such as those of the First Committee, for scientific considerations had some influence on international relationships, and international agreements could profoundly affect, for better or worse, the opportunity to carry out scientific research. Some of COSPAR's current work that was of interest to the United Nations had been described by Mr. Blagonravov, a Vice-President of COSPAR, at the 22nd meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held on 13 September 1963; he wished at the present time to discuss in somewhat more detail the work of the COSPAR Consultative Group on Potentially Harmful Effects of Space Experiments.

2. In March 1958, the International Council of Scientific Unions had set up an ad hoc Committee on Contamination by Extraterrestrial Exploration. That Committee had drawn attention to the danger that early exploration attempts or ill-considered experiments, such as the possible explosion of a nuclear device on the surface of the moon, might result in biological, chemical or radiological contamination of the lunar or planetary surfaces such as to complicate or render impossible further scientific studies of great importance. It had also called for the drafting of a specific code of conduct for lunar and planetary exploration. In 1959 the ad hoc Committee had been disbanded, and the International Council had assigned the study of the problem to COSPAR. The Consultative Group had been created in the spring of 1962 to examine any proposed experiments or other space activities that might have potentially undesirable effects on other scientific activities and observations, to arrange for careful, objective, quantitative studies and to make available to members of the International Council and to Governments the facts and analyses they would need to make wise and proper decisions concerning the proposed experiments. The Chairman and six members of the Consultative Group were appointed by the President of COSPAR, and served as individuals rather than as representatives of any organization; they were broadly competent scientists from various countries whose fields of specialized knowledge included astronomy, radiation physics, atmospheric physics and chemistry, communications, meteorite penetration and microbiology. The Consultative Group had authority to consult with scientists of any country who were competent in any particular specialized areas or, if it desired, to convene ad hoc working groups of such scientists. Its findings were presented to the Executive Council of COSPAR and could be made available by that body to all COSPAR affiliates, to the Bureau and appropriate Unions of the International Council of Scientific Unions and to appropriate bodies of the United Nations or its specialized agencies.

3. The Consultative Group's present activities included the following: an examination of the possibility that scientifically undesirable contamination of the upper atmosphere might result from the large-scale release of rocket exhaust gases or other substances; a review of previous studies relating to the creation of an artificial belt of small orbiting dipole reflectors for communication purposes and to the results of the one experiment of that kind which had been carried out; and a continuing, rather detailed study of the possibilities of objectionable contamination of the moon and planets. The task of the Consultative Group was not to make recommendations on proposed activities but to provide detailed scientific predictions of their effects and of the extent to which they might be objectionable or harmful.

4. The members of COSPAR hoped that the work of its Consultative Group would contribute to harmonious international co-operation in space research and that both that and other activities of COSPAR would be useful to all Members of the United Nations. In particular, COSPAR was happy to be able to respond constructively to recent requests from the United Nations Secretariat for assistance in compiling the list of sources of bibliographies and abstracting services and with respect to the composition of the group of scientists the United Nations was sending to visit the sounding rocket launching site at Thumba, India.

5. Dr. COIGNEY (World Health Organization) said that the possibilities of international action in the field of space medicine had been referred to by

several delegations during the seventeenth session of the General Assembly. At present, the health problems involved in space flights affected only a small number of selected individuals, and were being studied by the States directly concerned. Action in the immediate future should be concentrated on the collection and dissemination of information concerning space medicine and of space research results that could be applied to medical research in general; if need be, WHO, and other agencies could call meetings to provide for international discussion of selected problems in that field.

6. The techniques used for the selection of astronauts and the study of the physiology of astronauts in flight might later be applied to clinical and epidemiological research. The principles and methods of training used might also be applied to aviation in general, especially once supersonic airliners had come into commercial operation. Insight gained into the physiology of man under the exceptional conditions encountered in space flight could extend knowledge of the functions of the circulatory and nervous systems and provide new information on cardio-vascular diseases. Studies of the effects of cosmic radiation could contribute to the development of means of protecting man against such radiation, and methods of environmental control used in space craft could also be applied on earth and in aviation. Advances made in processing data from space flights could be applied to research in general.

7. Furthermore, the question under discussion raised various problems—such as that of the contamination of the earth with chemical or biological materials introduced by space vehicles returning to the atmosphere—which in the view of WHO also required careful study. At the fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he had already stressed WHO's interest in the question, and he assured the members of the Committee that his agency was prepared to co-operate in the programme to the full extent of its resources.

8. Mr. HAJEK (Czechoslovakia) said the fact that it had been possible to reach an understanding in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the draft declaration of legal principles (A/5549/Add.1, para. 6) was the more gratifying because efforts to further the legal regulation of activities in outer space had up to the present lagged far behind scientific progress. The debates that had taken place in the United Nations in the preceding two years had shown that the obstacles to a solution of the legal questions involved were of a political character and not unconnected with the problems of disarmament. As a result, a deadlock had arisen. Fortunately, however, the signing of the partial test ban treaty had removed a number of the political stumbling-blocks and, together with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII), had created an atmosphere conducive to further progress.

9. The formulation of the draft declaration had been preceded by various measures taken and solutions suggested with a view to encouraging international technical co-operation. In May 1963, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had adopted recommendations on the exchange of information, the encouragement of international programmes, international sounding rocket facilities, education and training, and the potentially harmful effects of space experiments; the last recommendation was reflected in one of the principles, contained in the draft declaration. Also of significance were the agreements on technical and scientific co-operation concluded between the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (see A/5482). The Legal Sub-Committee, although it had had to deal with an entirely new field, had been able to carry out much useful preparatory work essential for the drafting at a later stage of specific legal instruments. Thus the draft declaration of legal principles was the result of a favourable political climate and sound preparation.

10. It was a matter for satisfaction that paragraph 4 of the draft declaration stressed the requirement that the activities of States in outer space should be carried out in the interest of maintaining international peace and promoting international co-operation, and that the international responsibility of States for national activities was recognized in paragraph 5. The need to protect outer space and the interests of humanity against potentially harmful activities or experiments, dealt with in paragraph 6, was also an extremely important point.

11. Despite those positive features, however, the draft declaration, which was the product of a compromise, did not fully satisfy his delegation, which would have preferred a more binding document in which certain principles were more categorically expressed. Moreover, a number of questions still required clarification. The law of outer space was only in its beginnings, and must be rapidly developed if it was to keep pace with the tremendous technical progress being made in the exploration of space. A number of questions were already ripe for detailed treatment, in particular questions pertaining to assistance to cosmonauts and space craft and liability for damages resulting from activities in outer space. The legal regulation of those questions was an urgent task. It was generally agreed that they should be dealt with in an international treaty, the drafting of which could be entrusted to the Legal Sub-Committee on the basis of the principles laid down in the draft declaration. The task should be facilitated by the fact that substantial agreement had been reached on the establishment of a working group or groups. As in the past, his Government was ready to play an active part in developing that aspect of international law.

12. Draft resolution A/C.1/L.332, which was now before the Committee, noted the results achieved by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the activities of States and international organizations in promoting research on the use of outer space and laid down terms of reference for the future work of that Committee. It provided a basis for further international co-operation in different scientific branches. His country, which was a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two sub-committees, and whose scientists were active in international programmes connected with outer space and meteorology, would always support all steps designed to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space as an important contribution to peaceful coexistence and co-operation between States. His delegation had therefore been glad to become one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.332.

13. Mr. DE LA MALENE (France) said that it was gratifying to note the increasingly interesting character of the First Committee's discussions on the present item, which were moving away from vague

generalities to the consideration of concrete problems, and thereby truly contributing to international co-operation. The high quality of the statements that had been heard was symptomatic of the growing importance and complexity of the problems involved. The practice, now habitual, of recapitulating recent achievements in space was not to be condemned, for aside from expressing the legitimate pride of the States concerned, such statements evidenced their increasing awareness that those achievements were a matter of international concern and underlined the need for extending international co-operation in space activities.

14. Since the United Nations offered a forum in which its Members could make known to public opinion the extent of their endeavours and the nature of their objectives, he felt justified in acquainting the Committee with the definition of French policy on the exploration and use of outer space which had recently been given by the French Minister of State responsible for scientific and space activities.

15. The Minister had stressed that the independence and survival of nations had always been closely bound up with their scientific achievement; there was no branch of science from which France, alone or in association with other countries, could afford to remain aloof. Although France's limited means precluded efforts of the kind being made by the major space Powers, that was no excuse for inactivity. France must therefore use its resources both for its own national programmes and to support the recently established European organizations. Both France and Europe were convinced that they had a part to play in space research, and that the technical progress essential for space exploration had many fruitful and practical applications in other fields. It would have been a mistake for France to remain idle, and that mistake had been avoided.

16. As that statement showed, France recognized the value of international co-operation, whether bilateral or multilateral. It hoped to have its fair share in the planning, execution, ownership and operation of the great ventures already taking shape—for example, in the establishment of a world-wide system of communication by satellite—and was associated with many specialized projects and international programmes all over the world. In that connexion, his country had noted with interest the reports of WMO (E/3794 and Corr.1) and ITU (E/3770), both of which were valuable contributions which stressed the need for greater international co-operation.

17. His delegation was happy that it had proved possible to overcome the deadlock which had existed in the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the subject of a declaration of legal principles governing space activities. The views of the French Government on the draft declaration would be found in the verbatim record annexed to document A/5549/Add.1. While supporting the principles set forth in the draft declaration, he wished to stress that the latter could not be looked on as more than a statement of intention; legal obligations stricto sensu could only flow from international agreements, and an international law of outer space had yet to be created. Moreover, most of the principles set forth would have to be dealt with in specific agreements; that applied for example to the questions of liability for damage caused by objects launched into space and assistance in the return of astronauts and space craft. The Legal Sub-Committee or its working groups should compile an exhaustive list of questions capable of being embodied in international agreements, and should draft corresponding texts. In that way, a real space law would progressively come into being.

18. In the light of those considerations, his delegation had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.332.

19. Mr. COOK (Australia) said that since his country's views on the matters discussed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space were already a matter of record, Australia having played an active part in the work of that Committee and its two Sub-Committees, he did not propose to repeat them. However, he wished to draw attention to two paragraphs in the Committee's report which had received little notice from the First Committee. He referred to the invitation to COSPAR to review the geographic distribution and capabilities of sounding rocket launching facilities, and to advise the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on desirable locations and important topics of research, taking into account the need to avoid duplication of effort (A/5549, para. 16 (b)), and to the recommendation that, where there was shown to be a need, Member States in appropriate locations, either singly or in co-operative groups, should consider the establishment of such a launching facility following the basic principles approved by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (ibid., para. 16 (c)).

20. Those two paragraphs epitomized many of the things which the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was trying to do. In the first place, while the Committee could not at present act in any major way as the international co-ordinator of national efforts, it could with advantage review existing and planned programmes with a view to indentifying overlaps and blind spots. That was an important function, if only because of the cost of space research and its application and because of the world scarcity of scientific and technical resources. Secondly, through the recommendation contained in paragraph 16 (c) of its report the Committee was fulfilling its rightful task of encouraging international co-operation in the domain of outer space. Sounding rocket ranges were the first step taken by any country, large or small, into space, and it was important that a comprehensive grid of sounding rocket ranges should be developed around the world in order to avoid neglecting important areas, such as the Southern hemisphere, which looked out on a very different portion of the skies from that observed in the Northern hemisphere, where most of the space countries were situated. It was also important that an opportunity should be given to the smaller States to take that first step into space with the encouragement and assistance of the United Nations.

21. Australia had for long had the only sounding rocket range in the Southern hemisphere. Recently, however, a notable addition had been made in the Argentine range at Chamical, which was almost exactly on the other side of the world from the Australian range at Woomera. That was very useful scientifically, and there had already been co-operation between the two ranges. By providing Woomera as the launching range for the new rocket being developed by ELDO to place in orbit quite large satellites, Australia was giving a practical demonstration of that international co-operation which the Committee on the Peaceful

Uses of Outer Space had been set up to foster. Having such a range, however, brought its own problems, one of which was the question of liability for damage caused by objects launched into outer space from Woomera. The Australian views on that question were set out at length in the verbatim record of the Committee's 24th meeting, which was annexed to document A/5549/Add.1 and he therefore did not propose to repeat them at the present time.

22. With regard to the draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, the Australian delegation agreed with the representative of India that procedures for complying with the principle relating to potentially harmful space experiments remained to be established. Australia continued to believe that the principle of international consultation might be linked explicitly with the COSPAR Consultative Group on Potentially Harmful Effects of Space Experiments, the functions and composition of which had just been outlined by the representative of COSPAR.

23. The Australian delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII), in which States were called upon to refrain from placing weapons of mass destruction in orbit or stationing such weapons in outer space. That resolution, together with the partial nuclear test ban treaty—which, by banning nuclear explosions in outer space, removed the risk of one type of harmful experiment—clearly affected the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. While it was not for that Committee to deal with matters that came within the province of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, it was only realistic to recognize that the spheres of interest of the two Committees did touch upon each other, even if they did not actually overlap.

24. His delegation had read with great interest the report of ITU. Perhaps the most important act of ITU in 1963 had been the convening in October of the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference, which had reached agreement on the allocation of frequency bands for space communication and on procedures for their use. Those agreements were important for two main reasons. Firstly, they paved the way for the orderly introduction of global satellite communication facilities, which would probably be the first major practical application of space research and which opened up extraordinary prospects for all countries of the world, not least those which were of large expanse or at a great distance from the main world centres. All countries would as a result soon have to take a number of fundamental decisions on such questions as whether they wanted to participate in any global satellite communications facilities which might be set up, and, if so, whether they were to have a voice in decisions regarding the choice of satellite system, the provision of parts of the facilities, such as ground stations, and the management, ownership and use of the facilities. There had already been much international consultation on those questions, and more was being planned for 1964.

25. The second reason for the importance of the decisions of the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference was the special allocation made for radio astronomy work. Since the end of the Second World War, Australian scientists had played a leading part in the field of radio astronomy, and had developed a number of devices which had been copied in many countries of the world and had helped to add to man's knowledge of the universe. For that reason Australia particularly welcomed the fact that the Conference had, through its decision, protected the interests of radio astronomers.

26. Draft resolution A/C.1/L.332, of which Australia was a sponsor, was self-explanatory. Because that draft resolution recognized past accomplishments, and also because it set future tasks for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and for the Secretariat, the Australian delegation commended it to the Committee for unanimous adoption. It also hoped that the draft declaration of legal principles would be adopted unanimously.

27. Mr. VAKIL (Iran) said that the signing of the partial test ban treaty, the agreement not to place weapons of mass destruction in outer space, and the agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union on co-operation in the use of weather satellites showed that the space Powers had committed themselves to the principle that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only.

28. The reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549 and Add.1) showed that the Committee had made progress in dealing with both the scientific and the legal aspects of space activities. He was particularly pleased to note that the United Nations and the specialized agencies were giving increasing attention to the problem of training personnel of the developing countries in the peaceful uses of outer space. WMO and ITU, had special roles to play, since the developing countries particularly desired assistance in meteorology and communications. The type of aid that UNESCO could provide was best illustrated in the part it was to play in connexion with the sounding rocket launching site at Thumba, India. It was also gratifying that the United Nations Secretariat was gradually building up a staff of space specialists, so that the Organization might soon be able to funcion as an administrative space centre.

29. The draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space represented a break-through in the evolution of space law, and the United States and the Soviet Union had made it clear that they regarded the declaration as only a first step in the formulation of a comprehensive body of space law. His delegation did not share the view that it would be premature at present to attempt to formulate specific rules governing space activities, for outer space was a field in which technology had greatly outpaced the development of law. He hoped that international agreement would be concluded on liability for space vehicle accidents and on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles—the two subjects which had often been described as ripe for immediate codification.

30. The report of ITU showed that that agency was trying to meet the challenge presented by artificial satellites in the field of communications. He was encouraged by the statement in the report of WMO that mankind would eventually have the power to influence weather, and even climate, on a large scale that should be a primary objective of future research efforts. WMO should be congratulated on its action in setting up a development fund with an initial capital of $1.5 million to finance projects relating to the World Weather Watch.

31. As a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/L.332, his delegation urged its unanimous adoption by the Committee.

32. Mr. CARTWRIGHT (World Meteorological Organization) said that a year earlier, in response to General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI), his organization had submitted its "First report on the advancement of atmospheric sciences and their application in the light of developments in outer space" (A/5229), in which a wide variety of subjects, including the idea of the World Weather Watch and the areas of research in the atmospheric sciences which might be aided by the use of data from meteorological satellites, had been discussed. In General Assembly resolution 1802 (XVII), WMO had subsequently been recommended to develop in greater detail, in consultation with other interested organizations, its plan for an expanded programme to strengthen meteorological services and research, placing particular emphasis on the use of meteorological satellites and on the expansion of training and educational opportunities, and to report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to the Economic and Social Council. Since then, the World Meteorological Congress held earlier in 1963 had taken a number of far-reaching and important decisions which affected the programmes for the next few years and were discussed in WMO's second report to the Economic and Social Council and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (E/3794 and Corr.1).

33. The meteorological satellite had already shown that it could provide vast quantities of data for use in the solution of problems in the atmospheric sciences and in the daily operation of weather services. However, those data also showed that the networks of observing stations which provided the more conventional types of weather information needed improving. The satellite thus provided a stimulus for a general improvement of all aspects of the global observation network. Meteorological satellites were already becoming increasingly dependable; one satellite in the Tiros series had had thirteen months of useful life, during which it had transmitted approximately 60,000 pictures for use in cloud analysis and storm warnings. New experiments were being conducted to provide for direct reception of cloud-cover photographs by individual countries.

34. The World Meteorological Congress had established an Advisory Committee of twelve eminent scientists to provide guidance on research and operational problems related to satellite meteorology. The task of the Advisory Committee, which was to meet early in 1964, would be to advise on the principal research problems in the atmospheric sciences, including ways of promoting research, and on other scientific aspects of the objectives set forth in General Assembly resolutions 1721 (XVI) and 1802 (XVII), including those relating to education and training. The Congress had also endorsed the concept, put forward in the first report, of a world weather service provided by the integrated effort of national meteorological services. That integrated effort, now known as the World Weather Watch, was described in the second WMO report. It brought to the active planning stage the hopes which meteorologists had long cherished of achieving a global description of the meteorological situation, and had been made possible by the development of new observation tools, such as rockets and satellites, and new devices for rapidly processing vast quantities of data. In addition, the World Meteorological Congress had authorized the establishment within the WMO secretariat of a planning organization to develop a detailed global plan for the World Weather Watch, to provide liaison with the United Nations and with the other specialized agencies concerned, and to pursue the effort to obtain the necessary resources for implementing the various plans.

35. Because of lack of resources, urgent needs for the improvement of meteorological facilities had not yet been met. WMO had therefore decided to establish a new development fund which would be used to meet requests from members for assistance in the implementation of valid projects which could not otherwise be supported. A detailed plan for the operation and management of the fund had been submitted to WMO members and was expected to be approved and implemented in 1964. However, the fund authorized was very modest, and would not be able to meet all the requirements, particularly in the field of capital investment, so that additional efforts by national meteorological services would be needed. Increased assistance from the international aid organizations would also be sought.

36. Great importance was attached by WMO to the agreement on space co-operation concluded between the Soviet Union and the United States of America (see A/5482). All members of WMO would benefit from that agreement, which among other things covered arrangements for the speedy exchange of satellite data and, eventually, for the co-ordination of launchings of weather satellites so as to provide maximum coverage of the globe on a continuous basis.

37. In conclusion, WMO appreciated the encouragement of the United Nations to capitalize on the new opportunites provided by developments in the peaceful uses of outer space for improving man's knowledge of the atmosphere. The challenge had been accepted, and WMO felt now that it was organized to get on with the task and was proceeding to do so as quickly as possible.

38. Mr. KIZIA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), pointing out that a Ukrainian cosmonaut had been among the Soviet pioneers in outer space and that Ukrainian scientists were extremely active in space research, said that the flow of practical ideas resulting from such research was tremendous and affected many branches of science. However, the discoveries of science could be of benefit to mankind only if they were used for peaceful purposes and for human happiness.

39. His delegation therefore supported the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, whose reports (A/5549 and Add.1) were now before the First Committee, and wished to commend the Legal Sub-Committee and Mr. Lachs, its Chairman, on their efforts to reach agreement on basic legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration of outer space. The signing of the partial test ban treaty showed that many problems, including the one now before the First Committee, could be solved through negotiation if a reasonable, realistic approach was adopted. The space co-operation agreement concluded on 8 June 1962 between the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration was an example of what could be accomplished in that regard. Nevertheless, his delegation shared the USSR delegation's view that the question of the peaceful uses of outer space could not be separated from that of general and complete disarmament; once disarmament was achieved, the problem of prohibiting the military use of outer space would cease to exist. Another question which must be settled was the elimination of military bases in the territory of other countries.

40. The draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space (A/5549/Add.1, para. 6) represented a major advance, in that it recognized the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. It would thus help to strengthen peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding between States with different social systems. His delegation would vote for the draft declaration and hoped that, after its adoption, the United Nations would pursue its efforts to solve other problems through negotiation.

41. Mr. MATSCH (Austria), speaking on behalf of the officers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, said that after fresh consideration and in agreement with India as the host country, they were proposing that the group of scientists to visit the sounding rocket launching facility at Thumba, India, as provided in section II, paragraph 2 (e), of draft resolution A/C.1/L.332, should be composed of six instead of five scientists.

42. Mr. THACHER (United States of America) said that his delegation, one of the sponsors of the draft resolution, would like a little time to consider the proposed change, although he did not believe the matter would raise any difficulty.

43. Mr. MENDEZ (Argentina) said it was encouraging to note the substantial advances which had been made during the previous year not only in the technical but also in the legal aspect of the problems of outer space. The partial test ban treaty and General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII) represented important contributions to the denuclearization of outer space and had helped to create the confidence necessary for fruitful international co-operation.

44. The draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space that was before the Committee would help to regulate such activities in accordance with international law. However, that document was not definitive, and he hoped that it would be supplemented by the addition of other principles and improved by the more detailed and precise elaboration of certain concepts not yet formulated with the utmost legal rigour. His delegation believed that the principle that outer space should be used for the benefit of mankind and solely for peaceful purposes was a basic one which should be emphasized in the clearest terms, and he regretted that the draft declaration, unlike General Assembly resolutions 1348 (XIII) and 1472 (XIV), did not contain an explicit clause to that effect; the draft declaration, however, undoubtedly marked a valuable advance and would be supported by his delegation.

45. Five national universities and ten specialized institutions in Argentina were carrying on research related to outer space; agreements on international co-operation in outer space activities had been concluded with the United States and France and, it was hoped, would be concluded with other countries as well.

46. It was evident from the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that many valuable steps had been taken by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. In the field of education and training, the Argentine delegation was particularly gratified to note that Governments were to be encouraged to make requests for scholarships and technical assistance for research programmes in the field of outer space. The technical assistance activities of specialized agencies in that field should be expand

47. The valuable contribution made by WMO and to international co-operation programmes was reflected in their reports and was recognized in tions III and IV of draft resolution A/C.1/L.332; recent hurricane disaster in the Caribbean had clear the need for improved world-wide wea information; the World Weather Watch should en all countries to benefit from the information obta from meteorological satellites. The use of comm cations satellites had brought the world to the thr hold of instantaneous global communication. At same time, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Commi was performing an important service in promo careful exchanges of information on the potenti harmful effects of space experiments.

48. The Argentine National Commission for S Research had established a rocket launching ba Chamical, where Centaure rockets had been laun for the first time in Latin America; the work being carried out with the co-operation of the Fre National Centre for Space Studies, the Internati Council of Scientific Unions, COSPAR and the Sm sonian Astrophysical Observatory. The Arge National Commission had invited scientists f various countries to observe the Chamical rocket t It had invited the Latin American countries to cons the possibility of carrying out joint experiments, offered its Chamical facilities for the use of L American scientific groups and universities desi to carry out space research for peaceful purpo Argentina hoped to initiate an exchange of inform with India in connexion with the proposed estab ment of a sounding rocket facility at Thumba would give assistance in that project within the fra work of the United Nations.

49. Mr. KOLBASIN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist public) said that his delegation supported the d declaration of legal principles governing the activi of States in the exploration and use of outer sp (A/5549/Add.1, para. 6) and hoped that the princi enunciated in it would be observed by all States. delegation also supported draft resolution A/ L.332, which could promote the development of pe ful space research for the benefit of all mankind.

50. The United Nations should do everything poss to encourage international co-operation not onl outer space but also in other fields such as nucl energy and automation. In that connexion, his del tion supported the various proposals for space operation put forward in the Committee on the Pe ful Uses of Outer Space, including the suggestio Mr. A. A. Blagonravov, a member of the Academ Sciences of the USSR, that UNESCO or COSPAR sh publish a multi-volume work on the fundamental bio-astronautics during 1964-1965 with United Nat aid. His delegation welcomed the various decis concerning international co-operation taken by Fourth Congress of WMO. Thanks largely to the g will demonstrated by the USSR and the United St the Congress had approved a plan to establish a W Weather Watch in which a number of smaller count which could not launch meteorological satellites, w be able to participate by maintaining observa stations; he noted that there were to be a numb such stations in the territory of Byelorussia. His d gation also welcomed the agreement concluded b USSR and the United States on 24 May 1963 conce

a joint programme for mapping the earth's magnetic field with the aid of satellites (see A/5482). The sixth session of COSPAR and the Fourth International Space Science Symposium, at which Soviet, United States, Japanese and other scientists had presented reports on the question whether life existed in outer space, had been held at Warsaw in June 1963 and provided another striking example of international co-operation. The triumphs of Soviet scientists were an important positive factor in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space; the recent launching of the manoeuvrable spaceship, Polet I, was further evidence of the leading role which the USSR was playing in that regard.

51. He concluded by observing that the signing of the partial test ban treaty had created favourable conditions for international co-operation in space; it must be a primary task of the United Nations to clear away the remaining obstacles to such co-operation.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

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United Nations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE, 1346th MEETING

Thursday, 5 December 1963, at 3.15 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

Chairman: Mr. C. W. A. SCHURMANN (Netherlands).

AGENDA ITEM 28

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space (concluded):

(a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5482, A/5549 and Add.1, A/C.1/L.332);

(b) Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VII, section IV) (A/5503, A/C.1/L.332)

1. Mr. TREMBLAY (Canada) said that his delegation was most satisfied with the arrangements intended to establish internationally agreed upon procedures for the exploration and use of outer space. He felt that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had brought two years of vigorous discussion to a successful conclusion by approving the draft declaration of legal principles (A/5549/Add.1, para. 6). In his statement at the 1342nd meeting, the United Arab Republic representative had referred to "reservations" on the subject expressed by the Canadian delegation at the 24th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; he (Mr. Tremblay) preferred to describe the remarks he had made at that time as simply the expression of a point of view. In fact, his delegation had said that the draft declaration of legal principles represented "the maximum area of agreement now possible",[1] and in expressing its views it had merely wished to suggest how the existing principles might be elaborated when the time came. The draft declaration, as submitted to the First Committee, was the first chapter in the book of space law; the legal principles contained in it reflected international law as it was currently accepted by Member States. It was significant in that connexion that the two major space Powers had declared their intention, provided the draft declaration was approved by the General Assembly, to conduct their activities in outer space in conformity with those principles. His Government also undertook to do so.

2. In view of the legal significance of the draft declaration, the principles should conform with the intentions of all potential space Powers. That point had to be borne in mind in considering the implications of including in the draft declaration the additional legal principle that outer space should be reserved for peaceful purposes only. It had been suggested that Member States should accept the same limitations on the use of outer space as they had with regard to Antarctica, which apparently meant that they should agree to exclude weapons from outer space even before weapons usable in outer space had been produced. The fact was, however, that at the time of the negotiation of the treaty making Antarctica an arms-free area no States had had weapons in that region or weapons systems which might have involved the use of Antarctica in case of war. However, intercontinental ballistic missiles, which today represented the great Powers' primary strategic weapon, would—if they were used—presumably pass through outer space on their way to a target. It was important to keep that fact in mind in order to form a realistic judgement of the nature of the problem. His Government was, of course, in favour of disarmament in outer space as on earth; it had, in fact, been the first to propose that States should undertake not to place in orbit weapons of mass destruction, and was gratified that General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII) had given effect to the proposal. That resolution and the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, signed at Moscow on August 1963, were important disarmament measures which had reduced the possible means of using outer space for military purposes. In so far as intercontinental ballistic missiles were concerned, the problem was not to prohibit their use in outer space but to negotiate an agreement reserving outer space for peaceful uses only.

3. His Government was satisfied with the progress being made in the establishment of a World Weather Watch and in the use of outer space for expanding telecommunications. It was also interested in the arrangements being worked out for the development of a single global telecommunications system. The results already achieved in the utilization of outer space on the basis of international co-operation represented one of the most constructive developments of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly. He hoped that the Assembly would unanimously approve the draft declaration of legal principles submitted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the draft resolution regarding the future work of that Committee (A/C.1/L.332).

4. Mr. OKEKE (Nigeria) said that Nigeria, in spite of its limited resources, had already been able to

[1] See the verbatim record of the 24th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, annexed to document A/5549/Add.1.

participate in space activities, particularly in the preparations for the International Year of the Quiet Sun and in certain programmes undertaken by the space Powers. Since mankind could derive considerable benefits from the advances of space technology for peaceful purposes, especially in the field of satellite communications and space meteorology, his delegation wished to commend the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the specialized agencies concerned for what they had accomplished in that regard.

5. His delegation noted with satisfaction the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee regarding, first of all, the World Weather Watch and the improvement of the world weather system and, secondly, the development of terrestrial communications systems so that all Member States, regardless of the level of their economic, scientific and technological development, could benefit from international space communications. Nigeria pledged its fullest co-operation in those undertakings. It believed, however, that the time had come for the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to submit more specific proposals, particularly with regard to the improvement of communications systems.

6. The recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space regarding education and training in space subjects was of particular interest to those countries whose technology was not very advanced. He hoped, therefore, that the problem of providing the developing countries with technical assistance in the field of outer space, especially in the training of their nationals, would be approached realistically. In that connexion, he welcomed the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's proposals aimed at the widest possible dissemination of relevant information.

7. His delegation was gratified that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had achieved positive results with regard to the legal aspects of the problem. It was happy to note that the draft declaration, particularly the preamble and paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4, was guided by the general principles already laid down by the General Assembly in resolution 1721 (XVI). He expressed satisfaction that paragraph 6 of the draft declaration drew attention to the need to prevent interference with the peaceful uses of outer space. He regretted, however, that that paragraph did not impose a specific obligation on States to undertake consultations if any of their activities might radically modify the earth's environment or pose a threat to the human race. It was unfortunate that in spite of the progress made in the peaceful exploration of outer space and the persistent demands of mankind, it had thus far been impossible to formulate specific legal principles that would bar all military activities from outer space. A first step had been taken in that direction with the conclusion of the partial test ban treaty, and a second with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII). It was to be hoped that the declaration of intent contained in that resolution would be given more formal expression. In the meantime, his delegation insisted not only that outer space should be respected as res communis omnium but also that it should be used for peaceful purposes only.

8. Inasmuch as some delegations had expressed reservations concerning the responsibility of international organizations conducting space activities, he wondered whether the views of some delegations might be met by making the last sentence of paragraph 5 of the draft declaration into a separate paragraph. With regard to paragraph 7, his delegation wished to make the same reservations that had been made by the Japanese representative in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (see A/5549/Add.1, annex). It was hardly proper to require sovereign States to return objects falling in their territory without giving them the right to know what those objects were. He trusted that when the international agreement on that question was drafted, care would be taken to ensure that mutual obligations were assumed.

9. Since the exploration of outer space was still in its infancy, it might not be appropriate in all instances to draw up a comprehensive set of rules, but it was to be hoped that such rules would be worked out as advances were made in the exploration of space and, especially, that they would be translated into suitable legal instruments. In that connexion, the draft declaration was an encouraging first step. The space activities of States should be governed by principles laid down in an international treaty, in order to ensure the peaceful use of outer space and improve existing co-operation in that field.

10. Mr. CARVALHO SILOS (Brazil) noted the progress that had been achieved in the negotiations on the exploration and use of outer space. He still felt, however, that the draft declaration of legal principles suffered from certain shortcomings. His delegation considered that in view of the importance of the principle involved, especially for the developing countries, the idea expressed in the third preambular paragraph properly belonged in paragraph 1 of the declaration. Moreover, the principle that outer space would be used for exclusively peaceful purposes should have been proclaimed explicitly in the draft declaration; his delegation saw no reason why the task begun with General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII) should be left unfinished, especially since the Antarctic Treaty of 1 December 1959 banning the use of Antarctica for non-peaceful purposes could have served as an example. Furthermore, his delegation felt that the draft declaration should have provided for some form of international scrutiny of any communications system based on satellites, since otherwise the misuse of radio and television broadcasts by satellites might adversely affect international relations. That was not to say, however, that Brazil was opposed to the free flow of information throughout the world; on the contrary, its goal was to ensure a free and fair flow of information, and he accordingly supported the views expressed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in paragraph 14 (b) of its report (A/5549). The sixth principle enunciated in the draft declaration provided for a rather loose system of international consultations; his delegation felt that COSPAR could be given the task of determining whether or not a given experiment was detrimental to the activities of other States and that ways should be devised of discouraging harmful experiments.

11. Finally, his delegation had some doubts as to the wisdom of the unqualified extension to outer space of the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. It should be borne in mind that the Charter had been drafted before the dawn of the atomic and space ages. Thus, international law and the Charter recognized the right of self-defence, which could properly exercised on earth. That was only one example of the complex questions involved in the unqualified application of international law to outer space. The Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could perhaps determine which principles of international law could be conveniently extended to outer space. Despite its shortcomings, however, the draft declaration was a constructive step, and Brazil would vote for it.

12. Commenting on certain technical and scientific aspects of international co-operation in outer space, he pointed out that several Governments had considered the establishment of sounding rocket launching facilities; Brazil, which was in a favourable position geographically, had set up a Committee on Space Activities and instructed it to find a suitable location with a view to carrying out its programme of scientific research. In that connexion, his delegation wished to congratulate the Indian Government on its decision to invite a group of experts to visit the sounding rocket launching site at Thumba. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had considered the expansion of international programmes in the field of meteorology; it was hardly necessary to stress the significance of such programmes for the developing countries in view of the impact which increased production of raw materials and farm produce would have on their economic development. His delegation had been particularly gratified to hear the United States representative refer to the co-ordinated action planned in that field by the United States and the Soviet Union and stress that the data obtained would be available to all countries.

13. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had considered the question of providing assistance in the training of space technicians to countries which were not in a position to provide such training themselves. Assistance of that kind would be a logical outgrowth of the principle that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried on for the benefit of all States, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development. Such a programme could be administered by the United Nations, and his delegation felt that the time was ripe for the General Assembly to recommend that the space Powers should grant scholarships to specialists from countries interested in the development of space technology. By accepting that recommendation, the space Powers would demonstrate their sincere desire to transform the conquest of outer space into a common endeavour of all mankind.

14. In conclusion, his delegation wished to congratulate the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the results so far achieved, which paved the way for an era of co-operation that could bring mankind closer to the ideals of social and economic justice and world peace.

15. The CHAIRMAN announced that the general debate had been concluded and invited the members of the Committee to vote on the draft resolutions.

16. Mr. MATSCH (Austria) recalled that at the previous meeting he had stated, with reference to draft resolution A/C.1/L.332, that the officers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space wished to increase the membership of the Thumba mission to six from the figure of five originally decided on. The purpose of the change was to include an expert from Argentina, a country in the southern hemisphere which already had sounding rocket launching facilities.

17. Mr. THACHER (United States of America) said that though he had reserved his position in that connexion at the previous meeting, he could now state that his delegation would agree to that change.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that if there was no objection, the word "five" in section II, paragraph 2 (e), of draft resolution A/C.1/L.332 would be replaced by the word "six".

It was so decided. 2/

19. Mr. VELLODI (Secretary of the Committee) informed the Committee on behalf of the Secretary-General that the establishment of the group of scientists referred to in section II, paragraph 2 (e), of the draft resolution would call for an additional expenditure of the order of $12,800 for the travel and incidental expenses of the members of the group. Provision had already been made in the 1964 budget estimates for the other activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee might wish to adopt by acclamation the draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, submitted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549/Add.1, para. 6).

The draft declaration was adopted by acclamation.

21. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should also adopt by acclamation the revised twenty-seven Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.332/Rev. 1).

The revised draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 84

Actions on the regional level with a view to improving good neighbourly relations among European States having different social and political systems (A/5557)

22. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee would not have time to give proper consideration to agenda item 84 (Actions on the regional level with a view to improving good neighbourly relations among European States having different social and political systems). With the agreement of the Romanian delegation, which had requested its inclusion in the agenda, he accordingly suggested that consideration of the item should be deferred until the nineteenth session of the General Assembly, and that at its next meeting the Committee should take up the last item on its agenda, the Korean question.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

2/ The text of the revised draft resolution incorporating this change was subsequently issued as document A/C.1/L.332/Rev.1.

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