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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE

LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1962 FROM THE DEPUTY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL

19 March 1962

I have the honour to transmit the text of a letter from President Kennedy to Chairman Khrushchev of 7 March 1962, to which I made reference in my statement before the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space today. I request that a copy of this letter be circulated to all Members as a document of this Committee.

Accept, etc.

(Signed) Francis T.P. PLIMPTON

great, and the risks to the brave men who engage in space exploration so grave, that we must in all good conscience try every possibility of sharing these tasks and costs and of minimizing these risks. Leaders of the United States Space Programmes have developed detailed plans for an orderly sequence of manned and unmanned flights for exploration of space and the planets. Out of discussion of these plans, and of your own, for undertaking the tasks of this decade would undoubtedly emerge possibilities for substantive scientific and technical co-operation in manned and unmanned space investigations. Some possibilities are not yet precisely identifiable, but should become clear as the space programmes of our two countries proceed. In the case of others it may be possible to start planning together now, for example, we might co-operate in unmanned exploration of the lunar surface, or we might commence now the mutual definition of steps to be taken in sequence for an exhaustive scientific investigation of the planets Mars or Venus, including consideration of the possible utility of manned flights in such programmes. When a proper sequence for experiments has been determined, we might share responsibility for the necessary projects. All data would be made freely available.

I believe it is both appropriate and desirable that we take full cognizance of the scientific and other contributions which other States the world over might be able to make in such programmes. As agreements are reached between us on any parts of these or similar programmes, I propose that we report them to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Committee offers a variety of additional opportunities for joint co-operative efforts within the framework of its mandate as set forth in General Assembly resolutions 1472 (XIV) and 1721 (XVI).

I am designating technical representatives who will be prepared to meet and discuss with your representatives our ideas and yours in a spirit of practical co-operation. In order to accomplish this at an early date I suggest that the representatives of our countries, who will be coming to New York to take part in the United Nations Outer Space Committee meeting, meet privately to discuss the proposals set forth in this letter.

Sincerely,

John F. KENNEDY
