

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH MEETING

Held on Wednesday, 8 September 1971, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. WALDHEIM

(Austria)

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS (continued):

## (a) REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE (A/AC.105/95)

The CHAIRMAN: As I indicated the other day, today we shall be discussing the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. For your information I should like to say that after having concluded the discussion of this question we shall discuss the draft report of our Committee to the General Assembly which our Rapporteur has prepared.

I should also like to say that we held an informal meeting yesterday afternoon immediately following our formal meeting, and it was possible to agree -- informally, of course -- on a number of points; so I hope we shall be able to take a decision on the report of our Committee as quickly as possible, at one of our meetings tomorrow. If we need more time, we can of course continue our debate on Friday morning. As I said at the beginning of our session, we have to terminate our work on Friday morning; the Secretary-General has requested that we not hold a meeting on Friday afternoon because of the activities connected with Staff Day.

In connexion with the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, I should like to draw attention to the fact that we have four questions to decide in that report. One is the question of the continued sponsorship of international sounding rocket-facilities -- item 40, on page 10 of the report. The facilities involved are the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India and the Mar del Plata Rocket Launching Station in Argentina.

The next item we have to discuss is item 44 of the report, on page 11. It concerns the granting of observer status to the International Astronautical Federation (IAF).

The next item we have to discuss and decide upon is the programme for the practical application of outer space technology -- and the question of financing our expert in this field. As you all know, this is not an easy question, but since we have held a number of private consultations I hope it will be possible for us to come to an agreed solution of this problem.

(The Chairman)

The last question we have to decide in connexion with the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's report is the date and place of the next meeting of that Sub-Committee. In this respect I hope we can accept the proposal made by Sub-Committee in item 45 of its report.

I thought it might be helpful if I outlined those problems which we have to settle in our debate, and I now invite delegations to comment on the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

As no delegation wishes to take the floor I suggest that we take a decision on item 40 of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's report, the continued sponsorship of the two sounding-rocket facilities. If there is no objection I shall take it that the Committee agrees to continue its sponsorship of those two sounding-rocket facilities.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The next item is item 44 of the report, the question of the observer status of the International Astronautical Federation. Does any delegation want to speak on this question?

Mr. FIORIO (Italy): As you know, my delegation was the one which has advocated for many years the awarding of observer status to the IAF, because we believe that it could bring a very useful contribution to the work of our Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee; and having belonged to the space family for a long time it has the experience, means and capacity, as indicated in the document issued by the Secretariat -- the list of international organizations -- to do such a job. Therefore, my delegation would like to propose the granting of observer status to the IAF, and in order to facilitate the work of this Committee we are now submitting a draft of that proposal to the attention of the Committee.

As can be seen, the proposal takes into account the fact that the IAF is already, in a way, a member of the United Nations observers, in as much as it has consulting status with some United Nations bodies. It has offered its services, which is already a positive thing, and it has a long history, that goes back to before Sputnik, of activity in space research and in the dissemination of information about space.

(Mr. Florio, Italy)

Therefore, I believe that the granting of observer status is in the best interest of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and of the United Nations at large. We would be able to count on the IAF's co-operation and on the contribution that it could make as an observer, which would bring the Federation a little closer to the work of our Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria) (interpretation from French): I should like to support the proposal just made by the representative of Italy that observer status should be granted to the International Astronautical Federation in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, as well as in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We assess at its true worth the assistance and encouragement given by that Federation in the peaceful uses of outer space. I would mention that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee will be able to make use of that assistance. We feel that to grant such status to that Federation will greatly increase the possibility of its co-operation with this Committee, and we are therefore ready to support the draft resolution that the representative of Italy has just presented.

The CHAIRMAN: As no other delegation wishes to speak, may I say that the representative of Italy has now made a formal proposal to grant observer status to the IAF for the future meetings of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. That proposal was formally supported by the delegation of Bulgaria.

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to the proposal.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the representatives of the International Astronautical Federation, present in this conference room, on the decision of the Committee. Of course, our report has to go to the General Assembly and the decision has to be endorsed by the General Assembly. But I am happy about the decision that we have taken just now.

I now call on the representative of the IAF, who has indicated that he wishes to take the floor in this connexion.

Mr. HARFORD (International Astronautical Federation): It is a great honour for the International Astronautical Federation to be recommended for observer status by this very distinguished body. For my colleagues who number some 65,000 aerospace engineers and scientists in IAF's 58 member societies from some 36 countries, I think I can thank you with great enthusiasm. As the representatives of Italy and Bulgaria have stated, it has been our privilege to work closely with members of this Committee and with the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations in the past. It has been our pleasure to have Mr. Abdel-Ghani representing the Secretary-General in the Committee and at IAF Congresses for a number of years. Now, with even greater enthusiasm, I think we will make our best effort to justify your recognition by serving the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in its very important work.

If in fact, the exploration of space is going to bring practical benefits to over 3.5 billion people, on a very much beleaguered planet, there is a lot of work to be done by professionals throughout the globe.

Therefore, IAF is very proud to volunteer to help with its specialists in those tasks to which the Sub-Committee assigns it. We are ready and willing to go to work.

The CHAIRMAN: I would suggest that we now deal with paragraph 45 of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's report, dealing with the place and the date for the next meeting of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Paragraph 45 reads as follows:

"The Sub-Committee, having considered the schedule of the United Nations conferences for 1972 as reported to it by the Secretariat, decided to recommend to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that it consider convening the next session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in New York during the first two weeks of May 1972."

Does any delegation wish to comment on that proposal of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee?

Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria) (interpretation from French): My delegation has no objection to the period proposed for the holding of the next session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. However, I should like to draw the attention of the Secretariat to the fact that perhaps the date for beginning the session should not be set for 1 or 2 May since they are dates that are very important to certain countries. I think that this should be taken into account when setting the schedule.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall certainly take the suggestion of the representative of Bulgaria into consideration. The first of May is a national holiday in many countries and that will certainly be taken into consideration when the Office of Conference Services fixes the exact date.

May I assume that the Committee agrees with the suggestion made in paragraph 45 of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's report?

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The last matter that we have to discuss is, of course, the most difficult one, and that is the reason why I left it to the very end of our deliberations. It is the question of financing the programme of the Expert on Space Applications. May I ask representatives whether they wish to comment on this question?

Mr. PIRADOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation does not object to the programme of measures to encourage the practical utilization of space techniques as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the matter. That programme has received the sympathetic attention of a number of delegations and we believe it meets the needs of the developing countries and therefore commends itself for support.

However, we must point out that the programme raises two serious questions in the mind of the Soviet delegation: the first is the source of financing and the other is the inadmissibility of duplication with activities of the United Nations that are at present occupied with the question of the exploration and exploitation of outer space, as indicated in the report of the Technical and Scientific Sub-Committee. In the eyes of the Soviet delegation, and this opinion was voiced also in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, we believe that the most rational and just way of tackling this problem would be to finance the programme not by drawing on the regular budget of the United Nations, but rather by trying to turn to other sources of financing. This would include making use of the possibilities opened up by the United Nations Development Programme, for example.

The position of the Soviet delegation on any question which might cause an increase in the budget of the United Nations is well known and I do not think that I need repeat it here. But since the majority of the delegations tend to feel that the financing of this programme should be through the regular budget of the United Nations, in order to arrive at a solution that would be satisfactory to all and to achieve a compromise which has been the hallmark of the sincerity of the work of our Committee, we will not press our original views on the matter.

But I do wish to add that in that case we consider even more acute that there should be a rational utilization of the financing available for space questions, and specifically to avoid any possibility of duplication or overlapping. We are convinced that we can be sure of this only if we concentrate all resources in the same hands and ensure the close co-ordination of all activities dealing with these matters in a single centre. We are firmly

(Mr. Piradov, USSR)

convinced that such a centre -- and in this I am going along with the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee -- must be the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat. In order to enhance the effectiveness of that Division and also in order, more reasonably and more clearly, to fulfil the terms of the programme that we are at present considering and fitting it into the other activities of the Division, I would suggest that the amounts on which we could agree be allocated to that Division's budget on condition that that sum be used and earmarked only for those activities. I do feel that this is the only plan with which we can achieve solutions.

The amount would be a compromise, that is, the amount allocated and earmarked for the programme of the practical application of space techniques. I presume that the Secretary of the Committee will be able to inform us of the most reasonable formula and procedure of the United Nations that will allow us to implement a decision of that nature. My delegation is ready to consider favourably any proposal along these lines.

Mr. CHAKRAVARTY (India): The Indian delegation has already indicated in the general debate that it wants adequate funds to be provided to the Expert on space application of the United Nations so that those programmes already recommended by the Secretary-General are not held up and can continue.

I entirely agree with the Soviet delegation that we should avoid duplication to the extent possible and that we should also try to centralize all activities on space technology under one unit.

I should like to point out that the Expert on Space Application is a kind of adviser to a Secretary-General on matters relating to space technology and that it is on his advice that the Secretary-General approves certain programmes which may or may not have been approved by the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations.

I am glad that some sort of compromise formula -- I hope that this is so -- has been achieved and that some funds will be made available to the Expert. If this is acceptable to all delegations we could probably avoid further disagreement on this specific point.

(Mr. Chakravarty, India)

Our standpoint consists of two main points: one is that we should try and avoid duplication as far as possible; on the other hand, we also recognize that this Expert, Mr. Ricciardi, has been doing very useful work, particularly from the point of view of the developing countries and he should be allowed to translate his ideas into practice.

For these reasons we should very much like to come to a kind of compromise formula which would be acceptable to all delegations.

Mr. FIORIO (Italy): The subject of the activity of the Expert has been discussed at length in the Sub-Committee where there was complete agreement that the efficiency and benefits of the work of the Expert should accrue to the Member States and to the United Nations as such. Therefore, in the report we have before us, the Sub-Committee recommended that the work of the Expert should be continued as well as the programmes that were suggested like the panel meetings and the points of contact.

The main worry of the Sub-Committee was mentioned both by the representatives of the Soviet Union and India, that is to avoid duplication. Many steps have been taken to avoid duplication, amending the original proposal made by the Secretariat. The United Nations specialized agencies have been called in to take over the requested survey and a request for experts from Member countries have been made, instead of hiring outside scientific consultants so that now the programme has been reduced to its really effective core without duplication in the jobs to be done.

(Mr. Fiorio, Italy)

The only point that was left over related to the matter of financing. With respect to financing some delegations expressed concern that allocating funds to separate units could lead to duplication. Therefore, there was some reluctance to allocate the money which had been requested by the Secretariat, an amount which, incidentally, had already been arrived at by compromise and reduced to the minimum. There was also the question of where these funds should be allocated.

We believe that the solution proposed by the Soviet delegation has a lot of merit inasmuch as it represents not only a compromise between the two views that emerged in the Sub-Committee, but also a recognition of a factual situation. In other words, when the Sub-Committee decided to have an Expert on Space Applications to work in the United Nations family, it did not place him in the Division of Outer Space Affairs. He was placed as a consultant to the Secretary-General. But in practice, the Expert, who was without an office, without any personnel and without any facilities, had to lean on the only existing office in the United Nations Secretariat for outer space matters, namely, the Division of Outer Space Affairs. During the year that he has undertaken the task entrusted to him, he has leaned heavily on that Division. According to his own statement, he has obtained full co-operation from that Division and, still according to his own statement, without the support of that Division he could not have worked at all. Therefore, I think it is logical and a common sense compromise, since the Division of Outer Space Affairs has already helped the Expert in matters from typing to personnel to scheduling visits, for that Division to act as his banker. In other words, the allocation of funds for the Expert should be made to that Division, and he can draw on the funds from that source, thus avoiding any duplication of effort.

With respect to the amount of the funds, as I have said, I believe that the amount which appeared in the document presented at the meetings of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which was already the result of an agreement to reduce the amount to the bare minimum, could be allocated without any fear of waste or extravagance. As a matter of fact, there was complete agreement on the amount to be allocated for his personal trips to contact the

(Mr. Fiorio, Italy)

various Member States and there was also agreement on the amount for meeting of the points of contact. The only funds still under consideration were funds for panel meetings. Those funds are such a relatively small amount and for such a useful objective that I believe they could be approved without any fear of waste or burden on the budget.

In conclusion, I should like to say that we support the compromise proposal made by the representative of the Soviet Union and supported by the representative of India. We believe that it does not make too much difference at this point, especially since one year from now we shall review the whole structure, where the money is allocated, provided that there is adequate financing for the substantial work which the Sub-Committee has recommended in paragraph 24 (b) of its report. We are in full agreement with that procedure and with allocating the funds to the Division of Outer Space Affairs.

Mr. VRANKEN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The Soviet delegation and especially the Italian delegation have greatly facilitated the task of my delegation. My delegation also believes that, in the field of the allocation of resources, it is up to the Secretary-General, and especially the Division of Outer Space Affairs, to deal with the matter. As the representative of Italy said, he is the banker.

Secondly, we believe that document A/AC.105/C.1/L.37/Add.1, which contains an estimate of the foreseeable expenditures, presents no difficulty concerning the trip of the Expert on Space Applications or in the field of fellowships. The Belgian delegation can accept the proposals contained in the document on that subject without the slightest doubt. However, we believe that with respect to the group meetings, two elements should be borne in mind: first, that these meetings must be truly effective and useful and, secondly, that if it is true the United Nations should assist countries in this field, especially developing countries, then those countries themselves, for their part, should make an effort in the financial field. The Belgian delegation believes that the best solution would be to have co-operation, even financial co-operation, and that the funds should not come only from one side.

It is from this angle that the Belgian delegation accepts document A/AC.105/C.1/L.37/Add.1, while reserving our right to discuss in detail the actual funds to be allocated.

Mr. DEJAMMET (France) (interpretation from French): The French delegation entirely shares the view expressed by previous speakers on the need to avoid any duplication of work and unnecessary overlap of activities -- a view that was eloquently put to us by the representative of the Soviet Union. We have advocated similar views in the course of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's meetings last July.

At the same time, my delegation appreciates the tribute -- which, I think, is unanimous -- that has been paid by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and that has been reiterated here today on the activities and the very fruitful role played by the Secretary-General's expert on space applications. We have taken account of the comments made earlier that it is fitting not only to pay a tribute to the expert on space applications but also to give him -- by whatever channels would be deemed the most appropriate and which would avoid duplication -- the financial and material means that will allow him to continue his task. Indeed, what is important is that if an amount is allocated, that amount should be spent only on the research and work programmes of which he is in charge. That is precisely what was pointed out by the Soviet delegation at the beginning of this discussion. My delegation welcomes the spirit of compromise that was shown in this respect by the Soviet delegation.

In July, we shared some of the apprehensions regarding the possibility of a proliferation of financial implications. We expressed some interest in a study of the possibilities of outside financing that could be provided. But we have come to the conclusion -- which, I believe, is somewhat akin to that of the Soviet delegation -- that it would be fitting for Member States to make an additional financial effort. We therefore accept that suggestion and, to speak in more specific terms, I can say that my delegation would be perfectly in a position to support the figure that was put forward last July by the delegation of Australia.

Mr. CHRISTIANI (Austria): The Austrian delegation wishes to make only a couple of very brief remarks because many of the things to be said have already been mentioned by previous speakers.

When the subject of the financing of the programmes was discussed in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the Sub-Committee was facing a very serious problem. I should like to express, from the very outset, the appreciation of my delegation for the spirit of compromise which the delegation of the Soviet Union has shown in this respect. As for the Austrian delegation, the allocation of the funds for the programmes set out in paragraph 24 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/95) to the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat is entirely acceptable, provided that it is exclusively used for the programmes set out in paragraph 24 (a), (b) and (c).

As to the second question of the amount of these expenditures, the Austrian delegation thinks that the estimated financial implications as set forth in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.37 and Add.1 are correct, and it supports the figures set forth in that document.

Mr. PRAT GAY (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): I asked for the floor merely to speak very briefly on this very pleasant -- but important -- subject for the developing countries. I think it would be unnecessary to repeat what has been said in the general debate or to reiterate what others have said here this morning regarding the outstanding work done by the expert. I think to do so would be to fall into the temptation that the representative of France mentioned -- in other words, pay tribute to the person of Mr. Ricciardi and overlook the programme that he has submitted to the Committee for financing. I think that the compromise we have achieved in the course of this meeting is an extremely fruitful one, and I believe it can considerably help the expert in carrying out his programme, thus ensuring the fulfilment of the programmes that, as I have said, are so important to the developing countries.

I should like to stress, however, what the representative of Austria has just said -- something that is, I think, included in the body of the Soviet proposal -- that the amount allocated for financing the programmes must be earmarked clearly for that purpose alone so that the expert will be able to carry out the task he has outlined to us in the Secretary-General's report (A/AC.105/C.1/L.37 and Add.1).

Mr. CHEBELEU (Romania) (interpretation from French): I shall try to be brief and say only a few words, on behalf of the Romanian delegation, on the topic now under consideration. I shall begin by stressing the importance of the conclusion reached by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in its report, where it is stated that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,

"... as the focal point for activities of the entire United Nations family in the field of the study and utilization of outer space... should endeavour to see that no unnecessary duplication occurs in this field between the activities of the agencies and organizations within the United Nations system". (A/AC.105/95, para. 24, p. 7)

The Sub-Committee has agreed on some concrete recommendations on the 1972 programme proposed by the specialist on the implementation of space techniques, but not on the origin of the funds necessary for its implementation. The Soviet delegation has presented a compromise suggestion and, like many other delegations, we welcome it and support it fully. Indeed, in the final analysis, what is important is not so much how the budget of the United Nations is going to describe our activities but rather that we have available the necessary funds to finance the recommendations of the Sub-Committee, which we support.

In concluding, I should therefore like to repeat that we support the compromise suggestion made by the delegation of the Soviet Union. The specific amount will no doubt be arrived at through consultations.



Mr. CORREA (Brazil): In our opening statement we have already expressed our firm interest in the activities of the Expert and expressed the hope that the present session of the Committee would find the appropriate financial solutions to that problem. Therefore I wish to state our satisfaction at the spirit of compromise prevailing in this meeting. As for the matter of financing, I should like only to remark that my delegation believes that the appropriate funds can and must come from the normal resources of the United Nations budget.

Mr. VALLARTA (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): First of all, as the representative of a developing country, I should like to express the gratification of my delegation at the fact that we seem to have arrived at a solution to the financial problems connected with the Secretary-General's programme. My delegation does not share the concern expressed by other delegations over possible duplication between the activities of the Expert and those of the Outer Space Affairs Division. However, we respect those views and we wish to thank the delegations that expressed fears of such duplication for not objecting to the programme but rather turning their minds to finding a solution to the problems concerning it.

Mr. WILLIAMS (United Kingdom): My delegation has already in the general debate expressed its appreciation for the work of the Expert on Space Applications. We should also like to express our appreciation for the close and indispensable collaboration that has evidently existed between the Outer Space Affairs Division and the Expert on Space Applications. My delegation takes the views that it is important to provide the United Nations, and in particular the Expert on Space Applications, with funds which will enable the Expert to carry out the mandate with which we have entrusted him and to demonstrate the value of the work he has undertaken.

The delegation of the Soviet Union has done a service in drawing attention to the need for this Committee, like all Committees, to adopt a responsible attitude towards the financial implications of the decisions it contemplates taking. This is certainly a very important factor which we should bear in mind whenever we take decisions having financial implications in this Committee.

(Mr. Williams, United Kingdom)

In the present case my delegation considers that there is a good case for allocating funds to assist the Expert on Space Applications to do the job we have asked him to do. We are very glad to find that there is a consensus emerging this morning in favour of that. My delegation would be happy to support the allocation of funds for that purpose of the order proposed by the delegation of Australia in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, a proposal to which the representative of France made reference this morning.

Mr. BAVAND (Iran): My delegation believes that indeed we have to avoid duplication and overlapping in the activities in outer space affairs. It was in the light of that belief that my delegation three years ago entertained the idea of the possibility of establishing an international space agency. Of course that idea might still seem immature, and the best alternative is the enlargement of the scope of the activities of the Outer Space Affairs Division and the galvanization of its efforts. We believe that the utilization and application of space technology is a logical step in that direction. The programme of action that has been suggested by the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Expert is indeed valuable, I think, particularly for a developing country. Our Committee should consider positively these valuable suggestions.

As far as the question of the allocation of funds is concerned, we share the view just expressed by the representative of Austria that this fund should be allocated necessarily for the programme of action that has been reflected in paragraph 24 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. At the same time, we should not overlook the positive role of the Expert in this question, and I think the funds should be allocated for this particular purpose. The role of Mr. Ricciardi as a focal point should not be overlooked.

Mr. BUDAI (Hungary): I wish to express my delegations complete agreement with the suggestion made earlier by the delegation of the Soviet Union and supported by several other delegations. I think that that suggestion only follows the good practice of this Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee when it focuses on the programme of space applications and decides how to finance these programmes regardless of whether the allocations are made

(Mr. Budai, Hungary)

under certain chapters of the report. The report of the Committee on Outer Space to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly stated:

"The Sub-Committee recommends the early appointment by the Secretary-General to the Outer Space Affairs Division of a qualified individual whose full-time task would be to promote the practical applications of space technology." Since that recommendation, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, as well as the plenary Committee, has made an assessment of these activities, showing that they have had positive results. This is indicated also in the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.37. I think that this programme will really serve the interests of the practical applications of space technology and especially the interests of the developing countries in this field. Therefore my delegation is happy to see the consensus taking shape in this Committee this morning and supports the earlier suggestions. However, I wish to call the attention of this Committee to the fact that there is a constant rise in the United Nations budget, due either to expanding programmes or merely to monetary problems which occur day by day. So I think the allocation of funds to divisions and departments of the Secretariat would also imply a kind of responsibility on their part to economize to the greatest extent possible so as to utilize these funds in the best manner. I think that consideration applies in this case.

Mr. FRUTKIN (United States of America): My delegation also would like to support the compromise which has been proposed by the representative of the Soviet Union. We believe that that compromise permits this Committee to proceed with a very clear consensus in support of the programme under discussion, which had already emerged in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. The compromise appears to us to recognize the excellent and flexible working relationship between two effective organs -- the Outer Space Affairs Division and the Expert on Space Applications -- without unduly constraining either.

We should like also to express our agreement with the views stated by the representatives of Austria, Argentina and Iran regarding the exclusive use of the funds in question for the purposes stated in the resolutions forwarded by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

With regard to the availability of funds, my delegation believes that this Committee can assist the Secretary-General in concrete ways to find the funds within the general budget, and we shall address ourselves to this question at a later time.

Finally, we should like to say something on the question of duplication, which has been raised by so many representatives. We agree with the representative of Mexico that duplication should not frighten us. We have here a problem which is essentially an educational one. The task which is assigned the Expert on Space Applications is to bring the prospects, techniques and information regarding future space applications to the attention of developing countries. There is no need to confine ourselves to a single voice in performing that task; indeed, the task would be best performed if we used all possible avenues of expression. There are many tasks which require as much assistance and co-operation as may be available; we believe that this is one of them.

It will not be possible in the long run to confine all space activities in the United Nations to a single group. The UNDP will undoubtedly concern itself with space applications; the Natural Resources Division will undoubtedly concern itself with space applications; the World Health Organization also will undoubtedly concern itself with space applications. The more widely space

(Mr. Frutkin, United States)

applications are used for practical purposes in the interests of all the better off we shall all be. I think, therefore, that we should not accept a theoretical constraint under the rubric of duplication. I think this may be important for the future.

Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria) (interpretation from Russian): The question of the application of space technology is very important. It was debated during previous sessions of the Committee, especially at the Sub-Committee's sixth session in 1969. On that occasion my delegation stated --- and later confirmed --- that it considered such co-operation should be expanded on a bilateral and multilateral basis on condition that multilateral co-operation be accompanied with the co-ordinating role of the Sub-Committee and the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat.

We fully share the view that activities within the framework of this programme which we support should be concentrated in the Outer Space Affairs Division to avoid duplication and to achieve maximum effectiveness. We also welcome the compromise proposal of the Soviet delegation on this matter.

My delegation welcomes the work accomplished by Professor Ricciardi, the Expert on Space Applications, during the past year. At the same time -- without wanting to change his terms of reference, as described in paragraph 24 of document A/7621 -- we should like to recall that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee wanted to improve technical assistance to developing countries. One of the requirements for that expert was, therefore, that it be apprised of the latest technical developments. The idea was that the expert to be appointed should be highly competent in this field of assistance. The second idea was that the expert should be appointed for a short period of time, so that he not be divorced from technical developments and so that experts of various countries, in turn, could fill that post.

We are of the impression that a large part of the Expert's activities is organizational and consists of co-ordinating functions -- functions that could very well be carried out by the Outer Space Affairs Division. So as to free the Expert from purely organizational tasks and to make it possible for

(Mr. Kostov, Bulgaria)

him to assist countries in a practical manner, the idea put forward in 1969 --- that experts of different countries specialists in various aspects of space science and technology should serve in this post -- deserves careful study. We think it would be useful if there were some flexibility in the Outer Space Affairs Division in this area so that with the request for assistance from various countries it could secure for a short period the services of several experts -- three or four within a year -- who could make practical assistance available to various countries.

I wish to repeat, however, that we do not desire to alter the terms of reference of the Expert, but merely to think aloud and to put forward a few of our ideas after having listened to the debates here and in the Sub-Committee. We are convinced that it would be useful for experts of various countries to fill that post so that more effective and concrete assistance can be afforded to countries requesting it.

Mr. PIRADOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We listened with great interest to the exchange of views on this question this morning. The Soviet delegation would now like to introduce a draft resolution that would sum up everything that was said this morning. With your leave, Mr. Chairman, I should like to read out the text of that draft resolution, which will then be submitted to the Secretariat.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,

Recognizing the importance of further support for activities designed to expand the practical applications of space technology,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the evaluation of the requirements of developing countries and the possibilities of the United Nations in filling those needs, especially in the field of the applications of space technology, requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to appropriate in the budget of the Outer Space Division of the Secretariat of the United Nations for 1972 the sum of ... -- I will return to this -- "to be spent for a programme of assistance in the application of space technology as set forth in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General."

Now, about that sum, I think our colleague the representative of Romania and other members of the Committee were quite right in saying that we could, Mr. Chairman, have additional consultations under your guidance in order to come to an agreement on the sum which would be specified in this draft resolution in case it is adopted.

Mr. FRUTKIN (United States of America): If I may make a brief comment on the draft resolution just proposed, the draft resolution refers to the report of the Secretary-General in identifying the programme for which funds are to be spent. Without consulting the record, I recall that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee made proposals with regard to the nature of that programme, and my delegation would expect that the views of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, as contained in its recommendations, would be the guiding principles to define the programme for which we seek funds, since it is that body which gave consideration to the Secretary-General's report and which then formulated its views as to the programme concerned. I do not believe they are identical.

The CHAIRMAN: I think I should sum up the situation before we adjourn. I understand that there is a general consensus on the programme for the expert. The question which has to be decided is the formula under which we include this problem in our report to the General Assembly, and in that connexion, of course, the question of financing the programme of the expert.

The representative of the Soviet Union has made a proposal in that connexion. He suggested that the funds should be allocated to the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat and earmarked clearly for the practical application of space technology. That proposal was, as far as I could see, supported by a number of delegations.

I therefore think we can take it that the Committee agrees to the general programme outlined in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.37 of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, containing additional information on this problem and the financial implications of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

With regard to the financial implications and the formula which we should use in this respect in our report to the General Assembly, I would suggest that we hold private, informal consultations so that the Rapporteur can then, either this afternoon or tomorrow, include this passage -- I hope it will be agreed to -- in the report of our Committee.

I would therefore suggest that we adjourn now and that those delegations wishing to participate in the private consultations stay here and consult with the Rapporteur and with the Chairman. Of course, I am at your disposal for seeking a formula with regard to the financial applications.

Mr. WILLIAMS (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, I hope my delegation did not mislead you when we intervened earlier, but I should like to make it clear that we were intending to support a suitable allocation of funds on the basis of the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, as set out towards the end of paragraph 24 of its report. We were not addressing ourselves to the original report of the Secretary-General to which you referred in your summing up.

Mr. MOTT (Australia): The representative of the United Kingdom has, I think, taken the words out of my mouth. I was simply going to ask for clarification arising from your summing up, Mr. Chairman, as to whether in fact we had in mind the programme set out in paragraph 24 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee or the programme set out in A/AC.105/C.1/L.37, the report of the Secretary-General, which, as the representative of the United Kingdom has pointed out, are not the same, as far as I can see.

The CHAIRMAN: Before calling on the representative of Japan I wish to clarify that it is the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

Mr. IGUCHI (Japan): Our delegation does not wish to address itself to the subject that was under discussion during the latter half of this morning. In fact, we were waiting for an opportunity to make a statement on a certain positive study we have been making for offering further co-operation to the Sub-Committee and the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. May I be permitted to take this opportunity of saying a few words about the intention of the Japanese Government to extend closer collaboration on space applications. I think that this technical discussion on budgetary allocations and what kind of financial system would be most useful for promoting international co-operation, and arranging panels and various meetings, is certainly very useful.

However, we are fairly open-minded about the technicalities of how this should be arranged, and we would be willing to follow the majority views on this. In saying that, we would like to indicate that the Japanese Government has been making progress in the field of technology of exploration and exploitation of outer space, and also, parallel with this, we have been making many improvements in our organizational set-ups. As proof of our desire to promote closer international co-operation in scientific and technological development in the field of outer space, we have already indicated, during the recent session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, that we hope to issue an invitation to a panel on satellite broadcasting for education in Japan shortly. Our representative confirmed this intention at the outset of the present session.

In addition to this, I should like to take this opportunity of stating, on the part of our authorities in Japan, our basic desire and intention with regard to possibly offering fellowships for space application. We hope that we will be able to make a more concrete proposal on the matter of offering fellowships for developing countries, in the various fields of space technology. This would be done by the Japanese Government at the next session of the Sub-Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.