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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 14 September 1962, at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. MATSCH

(Austria)

Consideration of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/6)
on the work of its first session (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE (A/AC.105/6) ON THE WORK OF ITS FIRST SESSION (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: I have the pleasure now to invite the representative of the United Arab Republic to introduce his draft resolution which was circulated in document A/AC.105/L.6.

Mr. FAHMY (United Arab Republic): Without trying to predict the procedure which either the Chairman or the Committee may follow in discussing the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, I thought it might be advisable to present very briefly the proposal which has been submitted to the Committee in the name of the delegation of the United Arab Republic.

The draft resolution is in fact self explanatory and was submitted in accordance with the views which I expressed in my previous statement to the Committee. These views correspond to our attitude in so far as the peaceful uses of outer space are concerned and to our concern that the world may be led to drastic results if from the very beginning we do not know where we stand. The members of the Committee may have noticed that the first paragraph of the preamble of the draft resolution is identical with the first three lines of the Charter of the United Nations wherein Member States dedicated themselves "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". I do not believe that this provision can create any misgivings.

The second paragraph of the preamble in fact expresses the views which were stated either here or in many international forums with regard to mankind's concern about the activities in outer space. The Committee may recall on that many occasions, and even in specific draft proposals, concern was voiced as regards the safety of one or two astronauts and why it was necessary to develop legal principle, conditions and regulations to safeguard, secure and guarantee the safety of one astronaut. But until now we were not clear whether this safety -- and I mean the safety of all mankind -- was really recognized in a very simple statement. This in fact is the crux of the whole idea behind our proposals, and they have been expressed very simply and in a very specific way in both paragraphs 1 and 2 of the operative part.

(Mr. Fahmy, United Arab Republic)

With regard to the rest of the preamble, the third paragraph is a repetition of the paragraph contained in General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) in which the Assembly had expressed the view that the United Nations should be the focal point of promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

The fourth paragraph of the preamble states that there is an inter-relationship between the technical aspects and the legal aspects, and we believe that many delegations have referred to this and that it is a statement of fact.

As far as paragraph 3 of the operative part is concerned, we all agree that, in particular, the countries who for the time being have activities in outer space bear specific responsibilities to do their best to secure and guarantee the safety of outer space and astronauts.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the operative part are almost a repetition of the views expressed in the Committee and in the Legal Sub-Committee as regards the concern of all of us for the safety of astronauts and vehicles.

(Mr. Fahmy, United Arab
Republic)

Operative paragraph 6 is in a sense a new element because while recognizing that it is necessary to promote and develop world-wide interest in outer space, I feel, as representative of the United Arab Republic, that developing countries should have some more interest in the development of outer space; this in itself can not be achieved unless the United Nations and the specialized agencies can spend more time and develop the best ways to bring to the knowledge of the developing countries the new developments in outer space and the implications of the activities in that new field.

In paragraph 7 we simply acknowledge the fact that some international organizations, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations have experience in this field. Certainly, we agree that this Committee and the United Nations should benefit from their experience and should co-operate fully with the existing international organizations in that field.

In paragraph 8 we urge that Member States will exert every possible effort to provide the United Nations Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis -- this cannot be done on a compulsory basis -- with the necessary information for promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

I come now to the second part of the proposal which is submitted in the name of the delegation of the United Arab Republic, namely, the mechanism which we thought might be advisable to look into these nine principles and to see how they could be implemented. We propose to establish a sub-committee -- a new one. As to the size of the sub-committee, this view is not rigid. If the majority prefers that it be a sub-committee of the whole we go along with this suggestion. If they feel that to develop such a procedure it is necessary to have a smaller sub-committee, we welcome this idea, too. The main thing is that we have to start and try to develop the necessary mechanism suitable to everyone. What we are really looking forward to is that after the various members of this Committee transmit these proposals to their respective Governments that the time will come, and I hope that it will be as soon as possible, that such machinery will be established to examine these proposals and other proposals which most probably, we are sure, will add to these nine principles and produce some framework for this Committee to develop its work in the future.

(Mr. Fahmy, United Arab Republic)

As far as the formalities are concerned, by submitting this proposal at this stage we realize, as I have said before, that it is too late now to ask the members of the Committee to comment in detail on these proposals. For these reasons we have no objection, if the Committee desires, that our proposal be included in our report to the General Assembly. I am sure we will see what can be done in the General Assembly. In the meantime, if any member of this Committee is in a position to comment on these proposals, we welcome that, too.

Let me conclude by saying the following. In submitting these proposals we had in mind only one target. I am sure that all of you feel the **same** way, that what we are concerned about is the safety of outer space. These principles are not rigid in any way. They could be improved. But I think it presents a starting point for the Committee to work on that basis.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has just heard the representative of the United Arab Republic agree that his intervention will be mentioned in the report under item 5 and that the text of draft resolution A/AC.105/L.6 will be joined to the report as a annex. Does any member wish to comment either on the draft resolution submitted by the representative of the United Arab Republic or on the legal sub-committee's report?

Mr. CUEVAS (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): It is possible that my intervention may be repetitive to a certain extent, but at least it will have the advantage of being short. I consider it necessary to intervene in order to leave no doubt concerning the position of my country on this legal problem of outer space which we consider of primary importance. Law in the international life of Mexico is not simply one of various supports which it uses to advance this or that position, but fundamentally its manner of conceiving coexistence between nations; and the only way in which it can conceive self-determination of peoples and their right to decide their own future, fit into the future of humanity.

My delegation cannot conceive of man making any advance in this new immense field which opens up before him without having a firm legal basis on which to proceed. General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) in part A has certainly pointed out some of these essential principles; but this can only be considered a

(Mr. Cuevas, Mexico)

beginning. It is impossible to imagine that man can go into space having General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI), part A, simply on this basis, for it definitely leaves much obscurity.

My delegation hoped that the Legal Sub-Committee would accomplish useful work in its meeting in Geneva. Unfortunately, this was not so, as we pointed out. I am concerned to note the grave gap which existed in the work of the Legal Sub-Committee and which comes back to us now virtually with empty hands. We do not need to talk about stalemates. Talk about stalemates in this matter would be implied pessimism, and we cannot be pessimistic.

(Mr. Cuevas, Mexico)

Certainly, the loss of time, which is the result of the failure of the Legal Sub-Committee, is a loss of time for humanity as a whole.

The delegation of Mexico insists that it be well understood that in the future we cannot conceive the science of space being developed without its being based on clearer and firmer juridical concepts, on concepts which would allow the States engaged in this field and those who will engage in it to be guided by established norms of undoubted value which would be capable of being a lighthouse which would, as it were, guide humanity as a whole in protecting its interests.

The great Powers have a heavy moral responsibility to the rest of humanity, and it is obvious that nothing can be done without their agreement. However, as regards their nationals and as regards other Powers, the great Powers have the obligation to agree on the principles applying to the exploration of space, on principles which must be the same for all countries. An agreement must be reached on the general and basic juridical principles. My delegation insists and will continue to insist on doing all that it can to see that this code of law will be a success, and it will continue to do this unceasingly.

In the opinion of my delegation, this agreement in principle will be only the beginning of a more solid co-operation. It would be incorrect to claim that Mexico considers that as soon as the agreement on the principles have been drawn up, all problems existing in space will have been solved. However, once this agreement has been achieved, the future can be prepared with a certainty that we cannot have at the present time in international life. Man must be able to go into space leaving behind on earth the controversies which have been a plague to humanity.

(Mr. Cuevas, Mexico)

Once these fundamental principles have been agreed to, I think it will be possible to solve other problems, problems which are of secondary importance. However, those problems which were pointed out this morning by the representative of the United States are very important, but they can be dealt with more effectively when a general agreement has been arrived at. I do not claim that a private agreement will bring nothing to the solution of these problems.

My delegation is convinced that the United Nations will take up these problems as quickly as possible, keeping in mind the sense of their urgency.

I should like to congratulate the delegation of the United Arab Republic for the draft resolution which it has just presented. We can use this text as a basis and we can also use other texts as working papers.

However, the problem is extremely urgent. It is extremely necessary that a common effort should be made not to utter picus platitudes, but to solve the problem which will perhaps open the way to the solution of other problems, problems which are fundamental and whose solution would lead to progress in the future.

I am very happy that the point of view which I have just stressed will be mentioned in the report which the Committee will present to the General Assembly.

Mr. SILCS (Brazil) (Rapporteur): Speaking on behalf of my delegation, I should like to praise the delegation of the United Arab Republic for presenting this very important document to us. Its title is: "Code for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space". Thus this document has the intention of being a comprehensive code of co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. While reading it, I realized that there is no reference to communications. I have in mind telephone communications, radio and television programmes through satellites in this draft. The Brazilian delegation has raised this point many times. For the sake of the record, I want to state that in our opinion any code on co-operation in outer space should deal with the question of transmission of telephone communications, television and radio broadcasts by means of satellites.

Miss GUTTERIDGE (United Kingdom): I should like, to say a few words in the context of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee.

I think that I am reflecting the views of a number of delegations here if I say that it is our belief that the Legal Sub-Committee should meet again as early as possible in the coming year and consider the formulation of general principles, in addition to those already approved by the General Assembly, as well as to consider the preparation of international agreements or recommendations to deal with such practical questions as liability for space vehicle accidents and assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles. In this event, the Legal Sub-Committee's further work would be undertaken in the light of the discussions which have taken place in this Committee and the debates which will take place **during the seventeenth session of the General Assembly**; and also in the light of any decisions reached by the General Assembly.

We would also suggest that the date and place of further meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee should be determined following consultations between you, Mr. Chairman, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I should also like to add in the context of the proposal just submitted by the representative of the United Arab Republic that my Government will study with very great attention and interest the proposal which he has just made.

Mr. FAHMY (United Arab Republic): I am indeed grateful to the representatives of Mexico and Brazil. I asked to speak just to inform the representative of Brazil that, as I have said before, the United Arab Republic is fully aware of the various views which were expressed here, including the views of the delegation of Brazil, and in particular in connexion with telecommunications. I can assure the representative of Brazil that when the time comes and the machinery which we have proposed is set up, we will do our best and we will ask the members of the Committee to help the delegation of the United Arab Republic in making the incomplete paper which we have submitted as complete as possible.

In conclusion, I should also like to express our thanks to the representative of the United Kingdom for her promise that the United Kingdom will examine our paper very carefully.

Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia): At the beginning of this week, my delegation still hoped that the position taken by the United States delegation and its allies in the Legal Sub-Committee in Geneva represented only an unpleasant episode and that those countries would embark upon the road of co-operation in elaborating a programme of international co-operation in the peaceful use of outer space, that co-operation which was characteristic of the adoption of resolution 1721 (XVI) and our spring session. Our hopes did not materialize, and the apprehensions we felt that the position of the Western countries was part of their long-term tactics and definite intentions have been confirmed.

At present, it would of course be premature to draw final conclusions from the results of the work of the Legal Sub-Committee and the deliberations on those results in our Committee, but, however, some facts have already become clear.

The United States delegation is willing to accept some form of international co-operation in the scientific and technical fields, but it absolutely refuses even to negotiate on the adoption of certain legal principles which would influence their plans on the use of outer space in other directions. The influence of generals who dream of a "control of outer space" and who claim outer space to be a new field for military operations apparently has begun to prevail in the United States policy in this question. Otherwise, we cannot explain the defence of the contamination of outer space, which may become a serious obstacle to its peaceful use, or the carrying out of espionage from outer space. In this case, the United States representative even went so far as to state that it considers it "fully compatible with international law and the Charter".

The high altitude nuclear explosions carried out by the United States, which are to be continued in spite of protests from all over the world, by their consequences begin to make difficult the principle contained in paragraph 1 (b), Part A of resolution 1721 (XVI), namely, that "outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States in conformity with international law".

(Mr. Smid, Czechoslovakia)

It is very discouraging that the delegation of the United States is not even willing to support those principles of the Soviet declaration which emanate from the aforementioned resolution, from the generally recognized principles of international law, and from the Charter of the United Nations.

The United States delegation is worried about a Soviet veto over national programmes of other countries. However, every State in the world and the international community as a whole has the right of veto over actions of a certain State which would violate the principle that outer space is res communis, which would make international co-operation more difficult, and which might even endanger international peace.

The principle that propaganda for war and national or racial hatred is incompatible with international law and the peaceful coexistence of nations is already firmly rooted in the legal conscience of mankind. Therefore, practically no reasonable person will share the United States position that this sort of propaganda should not be excluded, under various pretexts, from this new field of co-operation which reflects the aspirations of many generations.

The so-called veto and the objections against the prohibition of war propaganda are the two main objections of the Western delegations against the Soviet proposal. Also, we cannot disregard the justification of the arbitrary activities of private capital in outer space. We would not appreciate it if the United States producers of shampoos, toothpastes and detergents substantially influenced the programmes transmitted by satellites.

However, we are convinced that the legal questions should have been discussed here and that it would have been possible to reach an agreement. Therefore, we cannot become reconciled to and agree with the fact that some representatives absolutely refuse to discuss even the most elementary principles.

The General Assembly must be informed why the Committee could not fulfil its duties arising from paragraph 2 of Part A of resolution 1721 (XVI), namely, "to study and report on the legal problems which may arise from the exploration and use of outer space". The General Assembly must be clearly told that it was found impossible to deal with some questions of secondary importance such as, for example, the question of liability for space vehicle accidents, since some

(Mr. Smid, Czechoslovakia)

countries have not been willing to discuss and to solve the principal and most important issues. It must also be explained that without even partial agreement on future negotiations on fundamental principles of activities in outer space, it was impossible to agree on mere phrases in a report or in a resolution. What is most important, the General Assembly must also be told that the development of further co-operation in scientific and technical fields may be seriously endangered, or even paralysed, by the fact that there has been no willingness to discuss the fundamental principles ruling the activities of countries in outer space.

I think that it is sufficiently clear that the question of prestige is not involved in this case, and that whether it is a proposal of the Soviet Union or of some other country, or whether the document adopted will be a declaration or something else, is unimportant. However, it is necessary that the principles contained in resolution 1721 (XVI) should be further elaborated and adopted in a form which would be legally more binding than a resolution of the General Assembly. It is necessary that the principles of international law and the Charter must be applied to activities in outer space and that new principles corresponding to this new field of human activities must be formulated.

We have just received the draft resolution submitted by the representative of the United Arab Republic. Unfortunately, we have not had sufficient time to study this in detail and, therefore, I would reserve the right to refer to it later. At this moment, I would welcome the idea of working out such a set of basic principles, but I must say that, prima vista, I miss some important principles there, and in some of the paragraphs I would prefer another formulation. But, anyway, this draft, together with the Soviet draft declaration, could serve as a basis for further discussion. One thing which gives us serious doubts is the proposal in Part B, which proposes the establishment of a sub-committee to examine the best practical procedure to put into practice the aforementioned principles. It is not quite clear what sub-committee it should be, and the very idea of sending the matter in the future again to some sub-committee might kill the whole idea if a group of States here does not change its attitude.

It is not quite clear what legal form this document should have. Now it is called a code, and it is intended only for the guidance of this Committee. My delegation would prefer a legally more binding form, a treaty, intended for the guidance of States in their activities in outer space.

(Mr. Smid, Czechoslovakia)

Thus, as I have already said, the results in the legal field are unsatisfactory to my delegation. If the United States prefers dangerous actions in outer space, it could lead to a situation of which, for example, the Mexican Government is fully aware, as evident from the statement of its representative on 11 September. A situation may arise, "when we apply principles of law to outer space, we will find a close network of facts, presumptions, customs, exceptions and violations of law itself which will make peaceful co-existence, which inspired our terms of reference, next to impossible." The responsibility for such a situation will rest with the Government of the United States and with the Governments supporting its policies.

Mr. ATTOLICO (Italy): I do not want to take any more of the Committee's time. I merely wish to express my appreciation to the delegation of the United Arab Republic for its effort in preparing such an interesting document for the Committee. I shall not express an opinion on it now, since the document will require the thorough attention of my Government. It affords most interesting material for consideration, and I am sure that we shall be in a position to examine it thoroughly when we meet again.

I want to say that we agree fully with a view that the Legal Sub-Committee should meet as soon as possible to consider all pending matters.

Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The Belgian delegation, which has abstained from speaking in the meetings of the Committee, finds it necessary to state its position briefly with regard to the results in the legal field which we believe should be achieved in the remaining time.

We feel that the rapid development of legal norms is certainly in the best interests of the international community and that the establishment of progressive norms of international law will contribute to international co-operation in the study of the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

(Mr. Forthomme, Belgium)

But the question is how can our Committee make the best and most useful contribution in the development of the law of space.

For the Soviet Union and the States which support its position, the road is clear. They say that we must discuss and accept here in the Committee a declaration of principles which will establish a charter of outer space, concerning which the Soviet Government has presented a draft. Rapid approval of this declaration is called for with almost categorical insistence. They tell us that the principles which should be inscribed are the factors which are necessary for co-operation in outer space, and that therefore one cannot oppose them. We are now before the problem of whether the Committee should now accept certain rules which have the force of law or whether the questions of policy in problems of outer space should be left to the individual States, taking into account the interests of other States. This is naturally a situation that has many risks.

As for Belgium, my Government certainly is not opposed to the formulation of a declaration of general principles for outer space. This position was clearly stated by our representative in the Legal Sub-Committee in Geneva, at which time a Soviet text was introduced identical to the one which Mr. Morozov presented to us a few days ago. However, my delegation was surprised by the request of the Soviet Union to formulate this declaration here within the few days at the disposal of the Committee. It was often stated at Geneva that the Soviet draft raised complex and controversial problems and that its adoption would even surprise the Soviet delegation. We are assured that the provisions in the Soviet draft merely reflect the general principles contained in General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) and that it would be illogical for the States which voted for the resolution to refuse to subscribe to a declaration which implements it.

It is true that certain paragraphs of the Soviet draft do reflect provisions of resolution 1721 (XVI). That is the case with respect to the first points of the text. But there are other provisions of the Soviet draft which do not correspond to resolution 1721 (XVI), but rather reflect the desire of the Soviet Union to advance "the right of peaceful coexistence", which they admit is different from the concept of the so-called "bourgeois" jurists.

(Mr. Forthomme, Belgium)

There are many specialists on the subject of international law in the West who have studied the problems of outer space. In the Soviet Union there are many professors, among whom I could cite Korovine and Koretsky, who have devoted considerable attention to these problems. Their views should be carefully studied by all those who would like to establish a charter of general principles applicable to outer space, in order to learn the basic premise of their approach.

It would be superfluous to recall the problems which have been raised by points 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Soviet draft declaration, which seem to reflect an approach to international law which is different from and more conservative than that accepted among Western States. Many representatives have expressed their objections to the introduction of the right of veto in point 6, and in point 7 of the prohibition of the participation of private organizations in the activities of outer space. Such complex and controversial issues which arise in certain parts of the Soviet draft declaration could not form sufficiently solid norms to be part of international law. The political aspects of these issues lead us to the conclusion that solutions must first be sought in special political bodies created for that purpose, as is the case with disarmament problems.

It is not from this Committee nor from the General Assembly that we can expect a codification of legal norms in this field. My Government wishes to accomplish this task as rapidly as possible. This task should be given to the Legal Sub-Committee. We should ask the Legal Sub-Committee to start this work without delay and to draw up the legal norms for outer space, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI).

(Mr. Forthomme, Belgium)

The Legal Sub-Committee must also take up as soon as possible the practical solution of concrete problems which may arise in the field of liability in the case of accidents to space vehicles, as well as of assistance to space vehicles and their equipment and to the eventual reparation of engines. On these various points the Belgian delegation reaffirms the position taken by its representative in Geneva.

My country is particularly happy about the adoption by our Committee of the technical recommendations approved by eminent specialists of the entire world. Desirous of assuring technical and scientific co-operation in progressive development, and favouring the general interest of the international community, my country will co-operate to the best of its ability in the elaboration of a legal system to serve these ends. In this respect the draft resolution which has just been submitted by the United Arab Republic merits our close attention, and I can assure the representative of the United Arab Republic that my Government and my delegations will examine it thoroughly.

Mr. PLIMPTON (United States of America): I should simply like to say that my delegation has received with great interest the draft proposal tabled by the representative of the United Arab Republic and that it will be studied with great care by my Government. We believe that a real contribution has been made by the United Arab Republic to our consideration of these difficult problems and we assume that the draft proposal will be included in the Committee's report.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any other representative wish to participate in the discussion on item 5?

Since no one wishes to speak, I should like to say that, in response to various suggestions made during the discussion of item 5 with regard to factual report to the General Assembly on the situation in connexion with legal issues in outer space, I would suggest proceeding in the following way.

Page 2, paragraph 7, of the Legal Sub-Committee's report (A/AC.105/6) is a factual report on the history of the Legal Sub-Committee and would be included verbatim in the report. It would begin with the words "By resolution 1721 A (XVI)" and end with the words "and use of outer space".

Paragraph 16 would, of course, be omitted and the next paragraph of the report would be paragraph 16 on page 9 reading as follows:

"No agreement has been reached on any of the proposals submitted to the Sub-Committee."

And it would continue:

"Four of these proposals (see annexes) were also presented to the Committee, but after an exchange of views no agreement emerged. A fifth draft proposal was presented on 14 September by the delegation of the United Arab Republic (see annex)."

The next paragraph would read:

"Therefore, the Committee submits these proposals and the record of the meetings of its second session to the General Assembly for consideration."

This is my suggestion in response to various proposals with regard to a factual report. Does any representative wish to make any comment in this connexion?

As I hear no objection, I take it that the Committee agrees to the text which I have just read out.

(The Chairman)

This concludes our deliberations on item 5 of our agenda and we shall now turn to item 6, the draft report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

I have been informed by the Secretariat that the draft text has been prepared by the Rapporteur and will be distributed immediately.

I should like to explain this draft report by saying that it will consist of four parts and three kinds of annexes. The first part, the introduction, is a historical survey of what has happened in our deliberations during the first and second sessions. This would continue up to page 4. There are some blanks on the pages which we can trust the ability of our Rapporteur to complete.

The second part would be recommendations concerning the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the reports of WMO and ITU. We agreed at our meeting this morning on this part, namely, the working paper with a few amendments.

Part 3 has just been read out. It consists of the recommendations concerning the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, which was agreed unanimously.

Part 4 concerns registration and is a short summary of what has taken place with regard to the registration of objects launched into outer space.

One annex would consist of our first report (A/AC.105/9/Corr.1), which was approved unanimously. The second kind of annex would be the listing of documents, namely, the four proposals on legal issues which were submitted to our Committee, including, of course, the draft resolution submitted by the United Arab Republic. The third part of the annex would be a list of representatives.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that we can leave it to the Rapporteur to complete this report to be submitted to the Assembly. This is not an unusual procedure. Two weeks ago a Committee composed of all Member States on the preparation of arrangements for a Charter Review Conference, after the main issue had been agreed upon, left it to the Rapporteur to complete the text.

If the Committee is agreeable to this procedure, we can now conclude our second session.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I do not know what this procedure is called but it is usual to see the text of a report before approving it. I listened carefully to the formulations which the Chairman gave, and I must say that if all these formulations are reproduced just as they were read, if there are no technical errors, the Chairman's procedure could be accepted conditionally. However, I would have one reservation: that, within three days after the publication of the official report, any delegation should have the right to call the Committee together to discuss the report if that is necessary, if the report shows any discrepancies as compared with what the Chairman read. I think that is a normal procedure which would guarantee the interests of all delegations. In all likelihood we will not have to use this procedure, since we are quite certain that the Chairman's high qualifications and the qualifications of the Rapporteur and the Vice-Chairman, together with the assistance that will be received from the Secretariat, will guarantee that there are no errors in the reproduction. However, we would like to be absolutely sure, and that is why we enter this reservation. With that reservation, I am ready to accept the procedure outlined by the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair is willing to accept the suggestion of the representative of the Soviet Union that, if some error should occur in the report, within three days after its distribution any member of the Committee will be entitled to call for the convening of the Committee in order to rectify the error.

If there are no further comments, the Chair declares closed the second session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.