



COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 5 November 1964, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. MATSCH

(Austria)

1. Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and reports of ITU and WMO
2. Report of the scientific group established at the request of the Government of India to visit the rocket launching site at Thumba

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair would like to apologize and explain to the Committee why yesterday afternoon's meeting had to be cancelled. The Chair was informed only after the meeting was adjourned that, unexpectedly, the draft paper with regard to the two reports of the Legal Sub-Committee would not be available for the afternoon meeting.

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE (A/AC.105/20 and Add.1)
AND REPORTS OF ITU (A/AC.105/L.11) AND WMO (A/AC.105/L.10/Rev.1), AND DOCUMENTS
A/AC.105/L.12, L.13 and L.14

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC GROUP ESTABLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
INDIA TO VISIT THE ROCKET LAUNCHING SITE AT THUMBA (A/AC.105/17).

The CHAIRMAN: As the Committee will remember, yesterday we adjourned until this morning's meeting the consideration of the draft recommendations submitted by the delegation of Austria on the navigation satellite issue. In the meantime, the text has been circulated to all members and is also included in the verbatim record of yesterday's meeting. I understand that the Austrian representative wishes to make a short comment on this draft recommendation, and I call upon him to speak.

Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria): After consultations with other delegations, I should like to propose the following changes in our draft recommendation which was presented this morning.

In the fourth line of the second paragraph of our draft recommendation, we should like to add the word "appropriate" before the word "Specialized".

Then we would suggest the deletion in line 5 of the second paragraph of the words "in particular ICAO", because there are other international organizations involved in this matter.

Finally, in line 6 of the same paragraph, we would suggest the deletion of the words "requirement for and", so that the second paragraph of our draft recommendation would read as follows:

(Mr. Waldheim, Austria)

"Invites the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in co-operation with the Secretary-General and making full use of the functions and resources of the Secretariat and consulting as may be useful with the appropriate Specialized Agencies to study and to submit a report on the possibility of establishing a civil world-wide navigation satellite system on a non-discriminatory basis".

The CHAIRMAN: No other member of the Committee wishes to speak on this point. The Chair, if it does not hear any objection, would take it that the Committee agrees on this recommendation. The recommendation has been agreed upon.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: We now turn to the continuation of yesterday's discussion. With regard to the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, we still have not solved the problem of paragraph G on page 7 of document A/AC.105/20. The Rapporteur was asked to try to find a common language. In the meantime the Soviet delegation has circulated an amendment as a working paper, which is in the hands of all members. If no member wishes to speak on this subject, I shall ask the Rapporteur to say whether he has been able to find a common language in regard to this.

Mr. de CARVALHO SILOS (Brazil), Rapporteur: In view of the proposal which has been made by the Soviet delegation and the desire expressed by many delegations to consider this question further, I think we should go on with the discussion and not suggest any language now.

The CHAIRMAN: I would ask the representative of the Soviet Union whether he wants to comment on his amendment further, in addition to what he said yesterday.

Mr. BLAGONRAVOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It seems to me that yesterday I stated sufficiently clearly the considerations on the basis of which the majority of the representatives here had spoken in favour of the proposal for the convening of such a conference. The only objection that I heard came from the representative of the United States. Yesterday I also mentioned that I had difficulty in fully understanding his objections, inasmuch as the conference could be organized in such a fashion that all the organizations concerned might observe their own interests at that conference. In fact, as we agreed formally, our Committee being vitally concerned in the wide dissemination among all countries of information in regard to new achievements in the field of outer space and in regard to new problems as they arise, our Committee would be very much within its rights to organize the dissemination of such information by means of a conference. I definitely believe that large-scale conferences are in fact the most appropriate and most comprehensive sources of such information. The representative of the United States here was championing the cause of all-round information and he has now asked that this information include the most detailed information, even including the family names of the people

(Mr. Blagonravov, USSR)

engaged in this or that type of research. It seems to me that the information in which the Committee is more interested is of the kind that could be derived from a conference of that kind.

Those are the considerations that caused me to draw the attention of the members here to the present issue. I should like to say that apart from that single case, the majority of the representatives here approved the convening of such a conference -- which in fact permitted me to present the relevant document for the consideration of the Committee.

Mr. FRUTKIN (United States of America): We cannot agree that a consensus has developed here for the holding of a conference. If one were to review the remarks of representatives, one would see, I believe, an emerging sentiment for the consideration of the study of such a conference. There is quite a difference between the support of a conference and the support of a study of a conference. Indeed I believe that representatives have addressed themselves to the question whether a conference itself best serves the objectives of this Committee. There are other devices which may so serve.

I have only one other comment. The organizations which now hold scientific, technical and engineering conferences in the field of outer space have been doing so for many years. They represent established patterns of professional practice and professional exchange and enjoy the sponsorship of organizations specializing in given fields. To attempt under the umbrella of the United Nations to uproot these organizations and bring them together in one unmanageable large conference seems to us to do violence to the professional values which they represent, and we do not think we should lightly enter into such an exercise. I repeat the request that we made yesterday: that representatives address themselves to the substantive comments that my delegation has offered on the value of a large conference in achieving the objectives of this Committee.

Mr. FIORIO (Italy): I should like to comment briefly on the interpretation of our proposal for a working group made by the representative of the Soviet Union.

In the proposal which was detailed yesterday morning by my delegation, the idea is not to approve, as of now, the establishment of a conference but to have the

(Mr. Florio, Italy)

working group examine the various alternatives, such as a conference or a commemorative session of this Committee, which has been proposed by two delegations -- the United States and the United Kingdom -- and other alternatives that might emerge after contacts with the international organizations concerned, which might offer some ideas and suggestions. Added to this picture is the fact that the objectives of whatever celebration of the first decade there will be are not as yet very clear. Some representatives mentioned scientific reviews; other representatives mentioned popular pamphlets; other representatives mentioned exhibits; other representatives said that there would be no need for exhibits. So the picture is really confused.

That is the reason why my delegation proposed a study group: in order to ascertain what are really the objectives of this Committee with regard to the celebration of the first decade of man's entry into outer space. In this regard, if necessary, I am prepared to put the proposal into the form of a draft resolution which will express the thinking of my delegation.

Mr. CSATORDAY (Hungary): Until yesterday my delegation had the impression that most members of this Committee agreed on the necessity of holding an international conference on the peaceful uses of outer space under United Nations auspices in 1967. Yesterday, unfortunately, this clear picture became a little bit confused by the opposition expressed by the representative of the United States.

My delegation considers General Assembly resolution 1472 (XIV) as the preparation for this conference. As we know, by that resolution the General Assembly recognized back in 1959 -- that is five years ago -- the necessity of having such a conference. It even requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary organizational arrangements for holding one in 1960 or 1961. If it was not possible to organize the conference at that time, the necessity for holding one has greatly increased since then and it will continue to grow in importance in the future.

The Secretary-General has been authorized to act in accordance with the conclusions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on this subject.

The resolution also underlines the importance of the exchange of experience in the peaceful uses of outer space. My delegation understands, as I have already said, that most delegations have expressed support -- and I hope they will maintain that support -- of such an undertaking by the United Nations. The significance of the relevant resolution of the Cairo Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries has also been properly emphasized.

It is therefore important that our Committee should act in a constructive way for the preparation of such an international conference. In the view of my delegation, such a conference would stimulate the participation of countries irrespective of their membership in international scientific bodies and associations. Secondly, in order to avoid duplication in organizational arrangements, it could develop co-operation with appropriate specialized agencies, as stipulated in operative paragraph 2 of section B of General Assembly resolution 1472 (XIV).

My delegation, therefore, does not see any reason to postpone the favourable and positive consideration of the question before our Committee. We advocate a constructive solution as soon as possible.

(Mr. Csatorday, Hungary)

There seems to be some misunderstanding concerning the objectives and the character of the international conference among those few delegations that oppose the approval of the relevant recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. The question of the exchange of information on what is actually being done in outer space is not simply a matter of book reading. If one were to follow that line of logic, then the usefulness of every international meeting, even including the sessions of our Committee, could be questioned. It is clear that this is not the proper avenue to explore. I think that such a conference would offer the possibility not only of exchanging certain information - the representative of the United States mentioned yesterday that this could be replaced by research in libraries or by requesting certain documents -- but also the opportunity for specialists of every country to meet each other, to establish personal contact and to exchange personal views. This cannot be substituted by any means of documentation or any quantity of papers. Many publications have appeared on outer space research, and if we follow the different information media, we see expressions such as one country is ahead of another because it had more advanced science and technology in outer space research. Quite recently with the new space probe carried out by the Soviet Union, speculation was published that the lead of the Soviet Union was about three or five years over the United States. Therefore, it seems to me that we are still not in a position to say that all available information is at hand and that there is no need to look for other possibilities of developing co-operation and exchanging information.

My delegation is convinced that by 1967 there will be a number of new countries in the field of outer space research. Even countries that are unable individually to carry out such experiments are often able to contribute to the aims in the collateral sciences. This is shown by the large interest in this field all over the world. I shall refer only to the statement yesterday of the representative of the United States, when he mentioned a series of conferences of different international bodies dealing with subjects related to outer space research. This is also proof of the fact that the possibilities are still not exhausted and that interest continues to grow. We should try to find ways to satisfy this interest. I am certain that in the three years ahead, still bigger steps will be taken in outer space research, steps that will make such a conference even more important.

(Mr. Csatorday, Hungary)

In my delegation's view, at such a conference specialists from all over the world would express new thoughts and new approaches to outer space research that would encourage further development. Thus the holding of such a conference is in the interest of mankind.

My delegation followed with very great interest the statement made yesterday by the representative of Austria. He attempted to define some of the possible objectives of such an international conference. That list in itself is a good illustration of the wide possibilities for selecting topics of interest to all countries, regardless of the stage of their economic or scientific development. I am certain that other delegations could add a number of other topics, but the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, composed as it is of many specialists, would be in an even better position to do that.

Therefore, my delegation believes that the organization of such an international conference could be given detailed study by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. In that way we could meet the suggestion made by the representative of India. The representative of Italy has today made an explanation which puts a somewhat different light on his idea of a working group. I think, however, that the examination suggested by the representative of Italy could very well be carried out in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. That Sub-Committee is itself a rather restricted body. It is quite capable of discussing this subject, with the assistance of specialists and the specialized agencies that are most qualified to deal with the problem effectively and to the general satisfaction of all countries concerned.

For those reasons, my delegation fully supports the amendment submitted by the USSR delegation that in our report to the nineteenth session of the General Assembly we should suggest the appropriate terms of reference, for approval by the Assembly.

Mr. ACLAND (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation has already commented on the proposal for the holding of an international conference. We have expressed some doubts on the subject. I should, however, like to make it very clear that we do sympathize to a large extent with the aims of those in this

(Mr. Acland, United Kingdom)

Committee who support the idea. We agree that it is most important to stimulate as much interest as possible among the whole membership of the United Nations in this new and continuously developing field of outer space activities and to exchange information about it.

It seems to us, however, that it is not just a question of producing more information. As a number of representatives have already pointed out, there are more than adequate arrangements for disseminating information about the whole range of outer space activities. But it does seem to my delegation that it would be worth while to give more thought to the co-ordination of all that information and to its presentation in rather more digestible form, particularly for those delegations and Governments which up to now have not participated to any large extent in space exploration or research.

We think, therefore, that what is really required is further study. Further consideration should be given to the best ways of achieving the aims which seem to be common to a large number of the members of this Committee. It may well be that some kind of conference or meeting is desirable, but in our view it would be wrong at this stage to commit ourselves in advance, before this further detailed study had been made.

Mr. HILMY (United Arab Republic): My delegation has listened with attention to the views expressed in this Committee on the convening of an international conference on the peaceful uses of outer space.

As my delegation stated in the general debate, we see the usefulness of convening such a conference. In our statement in the general debate we said that we would maintain a flexible attitude about the timing and the substantive and procedural patterns to be followed.

We cannot overlook the fact that a large number of delegations round this table are in favour of the convening of such a conference. The Sub-Committee would in whatever way it deemed acceptable, consider the form of the conference, the expenses involved, and so forth.

We therefore would hope that the paragraph of the report in question would include a reflection of those views.

Mr. Narendra SINGH (India): It is rather unfortunate that since yesterday a certain amount of passion has been introduced into the discussion on this issue. One may ask: what is the purpose of all that? We have spoken in favour of a study of the proposed conference. There is no dispute about engaging in such a study. The controversy now relates to whether the study should be undertaken without prejudicing the position of some delegations as to their ultimate agreement that the conference should be held. That, if I may say so, may be considered a hypothetical difference at this stage.

Let the study go forward. So long as the study is not made with a view to wrecking the whole idea of a conference in 1967, so long as we all understand that the study will be undertaken in a positive and sympathetic spirit, my delegation will not insist that we all commit ourselves now, in advance.

As far as the Indian delegation is concerned, we are in favour of the idea of holding such a conference. Others may be less sympathetic to the idea. But let us go forward with the study, either by authorizing the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to do so or by setting up a separate group, as the representative of Italy has suggested.

I would suggest that at some suitable stage the Chairman might ask the Rapporteur to produce a paragraph which would reflect the consensus in this Committee.

Mr. BLAGONRAVOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It seems to me that the present discussion is precisely a study of the appropriateness or usefulness of convening the conference in question. I am rather fearful that in such a discussion we shall gradually reach an impasse. I could only express regret if the Committee were to find itself unable to solve the comparatively simple matter of whether or not it would be appropriate to convene such a conference.

(Mr. Blagoravov, USSR)

When, in my statement, I referred to the observation made by the representative of Italy regarding the convening of a working group, I had spoken precisely of the fact that it will be necessary to crystallize the proposal regarding the transfer of the matter to that working group so that the decision of the matter itself might not be postponed to an indefinite future. I saw the crystallization of this kind of proposal in the fact that the programme and the contents of the conference had been discussed, including the extent and degree of participation of various organizations in the conference. In my view, such a proposal is perfectly appropriate for a proper all-around solution of the problem.

In a number of arguments that were adduced here against holding the conference, as members of the Committee will recall, there were objections based on excessive cost, duplication of effort and so on. I tried to show how easy it was to dispel any doubts in this area. Today, the representative of the United States advanced a further consideration to the effect that allegedly there is some sort of pressure contemplated in regard to other organizations concerned with the peaceful uses and conquest of outer space. I do not understand what kind of pressure he is referring to. On the contrary, we are opening a wide pathway for all organizations to participate in this conference and to make available consultations with them. I am certain that those organizations which are in fact very deeply interested in obtaining large-scale information and in having a thorough discussion of the prospects of the exploration of outer space will very willingly accede to the convening of such a conference. As for those which do not adopt this attitude, that is for them to decide, and that would simply illustrate the point that their interests really lie elsewhere.

Mr. FRUTKIN (United States of America): I feel that the representative of the Soviet Union continues to miss the very constructive points made by the representatives of India and Italy.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair would like to make a comment on the situation. I recalled to the members of the Committee at the very beginning of our session that it was the practice of our Committee in the last three years to reach agreement on all the issues. I would therefore appeal to the Committee not to deviate from this procedure and to make all efforts to come to agreement on the issue. I do not think the gap is too wide. Perhaps upon further consideration of the matter and after studying what has been said this morning the Rapporteur will try to find common ground to formulate a paragraph which could be acceptable to all members.

Mr. CARVALHO SILOS (Brazil) (Rapporteur): Mr. Chairman, I am in the hands of the Committee and I will try to do my best to find a common language. But I have to stress that this is not a question of drafting; this is a question of substance. You are entrusting me with a task not of drafting but of negotiating, and this is beyond the scope of the duties of the Rapporteur. In any event, I will try to do my best.

The CHAIRMAN: If it is agreeable, I will gladly assist the Rapporteur in his difficult task of finding a common language. Therefore, we have to leave this question open and we will return to it as soon as we can.

The Committee so far has completed discussion on all the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's report (A/AC.105/20). The only question which remains is to find a common language for paragraph G on page 7 in the recommendations of the Sub-Committee's report.

Mr. BLAGORAVOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am obliged to apologize to you, Mr. Chairman, in regard to the following matter.

Yesterday, after the statement of the representative of the United States, we discussed the question of the inclusion of his proposal in the report. At that time you yourself had made a proposal to the effect that his statement be included in the verbatim record. It is quite understandable that it is the right of the representative of the United States to have that view. But as a result of inaccurate translation I had not been able to object to this matter during the course of the discussion;

(Mr. Blagonravov, USSR)

however, having examined the substance of the proposal, I am obliged to say that I shall object to the introduction in the report itself of the proposal in the form in which it is formulated, because I definitely do see in this the forcing of an individual point of view upon other delegations, which is at variance with the general principles dealing with the voluntary nature of the presentation of information.

Mr. FRUEKIN (United States of America): We intended our proposal to fit within the framework of voluntary submissions by States and we did not intend at all to compel any State to depart from the more narrow views of information exchanges which it may entertain. However, we have no objection to the position of the representative of the Soviet Union.

The CHAIRMAN: If the Chair correctly understands the intervention of the representative of the United States, it would mean that the United States delegation does not intend to have these guidelines in the report.

Mr. FRUEKIN (United States of America): We respect the right of the Soviet Union to object, and in view of that objection we do not insist that our proposal be made a part of the report.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that the Committee agrees with the Chair that we have completed all the recommendations that are to be included in our report to the General Assembly, with the exception of paragraph G on page 7 of the recommendations of the Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/20), and that we shall make a new effort to find a common language.

Since there are no other speakers I shall have to adjourn the meeting. We will meet again this afternoon at 3 o'clock and go on with the two reports of the Legal Sub-Committee. There will be an introductory statement by the Rapporteur, after which members can comment on his statement.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 5 November 1964, at 3 p.m.Chairman:

Mr. MATSCH

(Austria)

Report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its third session