

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FORTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Thursday, 7 October 1965, at 3 p.m.

1. General debate (continued)
2. Statement by Mr. Heierman, representative of the International Civil Aviation Organization
3. International sounding rocket facilities
4. Reports prepared by the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization
5. Report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its fourth session

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

Mr. EL-KONY (United Arab Republic): Mr. Chairman, as I address this Committee for the first time under your chairmanship, I should like to extend to you, on behalf of my delegation, our congratulations on your election to your high post. We are confident that with your wisdom and your experience our Committee will continue to carry out its mandate successfully.

I should equally like to pay tribute to your predecessor, Mr. Matsch, for his ability in guiding the deliberations of this Committee.

The month of October always reminds us of the successful effort exerted by mankind in 1957 in the exploration of outer space. Ever since that time, tremendous success has been recorded in this field. It gives my delegation great pleasure to congratulate the delegations of the Soviet Union and the United States on the great victories they have accomplished in the course of this year. We hope that these efforts will be carried out for the sake of humanity and its welfare.

As we are all aware, a main interest of the United Nations is to ensure that outer space shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. It is obvious that some progress has been achieved in this regard. I have in mind the declaration of the Soviet Union and the United States not to station in outer space any object carrying nuclear weapons or other kinds of weapons of mass destruction.

While welcoming this declaration, the General Assembly, in its resolution 1884 (XVIII) called upon all States:

"To refrain from placing in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction..."

(A/5515, p. 15)

It is the firm belief of the United Arab Republic that the time has come to transfer these declarations of good intentions on the part of the States engaged in space activities into legally binding agreements which would outlaw any non-peaceful activities in outer space.

The ever-increasing activity in recent years in outer space make us more convinced than ever of the necessity of confining all activities in outer space to peaceful purposes only. We should bear in mind our experience in the field

(Mr. El-Kony, United Arab Republic)

of nuclear energy. This experience demonstrates that as we let time pass the more difficult it becomes to agree on the rules and norms to regulate the conduct of activities in the new field of power and energy.

Speaking of the legal aspects of outer space, it is regrettable to note that the Legal Sub-Committee was unable during its last session to achieve any substantial progress, either in drafting a convention on assistance and return of astronauts or on liability for damage caused by space vehicles, despite all efforts by various delegations in this Committee. However, we trust that the Sub-Committee at its next session will be in a position to achieve concrete results and thus make it possible for the Committee to fulfil an important part of its mandate.

The second question which I intend to deal with is that of international co-operation in the exploration of outer space. As the principle of international co-operation becomes a political and accepted fact in our world today, it becomes increasingly important to bolster our efforts to secure more and fundamental co-operation in this new field of outer space for the benefit and welfare of mankind. Indeed, the international community has achieved some progress in the field of international co-operation. Yet, we still believe that much remains to be done. In this respect, I should like to refer to the importance of exchanging information and encouraging of international programmes and international sounding rocket facilities.

We regret that the Scientific Sub-Committee did not convene last year, but we find it encouraging to note the constructive efforts carried out by the specialized agencies and the Non-Governmental Organizations, such as UNESCO, WMO, ITU, COSPAR and other agencies through bilateral and multilateral co-operation. We are confident that the Committee will continue to lend its support to such activities so that scientific progress for the peaceful utilization of outer space will be of common benefit to all mankind.

I should also like to refer briefly to the question of promoting an international system of education and training with a view to enabling the various countries to take an active part in the utilization of outer space. It is imperative in this respect to refer to the importance of scholarships and fellowships and exchange visits which already are taking place. As the Committee

(Mr. El-Kony, United Arab Republic)

is aware, the General Assembly has repeatedly stated in its resolutions relating to the exploration of outer space the importance of such activities. Yet, one must note that the effort exerted by the Committee was not enough to cope with the tremendous development in space science and technology. It is the opinion of my delegation that the time has come for positive action on the part of this Committee in this field.

In this respect I should like to refer to the useful paper on education and training prepared by the Secretariat, which we consider of significance.

Before concluding my remarks, I should like to say a few words regarding the convening of an international conference on the peaceful uses of outer space, as proposed by the second non-aligned conference, held in Cairo, in 1964. We believe that the convening of such a conference would contribute to the common benefit of mankind. However, it is regrettable that the Working Group, which was scheduled to convene early in September to deal with this question, was unable to do so. We hope that the Committee will be able, through the good offices of its Chairman, to decide on this question so as to convene the Working Group as soon as possible to discuss this important question.

Mr. HOPE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Mr. Chairman, before saying any more I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this body. We in the United Kingdom delegation are happy, indeed, to see you directing our labours. We wish you all success and we know that your wisdom will help us greatly in our work.

I should also like to welcome the Chairman of COSPAR, who has helped us so much and who has provided us with such interesting material.

No one can dispute the fact that since this Committee last met, most remarkable progress has been made in the exploration of outer space. From the world press alone, if we had no other sources, we are all familiar with the dramatic events which have succeeded each other throughout the year. Great strides have been made, both in obtaining information about the planets which surround this earth, and in enabling human beings to live and work in the new environment of outer space.

(Mr. Hope, United Kingdom)

In their speeches on Tuesday, the representatives of both the Soviet Union and of the United States described in some detail what their countries had achieved in these fields in the past year. We join with those who have congratulated them on their truly notable successes. The reports of ITU and WMO, the latter augmented by the most interesting report from the WMO representative here, also indicate the great technical progress which has been achieved in the field for which these two organizations are responsible.

We greatly welcome, too, the emphasis which the representatives of the two main space Powers have placed on international co-operation in the exploration of outer space and its exploitation for peaceful purposes. It is certainly the policy of the Government of the United Kingdom to foster wherever possible the highest degree of international co-operation to ensure that the developments in this new dimension are shared with all and for the benefit of all.

The representative of the United States provided an impressive catalogue of the joint endeavours being carried out by his country with countries from other parts of the world and of the visits and training programmes organized for the purpose of sharing the knowledge gained from the United States research in outer space. We welcome the pledge, both from the United States and from the Soviet Union, that they would share with others the fruits of their new enterprises.

We believe that the United Nations, and in particular this Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, can play a great part in ensuring that co-operation between countries grows in proportion to our knowledge of outer space and of the planetary system.

My delegation also welcomes the truly remarkable way in which developments in outer space are increasingly playing a direct part in the lives of countless ordinary people on this earth of ours. I need only refer to COMSAT as one example. We in Europe had previously organized an exchange of television programmes between us through Eurovision. Now, with the facilities available in outer space, literally millions of viewers in two continents, which are separated by nearly 3,000 miles of water, can enjoy in their own homes many of the programmes from the other continent supplied by direct transmission. This exchange of culture and information through what is now perhaps the most powerful medium of dissemination, is a striking example of what outer space development for peaceful purposes can bring into the homes of the ordinary peoples of the world.

(Mr. Hope, United Kingdom)

We greatly welcome the fact that over the past year the number of countries associated with the Comsat interim arrangements has risen to forty-six. We hope that during the coming year still more countries will join this non-discriminatory organization, the benefits of which -- as this Committee well knows -- are available to all members of the International Telecommunication Union.

Now, while it has been an impressive and exciting year as far as space technology and exploration are concerned, we can, unfortunately, only record less progress here at the United Nations. We were of course, and I hasten to say this, most grateful for what the Secretary of this Committee, Mr. Abdel-Ghany has told us about the work of the Secretariat during the past year. We know also that much has been done, and we pay tribute to the Outer Space Affairs Group who have worked so hard. It is now up to this Committee to match the efforts both of the scientists of our countries and of our international Secretariat here. We must ensure that next year more progress is recorded than in 1965.

I should now like to say a few words, if I may, about the work of the Legal Sub-Committee. I should like frankly to express to the Committee some sense of disappointment which my delegation feels at the slow rate of progress made by the Legal Sub-Committee at its recent session. We, in my delegation, attach considerable importance to the development of a legal regime for outer space, which will parallel the scientific and technical progress which is being made in this field. It is, therefore, a matter of some regret to my delegation, and I say this with all respect, that the Legal Sub-Committee has not yet been able to complete the priority tasks allotted to them of concluding draft conventions on assistance to and return of space vehicles and personnel, and liability for damage caused by space objects. It is our earnest hope that the Legal Sub-Committee will, at its next session, be able to report major progress on these issues. To this end, we believe it important that the Legal Sub-Committee should hold its next session at a time when all members will be able and ready to participate actively in the search for solutions and when they are not subjected to the pressure and preoccupations of a rapidly approaching Assembly.

The representative of the Soviet Union has referred to the imperative need for the Legal Sub-Committee to embark upon the drafting of an international agreement on the principles governing the exploration and use of outer space. My delegation feels that the Legal Sub-Committee should rather complete the task already allotted to it on a priority basis, before considering what its future

(Mr. Hope, United Kingdom)

work programme should be. The General Assembly has, after all, already adopted a Declaration on the legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space. This seemed to us to be a notable landmark in the development of a legal regime for outer space, and my delegation for its part believes that the essential priority tasks are now to work out detailed agreements based upon the general principles contained in that Declaration. We doubt whether the Legal Sub-Committee would be most profitably employed in turning to draft a broad international agreement whose purpose would surely be to re-enact in the form of an international agreement provisions already contained in the Declaration.

My delegation has of course, naturally, participated most actively in the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, and we will continue to do so. We do, however, earnestly hope that the Committee will continue to endeavour to reach a consensus on the points which still remain outstanding on the assistance and return convention, and also on the liability convention. Further efforts are obviously necessary on both these matters and, as I have said, we earnestly hope that the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee will be fruitful.

The representatives of the Soviet Union and of the United States have also recalled to us the decision which this Committee adopted at its last session to appoint a Working Group to consider the question of an international conference on outer space in 1967. We, for our part, share the regrets expressed by both these and other representatives that this Working Group has been unable to meet this year.

In your opening statement, Mr. Chairman, you recalled that the bureau of the Committee had proposed that the Working Group should meet between 7 and 10 September this year. My delegation, for our part, had looked forward with anticipation to participating in the Working Group at the time proposed, and it was with very real regret that we consented to the postponement of this meeting, as a result of objections raised at the last moment to a programme which had been accepted by all. My delegation hopes that you, Sir, in the course of your further consultations, will be able to find the solution to this problem, bearing in mind, we trust, the difficulties which arise particularly for smaller delegations in arranging meetings during the course of this session of the General Assembly. Because of this, and the considerations advanced by others in these present sessions

(Mr. Hope, United Kingdom)

of ours, it seems to my delegation that we should consider a time closely following the closure of the General Assembly.

But looking to the future, Mr. Chairman, may I revert once again to what I said earlier in this brief intervention. We have seen tremendous technical progress in the exploration of outer space during the past year, and 1966 will no doubt record a similar advance. As the realm of outer space becomes more familiar, we need rules and laws which will ensure that we use our new knowledge wisely and so that we are not merely creating new disputes from our conquest of outer space.

May I, with great respect to all concerned, express the hope that politicians, diplomats and lawyers will keep pace with the scientists, the technicians and the astronauts.

Mr. USTOR (Hungary): Mr. Chairman, at the thirty-sixth meeting of this Committee, the representative of Hungary already had the opportunity to pledge his efforts and co-operation to you, as well as to the Committee under your guidance, and for that reason it remains for me -- as I am participating in these deliberations for the first time -- merely to reaffirm those commitments and to add my personal congratulations and good wishes to those of my delegation.

Eight years ago, the world was astounded by the news that the Soviet Union had launched an earth satellite into outer space. Eight years is a relatively short time, and what has been achieved during this period is just amazing.

(Mr. Ustor, Hungary)

If we compare the size of the first Sputnik -- whose exact copy, as you know, can be seen in this very building -- with the 12.2 tons of total payload of Proton I, which was launched on 16 July -- then we can form some idea of the tremendous advance made in this field. And the name Proton I reveals two things: first, that Proton I will certainly be followed by Protons II, III and so on, and we already have some experience of how different stages of the same series can outmatch one another in respect of weight and other specifications. The second thing is revealed by the name Proton itself, which is the Greek equivalent of first. This may signify that the Proton series will be followed by further types of perhaps even more spectacular artificial celestial bodies.

The Hungarian delegation wishes to pay tribute to these fascinating achievements and the tireless efforts towards further results. The breathtaking performances of Soviet and American scientists in other fields of space exploration, and those of the astronauts of those countries, deserve the admiration and high esteem of all mankind.

Returning to earth, and taking stock of the results achieved in the field of international co-ordination, administration, co-operation and legal regulation, we can see that the picture is not as bright as it is in the spheres beyond the atmosphere. However, we can see some positive results in these fields also. My delegation wishes, in this connexion, to extend its warm congratulations to the Secretariat of the United Nations on the multifarious work done in the administrative field, which, as we have had the opportunity to learn from the statement of Mr. Abdel-Ghani, is very impressive.

International co-operation has made some advances in recent times. Such steps have been reported on by representatives who have more experience and competence in this field than I have. Appropriate references have also been made to the obstacles which still block the way to further progress. Co-operation in the exploration of outer space can be carried out through brainwork and through material means. Hungary's contribution, owing to its limited resources, is mainly in the scientific field. It has already taken its share of the work of the United Nations specialized agencies, in COSPAR, in the congresses of the International Astronautical Federation and so forth.

My delegation expresses its thanks for the appreciative remark to this effect in the statement made by the representative of the Soviet Union. In the view of my delegation, however, the conquest of outer space requires an even more effective

(Mr. Ustor, Hungary)

participation in the various fields of international co-operation, and Hungary is willing to take its part in such common efforts of mankind.

My delegation wishes to join with those who have expressed their regret over the slow progress made towards an international conference on outer space. My delegation attaches the utmost importance to such a conference which, if the widest participation is assured, will certainly benefit the interests of all mankind.

My delegation has felt, with satisfaction, that you will continue your efforts in order that the preparatory Working Group might convene at the earliest possible date.

As regards the legal task of this Committee, my delegation endorses the view that the recommendation contained in resolution 1963 (XIX), concerning the adoption of an international agreement on the legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, has to be treated with urgency. Indeed, the interpretation of some parts of the Declaration of legal principles adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 1962 (XVIII) has presented difficulties in the course of the deliberations of the Legal Sub-Committee. It seems to be evident that a firm basis upon which the legal principles should rest is indispensable for future co-operation in this field. The Legal Sub-Committee's report shows the meagre result of its last session. It was unable to continue the drafting of the convention on the assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles, and only on some points is there preliminary agreement on the matter of liability for damage caused by objects launched into outer space.

My delegation, which is author of one of the drafts on this latter topic, in the course of the meetings of the Sub-Committee submitted a revised version of its draft in the hope that it could thus promote an agreement. Although this could not be achieved at the last session, my delegation will not lose its hope that further efforts may bring results. My delegation's hope is stimulated by the skill and rich experience of the Sub-Committee's Chairman, Professor Manfred Lachs, who has been untiring in directing the members of the Sub-Committee towards the common goal, an early and mutually satisfactory agreement.

Mr. PRUSA (Czechoslovakia): The Czechoslovak delegation avails itself of this very first opportunity to join in the congratulations and best wishes which have been addressed to you, Mr. Chairman, in connexion with your election to the post of Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I am convinced that, under the guidance of a Chairman endowed with such an amount of experience and so many excellent qualities, the Committee will achieve positive results.

The Czechoslovak delegation would like to explain its views on some topical questions regarding the activity of our Committee and the suggestions which have already been heard here.

The exploration and the use of outer space has made much progress in the course of the last years. The rapid development of missile technology, cosmonautics and other scientific branches which in varying degrees deal with scientific problems of outer space pose problems of how best to make use of those considerable possibilities to the benefit and in the interest of **all mankind**.

There is a steady growth in the number of spaceships as well as that of cosmonauts who, with unprecedented courage, open the way to outer space for man. At present, we have witnessed further scientific success achieved by both the Soviet and American scientists in the exploration of the nearer environment of the earth and its nearer orbiting planets. The information already acquired brings ever more knowledge to mankind, which can be of beneficial use to man's living conditions on earth.

If we review, from this point of view, the activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space, we can state that these activities are indisputably growing in importance. In the past few years, its activities have been concentrated upon the organization of mutual exchanges and promotion of information exchange, on the support and stimulation of national and international exploration programmes as well as on the support given to the implementation thereof.

(Mr. Prusa, Czechoslovakia)

As scientific and technical progress in this field is going forward in a truly rapid way, we maintain also that the Committee must look far ahead. What will be the development of its work in the future, what results will it be possible to attain? This all depends on the Member States themselves. The Czechoslovak delegation agrees with the opinion voiced here that it will be useful to seek every possible form of co-operation amongst States in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. The fact that the United Nations has become a centre of these activities is indisputably a positive one.

A positive contribution towards much closer scientific and technical co-operation can be found in the idea of an international conference which should be convened to bring together a broad range of space as well as of international organizations in 1967. The Czechoslovak delegation gives its full support to the convening of such a conference. We are of the opinion that the time has come to take practical steps towards the realization thereof. An international conference of such a character would surely contribute towards a wider exchange of views at scientific levels under the present development of outer space exploration and research, but it would be useful also for those States which are not yet fully able to undertake an individual development of activities in the peaceful uses of outer space.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, as a member of the Committee, has, from the very beginning, taken an active part in its work and contributes, within its possibilities, towards scientific and technical knowledge with a view to man's mastery of outer space.

The Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences is carrying out, in particular, a wide programme in the fields of solar radiation and of outer space medicine. Furthermore, Czechoslovak scientists have entered into closer co-operation, in various fields of outer space research, with the USSR Academy of Sciences. The rapid development of science and techniques in those fields enables man to achieve great success in his penetration into outer space and, at the same time, poses a significant question of international norms which should guide and regulate the activities of States in the use of outer space.

(Mr. Prusa, Czechoslovakia)

The present state of outer space law, however, is considerably lagging behind the scientific and technical achievements. It is necessary to bridge the gap. Even if today the necessity to create legal order in outer space is no more contested, there are bound to be various divergent views about what norms should be included in the desired legal order and about priorities in the legal regulation of individual fields.

The answers to these questions have been given in the Declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and uses of outer space adopted in 1963 at the eighteenth session of the General Assembly. This Declaration, by its contents, joins and further develops principles already embodied in resolution 1721 (XVI) and recognizes principles of general and international law as relevant also in the sphere of the activities of States in outer space.

The adoption of the Declaration was simultaneously accompanied by resolution 1963 (XVIII) in which the General Assembly recommended, among others, that consideration should be given to incorporating, in international agreement form, in the future as appropriate, the principles of that Declaration. Today, after a few years have elapsed, we have to state regretfully that this task is still awaiting a solution. The topical importance and primary necessity of such international agreement has been confirmed again in the course of negotiations in the Legal Sub-Committee whose session finished a few days ago and whose report will be submitted for the consideration of the Committee.

The Czechoslovak delegation fully agrees with the opinion expressed in the course of the deliberations of the Legal Sub-Committee that it is necessary to start elaboration and codification of principles included in the Declaration as soon as possible. Activities undertaken during recent years with regard to the two international conventions, namely, the Convention on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles and that on liability for damage caused by objects launched into outer space, prove that the obstacles on the road to their completion could be removed to a great extent by conclusion of an agreement which would elaborate on and further develop the principles contained in the Declaration. The Declaration should become a solid basis for any further efforts with regard to the settlement of legal questions suitable for codification.

(Mr. Prusa, Czechoslovakia)

The Czechoslovak delegation considers that the Committee should give its full support to this well-founded position. The basis of the convention on legal principles has been laid down and therefore an agreement could be reached within the foreseeable future.

Although the Legal Sub-Committee has not made great progress in its work, the Czechoslovak delegation considers the exchange of views which took place very fruitful; especially in the field of liability, useful discussion took place which rendered it possible to elucidate a number of important legal problems involved and will make it easier in the future to continue the work of the Legal Sub-Committee. In this context, we appreciate the Hungarian revised draft convention on liability, which represents, in our opinion, a good basis for any future consideration of this subject.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space faces very important tasks which still remain to be solved. The Czechoslovak delegation is aware of the situation and will spare no efforts to ensure that co-operation among States in this new field of human activity is further strengthened and that positive results are achieved in the interest of all mankind.

STATEMENT BY MR. HEIERMAN, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Mr. HEIERMAN (International Civil Aviation Organization): Mr. Chairman, The ICAO Assembly that was held last summer adopted a resolution which was communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and which I would like to read out with your permission. It reads:

"Whereas events in the past few years relating to the exploration and use of outer space are of great interest to ICAO, since many of these activities affect matters falling within the Organization's competence under the terms of the Chicago Convention,

Whereas, although the Convention does not specifically define how the term 'outer space' should be interpreted, the space used by or usable for international civil aviation is also used by space vehicles,

Whereas, the use of the same medium by different fields of activity necessarily requires adequate co-ordination to achieve the normal and efficient functioning of both these fields,

Whereas ICAO in its particular field of competence and in the aspects relating thereto cannot and should not ignore the aforementioned events concerning the exploration and use of outer space,

Whereas while the Organization has closely followed and informed the Assembly of these events, it would be desirable to take an active part in them,

Whereas furthermore, the Special Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, established by the United Nations, expressed the view in its report to the General Assembly, that the existing specialized agencies 'can perform various useful functions with regard to space activities' and 'their functional interest should, of course, be welcomed and encouraged',

The Assembly:

- (1) Urges the Governments of Contracting States to keep the Organization informed regarding programmes and progress achieved in the exploration and use of outer space of particular interest to ICAO;



(Mr. Heierman, ICAO)

- (2) Directs the Council to carry out the study of those technical aspects of space activities that affect international air navigation and that, in its view, call for special measures, and report the results to the next session of the Assembly;
- (3) Requests the Council to formulate on the basis of its conclusions recommendations for steps to be taken to achieve the necessary co-ordination with other international organizations having a basic interest, particularly in the United Nations; and
- (4) Requests the Secretary-General to continue to arrange for the Organization to be represented at all conferences and meetings connected with or affecting the interests of ICAO in this field".

Prior to the fifteenth session of the Assembly, ICAO had been well aware of the close inter-relationship between space developments and the development of aviation, but it had limited itself generally to a passive role. As a potential customer for the services of space techniques, rather than as an agency for co-ordinating their development, ICAO had, in the past, carefully examined space developments to assess their value for aviation purposes. It had also maintained contact with appropriate agencies -- such as your Committee, the ITU and the WMO, and has, since 1963, established its position vis-à-vis the ITU, regarding the radio frequency bands appropriate for the development of space communication techniques, both in the international communications of the aeronautical mobile service and in the aeronautical radio navigation service.

Arising from the action of the fifteenth session of its Assembly, ICAO can henceforth be expected to play a more active role in space matters and as a first step in the development of the ICAO programme, the Council of ICAO has instructed its secretariat to prepare a study of those technical aspects of space activities which affect international air navigation and which, in the view of the Council, will call for special measures.

The Council is expected, following consideration and endorsement of the conclusions of the secretariat study, to formulate recommendations regarding the steps to be taken to achieve the necessary co-ordination with other international organizations having a basic interest in space matters, and particularly with those organizations in and associated with the United Nations.

(Mr. Heierman, ICAO)

It is too early to indicate the full scope of the secretariat study but it may be expected that it will concentrate primarily on matters within the organization's present competence, under the terms of the Chicago Convention. Hence, the study is not expected to deal with space developments per se; the study is likely fully to cover continuing and increasing activities in space development having a bearing on conventional air navigation, including supersonic flight. It should also cover areas of space activities that show inter-penetration between their tasks and techniques and those in the field of air navigation. Finally, it should take into account any incidental technological fall-out of space research suitable for application for air navigation purposes.

As a possible future area of interest, preliminary thought may be given in the ICAO study to the merger of air and space travel interests, if and when hypersonic or suborbital flight becomes a practical proposition.

It is expected that ICAO's contacts with other organizations in matters of space will increase, although they are likely to continue primarily to be with the appropriate United Nations bodies and those specialized agencies whose activities, already to some extent, interact with those of aviation.

In these contacts, our expectation of continuing co-operation with your Committee and its Sub-Committee takes a prominent place.

MR. BRADOMIRY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): First of all, may I be permitted to take advantage of the fact that the American astronauts are present to express our admiration on behalf of the Soviet delegation for their feats and for their courageous deportment in the course of their flight in their space craft, and to transmit to them our best wishes for their future success in their work.

The Soviet delegation has already had the opportunity of expressing its regret in connection with the fact that the decision adopted at the last session by the Committee, in which the Working Group was requested to prepare recommendations for the convening of an international conference on outer space, thus far has not been carried out. It is natural that such a conference

(Mr. Blagonravov, USSR)

would make it possible for a discussion of further ways for an even more effective exploration of outer space with the joint efforts of the scientists of many countries and the possibilities of developing international co-operation in this whole area.

May I recall that the proposal regarding the convening of such a conference, which was first advanced by the representative of Austria at the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in Geneva in 1964, was, at that time, supported by many delegations, including the delegation of the Soviet Union. At the last session of the Committee, in the course of the discussion of this matter, some countries expressed doubt regarding the holding of the Conference. Basically, these doubts boiled down to saying that in 1967 a number of conferences, assemblies and symposia by scientific and national and international organizations were already planned, and for that reason, an international conference would, to some extent, duplicate the discussion of matters discussed elsewhere and might, therefore, not turn out to be sufficiently effective.

(Mr. Blagonravov, USSR)

Many members of the Committee, including the Soviet Union, have considered and continue to consider that the holding of a large-scale conference under the aegis of the United Nations would make possible a great contribution to the activities of other organizations in the same field. We think that to take the initiative in this connexion would be a great step forward on the part of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which is primarily concerned with the development of peaceful exploration of outer space and the encouragement of international co-operation in general.

As has already been stressed here in the Committee, in the statements of a number of representatives, the holding of a comprehensive international conference on outer space would make it possible to sum up the work that has already been done and to map out future work to be undertaken jointly by scientists of many countries, and also to discover the most profitable direction that further exploration could take. The results of the three international conferences on the peaceful uses of atomic energy give us a good example in this regard; they make clear the fruitfulness of this form of international scientific co-operation. All of us here understand how rapid the development of contemporary science and technology is and, in providing an opportunity for mankind to penetrate more thoroughly into outer space and to explore it with increasing competence, an important contribution is made to human development in general. In addition, we are sure that in the time remaining before the tentative conference new developments and new advances will be achieved and that exploration into outer space will be made by other countries using their own space craft. All of this will make it possible for the conference to encompass a substantial body of very worthwhile new scientific data.

However, the fact is that we do not have too much time left to prepare for this conference. It is necessary, therefore, to facilitate in every way the programme of the Working Group concerned. With this in mind, we think it most desirable for the Committee to adopt at the present session a decision as to the suitability of convening the conference in 1967. Such a decision is possible now, because the membership of the Working Group includes representatives of all members of the Committee -- the same countries which are taking part in our present meetings. To take this decision, therefore, does not present any great

(Mr. Blagonravov, USSR)

difficulties. The idea of convening this conference has been supported by members of the Committee and the decision to hold it could be adopted without any lengthy discussion now. When this decision has been taken, the Working Group would then be able to discuss the type of conference to be held and other aspects of its organization; it could then proceed with its plans, in a more practical and businesslike way.

In view of the discussion taking place in this Committee, we propose that the following recommendation be included in our report to the General Assembly:

"The Committee recognizes that it is appropriate to hold in 1967 under the aegis of the United Nations an international conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and entrusts to the Working Group and to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, in the near future, in consultation with the competent international organizations in this field, the task of defining the nature and content of such a conference and the consideration of the necessary organizational matters related to its preparation."

The CHAIRMAN: Since no other representative wishes to speak in the general debate, I now declare it closed.

#### INTERNATIONAL SOUNDING ROCKET FACILITIES

The CHAIRMAN: This item concerns international sounding rocket facilities in general and it has been inscribed on the agenda to give all members of the Committee an opportunity to make comments in addition to those already indicated in the Committee's report to the nineteenth session of the General Assembly, document A/5185.

As members of the Committee are aware, the United Nations programme that United Nations sponsorship be arranged for the continued operation of the Inumba International Equatorial Sounding Rocket Facility. In the general debate a number of speakers have reaffirmed their satisfaction concerning the effective operation of this international project.

-111-

(The Chairman)

Furthermore, we have heard the interesting comments and proposals of the representative of Italy, who drew the attention of the members of the Committee in particular to the possibilities of international co-operation in the San Marco project. We have also received from the representative of Argentina additional information about the planned regional centre for research and training in satellite communication systems.

If there are no further comments or specific proposals, I suggest that the Committee's report reaffirm the recommendation we have made to the General Assembly that the United Nations should sponsor the international sounding rocket facility in India.

It was so decided.

REPORT PREPARED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (E/4037/Add.1) AND THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (A/AC.105/L.19)

The CHAIRMAN: During the general debate a number of speakers commented on the report submitted by the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization. If there are no further comments or proposals on this item, I suggest that the Rapporteur include in our report a statement that the Committee has noted with appreciation the report submitted by ITU and WMO.

It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF ITS FOURTH SESSION (A/AC.105/29)

The CHAIRMAN: I do not know whether any representative wishes to take the floor to comment on the document before us relating to the report of the Legal Sub-Committee. If not, perhaps some member might like to do so tomorrow, or perhaps the Committee may prefer to hold a separate discussion on this item. If so, I shall be glad to hear from any member now.

There being no further speakers, I take it that our discussion of this item is concluded.

It was so agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe we have now concluded the discussion of the items on our agenda, with the exception of the last one, the report of the Committee to the General Assembly. I think it will be best to take up this item at our meeting tomorrow morning.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.