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Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space

Legal Committee Working Group

Report under Paragraph 1 (d) of General  
Assembly Resolution 1348 (XIII)

(Draft amendments and additions submitted  
by the Delegation of Mexico to the working  
paper submitted by the Delegation of the  
United States (A/AC.98/L.7))

Page 2. Delete para. 2 and substitute the following:

"The Committee considered the applicability of the provisions of the United Nations Charter and of the Statute of the International Court of Justice and observed that, since they synthesized the idea of co-operation between men and the joint achievement of great projects for the benefit of all mankind, their effects were not limited to the confines of the earth. The Committee noted that none of the States engaged in outer-space activities or in activities connected with the exploration of outer space had succeeded in making any distinctions in this respect between outer-space activities and other activities; nevertheless, it considered as a standard for such activities the principles included in the preamble of resolution 1348 (XIII), especially those emphasizing the peaceful use of outer space and its exploration and exploitation for the benefit of mankind. The Committee also noted that the activities carried on in outer space, or connected with its exploration, had generally been considered compatible with the principle of freedom of exploration and use of outer space by all; it considered as especially applicable the principle of sovereign equality between Member States and its extension to outer space, despite temporary differences in the technological development of each State in respect of the science of space."

Page 3. Add the following two paragraphs to the beginning of section B.1:

"The Committee gave careful consideration to the content of each of the many juridical problems arising out of the exploration of outer space, although it did not discuss them in detail. It took note of the following problems, each of which could be subdivided into several questions:  
(a) determination of the legal principles applicable to outer space;  
(b) possible definition of outer space; (c) determination of existing rules which should forthwith govern outer space; (d) extension of national sovereignty in space; (e) toleration of outer-space experiments and their control in the atmosphere; (f) juridical regime applicable to existing outer-space vehicles; (g) legal status of outer-space vehicles, and  
(h) State responsibility for outer-space experiments. In addition to these problems, in which there may be tremendous developments in the fairly near future, the Committee took note of other, entirely secondary, problems, such as sovereignty over celestial bodies, State responsibility for outer-space voyages, and the legal principles that will have to be applied to man in outer space.

"From this multiplicity of juridical problems the Committee deemed it appropriate to select a few for definition and comment, which would enable the General Assembly, in view of their complex character, to determine in due course the way in which to reach agreement on them."

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