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Chairman; Mr. Leopoldo BENITES (Ecuador).

Point of order raised by the representative of
the USSR (continued)

1. Mr. VELLODI (Secretary of the Committee), re-
   ferring to the comments made by the representative
   of the USSR at the 149th meeting concerning the de-
   lays and gaps in the publication of the verbatim
   records of the Committee’s meetings, said that, according
   to the Under-Secretary for Conference Services, the
   Secretariat had been unable, owing to a shortage of
   staff, to publish the verbatim records of the General
   Assembly, the Security Council and the First Commit-
   tee simultaneously during the past two weeks. He
   assured the representative of the USSR that in future
   the verbatim records would always be published in
   chronological order.

2. Mr. FEDORENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Rep-
   publics) took note of the Secretary’s explanations and
   assurances. His reason for drawing attention to the
   matter had been that, owing to the nature of the ques-
   tion dealt with by the Committee, the statements of
   representatives were always prepared with care both
   as to substance and as to form, and it was therefore
   important to have those statements represented faith-
   fully in the verbatim records and the summary records.
   He reserved the right to return to the subject if the
   need arose.

Acknowledgement by the Peruvian delegation of the
tribute paid to the memory of Mr. Victor Andrés
Belaúnde at the 148th meeting

3. Mr. PERA PRADO (Peru), speaking for himself
   and for the Peruvian delegation and Government,

thanked the Chairman and the members of the First
Committee for the tribute they had paid to the memory
of Mr. Belaúnde.

AGENDA ITEMS 30, 89 AND 91


Conclusion of an international treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, the Moon and other celestial bodies (continued) A/634, A/632/Rev.1, A/C.1/941, A/C.1/L.392 and Add.1 and 2

Treaty governing the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies (continued) A/6392, A/C.1/941, A/C.1/L.396 and Add.1 and 2

4. Mr. GOLDBERG (United States of America) said
   that his delegation was happy to be a sponsor of the
   forty-three-power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.396 and
   Add.1 and 2), recommending the adoption of a treaty
   on principles governing the activities of States in the
   exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon
   and other celestial bodies, which gave cause for great
   satisfaction and great hope. He hoped that the treaty
   would be opened for signature without delay and rati-
   fied by as many States as possible. The United States
   regarded it as an important step towards peace, for it
   would greatly reduce the danger of international conflict
   and improve the prospects for international co-oper-
   ation in the common interest in one of the newest and
   most unfamiliar realms of human activity.

5. The first responsibility of Governments on the
   threshold of the space age was to make sure that
   earthly disputes were not carried into outer space.
   The treaty before the Committee answered that desire
   and hope and then took its place in the historic pro-
   gression that had begun with the Antarctic Treaty of
   1959 and continued with the Treaty banning nuclear
   weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and
   under water of 1963. It was to be hoped that that series
   of peace-building agreements would continue to grow
   and that a treaty to stop the proliferation of nuclear
   weapons would soon be added to it.

6. The negotiations leading to the treaty now before
   the Committee had been remarkable for their speed
   and for the business-like and reasonable attitude of
   all concerned. The spirit of compromise shown by the
   space Powers and the other Powers had produced a
   treaty which established a fair balance between the
   interests and obligations of all concerned, including
   the countries which had as yet undertaken no space
activities. The aim of the negotiators had not been to provide a contingency plan for exploration and use of outer space but rather to establish a set of basic principles. That was why the provisions of the treaty were such as they were. However, there should be particularly welcomed by the United Nations, since they derived from the recommendations of the previous General Assembly resolutions and the report of the International Law Commission on outer space (1962 and 1964). The principles adopted by the General Assembly, even if they were not identical to those contained in the report of the Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (1962), were essentially the same. The principles were adopted by the General Assembly: the Charter of the United Nations, and the principles governing the capacities of states in space, which are contained in article X of the treaty. Article X required that member states, in order to respect the rights of all other states, should refrain from using space for purposes of aggression or the production of nuclear weapons.

8. The United Nations view of the significance of the treaty's provisions on outer space had been summed up by President Johnson when he had welcomed the treaty as the most important arms control document since the limited test ban treaty of 1963. The importance of these provisions was contained in article IV, although quite as important were articles I, II, and III. The treaty established for the first time an international legal basis for peaceful uses of outer space, and in particular the right of states to establish legal frameworks for the conduct of activities in the space domain. The treaty also included the principle that all activities in outer space should be conducted in the interests of international cooperation and the promotion of peace. The principles of sovereignty, non-appropriation, and peaceful uses were enshrined in article I, while articles II and III dealt with the legal status of outer space and its exploration, respectively. The treaty thus provided a legal framework for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space by states. It was an important step towards the establishment of a legal regime for outer space activities.
The programme for the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee, he hoped, would speed up the committee's last minute decision at its current session would be to adopt that draft and submit it to an overwhelming majority.

Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria) congratulated the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee and the various delegations concerned on their success in producing a draft in which the committee was governing the activities of States in the exploration of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies. That instrument, he hoped, would have the wishes of Austria, which had consistently expressed the point of view that scientific and technical achievements in outer space must be carried out in peaceful purposeful international legal agreements. The treaty met that requirement, for it represented a most important milestone in the endeavours to provide for lawful use of outer space and to establish a substantial basis for further work in that field.

With regard to the achievements of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he recalled that in 1961 it had drafted the basic principles of space exploration, which had been embodied in General Assembly Resolution 19721A (XVII). As it had been imperative, however, for freedom of exploration to be linked to a definite legal order, it was the function of the new treaty to affirm the validity of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in the realm of outer space and of celestial bodies. It followed that the principle of peaceful use of outer space, so little developed in the twentieth century, tended to be covered by the sanctions provided in the United Nations Charter. Article XIV, having been developed to govern the outer space formed part of international law and not of a new order applicable solely to outer space.

The next step had been the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 1962 (XVIII) embodying the Declaration of Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space. Those basic principles were referred to in the treaty before the Committee. After enumerating the main provisions contained therein, it was observed that his delegation would have preferred the principle of peaceful exclusive uses to be applied not only to the Moon and other celestial bodies, but to the whole zone of outer space.

The treaty, however, was only a sketch of the legal work to be accomplished in the course of time. In particular, there remained the important question of the liability of damage caused by objects that question had already been brought before the Legal-Sub-Committee. The summary formulation of that principle by the establishment of the United Nations Charter from pressing for the drafting of a convention on the subject.

It was gratifying that those who had contributed so effectively to that end had not disregarded by the committee's last minute decision at that current session would be to adopt that draft and submit it to an overwhelming majority.

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peace. The United Nations was an instrument with which the contemporary world could and must foresee and prevent dangerous dead-end situations of the kind that had arisen in the past. In that connexion, he paid a tribute to the work of the members and officers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

49. A few years earlier, the question now before the Committee might have appeared only relatively urgent. Scientific and technological progress had, however, made it a part of "current reality" and even of daily life. His delegation congratulated the Soviet Union and the United States on their successes in the exploration of outer space. Praise was also due to France and Japan for their achievements in that field. All the information obtained through such activities was extremely valuable for the whole of mankind and for the various branches of science. That was apparent from the reports of ITU and WMO. As the Australian and Italian representatives had pointed out, space exploration had already had an effect on modern life. In that space problems fostered a spirit of co-operation which overshadowed world-wide co-operation. In his opening statement at the 44th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/4431, annexes), the Chairman had stressed the importance of international co-operation, and his appeal had apparently been heard. After lengthy negotiations, States had succeeded in preparing a single draft treaty on the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space. The treaty was a major development and would facilitate the conclusion of other agreements on disarmament. It was certainly as important as the partial test ban treaty. The treaty established the extremely important principle of the equality of all States and non-discrimination in space activities. For those reasons, his delegation was pleased to be one of the sponsors of the forty-three Power draft resolution.

50. With regard to the international conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, his delegation endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole (A/4431, annex IV), which the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had adopted. It welcomed the fact that some of its suggestions concerning the conference agenda had been taken into account, particularly those concerning education and training, and that the conference was to place emphasis on the interests of the developing countries. Vienna was a suitable choice for the conference site; his delegation wished to express its gratitude to the Austrian Government in that connexion.

51. As the French representative had observed, there could be no objection to the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Particular importance should be attached to international programmes for education and training and the popularisation of space activities. His delegation felt that an intensified effort should be made to inform and educate world public opinion.

52. His delegation commended the work of the Legal Sub-Committee and joined others who had expressed their best wishes to its Chairman, Mr. Laches, in his new duties.

53. Iran was pleased to be a sponsor of the seventeen Power draft resolution (A/C.1/4397 and Add.1) and hoped that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would continue its useful work.

54. His delegation was convinced that expanded education and training in space matters would bring about even more rapid advances. The peaceful utilisation of outer space was a reminder that mankind was at present passing through an unusual period, which was still unfortunately marred by conflicts, threats and tensions. However, the atmosphere of agreement and co-operation which had marked the discussion of the present item was a good omen, and it was to be hoped that the behaviour of mankind would be in keeping with the spirit of the proposed treaty.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.