

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH MEETING

Held on Wednesday, 8 September 1971, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. WALDHEIM

(Austria)

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS (concluded)

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

The CHAIRMAN: At our meeting this morning we settled a number of questions in connexion with the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. After the meeting adjourned we had an informal meeting in Conference Room 8, where we discussed the only open question in this connexion, namely, the future programme of our Expert and the financial implications in that connexion. I am happy to inform the Committee that agreement -- of course, on a completely informal basis -- was reached at that informal and private meeting. I shall now have read out the new text of the draft resolution which was proposed this morning by the delegation of the Soviet Union, so that all members of the Committee may discuss this text further and comment upon it. I hope we shall be able to adopt this draft resolution and we can then terminate the debate on the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. After we have done that, I suggest we begin the debate on the draft report of our Committee to the General Assembly, but I would suggest that we have the first reading of the draft report at an informal meeting so as to facilitate our work. The Rapporteur has prepared a draft report which will now be circulated to all delegations so that they may go through it and we can discuss the paragraphs of the report and also some of the questions which were left open or could not be definitely settled during our discussions of the past few days.

I should like to ask the Rapporteur to read out the draft resolution concerning the programme of the Expert and the financial implications thereof, and I shall then invite delegations to comment upon it.

Mr. SOUZA E SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: The draft resolution as agreed in the informal consultations is as follows:

"The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space:

"Recognizing the importance of the programme on the promotion of applications of space technology, and desiring to ensure the continuation and success of this programme in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations,

(Mr. Souza e Silva, Brazil)

"Taking note of the Secretary-General's Report on the assessment of needs of developing countries and the ability of the United Nations to meet those needs, especially in the field of space application (A/AC.105/C.1/L.37),

"Requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps in order to allocate to the budget of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat for 1972 an additional sum not exceeding \$70,000.00 for the implementation of the programme of promotions of the applications of space technology as contained in paragraph 24 of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's Report regarding the programme of panel meetings for 1972, meetings of 'points of contact' to be held at appropriate intervals and the visits to developing countries to explain the potentialities of the practical applications of space technology in various fields."

The CHAIRMAN: If no representative wishes to comment on the draft resolution that has just been read out by the Rapporteur, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to it. Before the Committee adopts it, I should like to invite the Secretary of the Committee to make a statement on the financial implications.

Mr. ROBINSON (Acting Secretary of the Committee): In accordance with the provisions of financial regulations 113.1, the Secretary-General submits the following statement of administrative and financial implications relating to the programme on space applications outlined in the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

Travel expenses: The Secretary-General has already included in the budget estimates for 1972 a request for \$13,000 to cover travel expenses connected with liaison with specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on outer space matters and attendance at later meetings, including

(Mr. Robinson)

travel by the Expert on Space Applications. This request was made on the basis of travel provided for 1971. In order to cover additional expenses in the

implementation of the programme for promotion of space applications in 1972,

an additional amount of \$5,000 is required. These travels will include:

(a) visits by the Expert and one other staff member of the Outer Space Affairs Division to countries in Asia, South and Central America and in Africa;

(b) provision for participation by the Expert and one other staff member of the Outer Space Affairs Division in three panels of up to 15 days' duration each;

(c) participation by the Expert in international meetings and in meetings with international agencies.

Panel meetings: as has been proposed, three panels will be held in Africa, Asia and Central America respectively. The programme envisages that funds for assistance will be made available to up to 18 participants from developing countries at each panel, on the following basis: (a) that each of the panels will have a duration of 15 days; (b) that the subsistence costs will average \$18 per day, taking into account Secretariat subsistence rates for India, Mexico and Ethiopia; (c) that the average travel costs will be of the order of \$625, taking as the basis long-distance trips such as from Latin America to India and short ones such as trips from Africa to India or to Latin America. The total amount required on the above assumptions is estimated at \$US50,000.

Meetings of the points of contact: it is envisaged that three meetings of the points of contact will be held on a regional basis and, if possible, in co-ordination with panel meetings. On the assumption that the meetings will be of three days' duration, that 15 participants from developing countries at each meeting will need financial assistance, that the daily subsistence rates will average \$18 and that the round-trip air fare will average \$300, the total cost is estimated at \$15,000. Therefore the financial implications for which additional appropriation will have to be specifically sought from the General Assembly for the financial year 1972 for the whole programme are of the order of \$70,000.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Secretary of the Committee.

Does any delegation wish to comment on the statement just made by the Committee Secretary? Since that is not the case, may I then ask the Committee whether it agrees to the draft resolution before it. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee decides to adopt the draft resolution unanimously.

It was so decided.

Mr. VRANKEN (Belgium): Can the Secretariat tell us where the points of contact will be convened.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the Expert on Space Applications.

Mr. RICCIARDI (Expert on Space Applications): A programme for the meetings of the points of contact has not yet been made. It is the intention to hold them at the same time as one of the Panels; and for next year we have a Panel planned for South America, one for Africa and a third for India.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Expert for his clarification.

Does that satisfy the representative of Belgium?

Mr. VRANKEN (Belgium): Yes, thank you.

Mr. MOTT (Australia): Very briefly, and picking up the point initiated by the representative of Belgium, we wonder whether the Secretariat might take into consideration the possibility of arranging the meeting of points of contact in conjunction with the session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee which has been arranged for next May at New York. This could effect some savings in the proposed budget.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the Expert on Space Applications.

Mr. RICCIARDI (Expert on Space Applications): It is stated in document A/AC.105/L.37/Add.1 that it is the intention to do this at the Sub-Committee's session next year or at meetings on the regional areas. The decision will be taken based on consultations with the various points of contact and on the question of costs in each case.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Expert on Space Applications.

Since there appear to be no further comments on this question, that concludes our debate on the report of the Scientific and Legal Sub-Committee. I thank representatives for their co-operation in this respect and I am sure that it will now be possible to agree on the draft report of our Committee to the General Assembly on the work done by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

Since there are no more "open" questions before the Committee, I think the correct procedure would be to adjourn this formal meeting and to reconvene immediately an informal meeting to have a first reading of the draft report prepared by the Rapporteur. Tomorrow -- in the morning or afternoon -- we can meet again to adopt formally the Committee's report to the General Assembly. If I hear no objection I will take it that the Committee agrees to that procedure.

It was so decided.

INVITATION FROM GRUMMAN AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES

The CHAIRMAN: Before I adjourn the meeting, I should like to inform the Committee that we have received an invitation from Grumman Aerospace Industries to visit their premises on Long Island on Friday. The question arises whether to go to Long Island for this purpose on Friday morning or Friday afternoon -- this is, of course, for those delegations which are interested and wish to accept the invitation. I cannot give a specific answer to this point because I do not know exactly when we shall conclude our business. If we can finish tomorrow, then we could go to Long Island on Friday morning; if not, I would suggest that we do so in the afternoon.

I now call on the Secretary of the Committee to read out the invitation.

Mr. ROBINSON (Acting Secretary of the Committee): The letter reads as follows:

"Chairman of the United Nations Committee
on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

"Dear Ambassador Waldheim,

"In July 1970 Grumman Aerospace Industries had the great pleasure of receiving delegations to the Outer Space Committee's Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at our Bethpage facility on Long Island. Once again, Grumman would like to extend an invitation to delegations of the current session of the Outer Space Committee to visit the Bethpage facility. We would suggest that the visit take place on Friday, September 10, and we would of course arrange for transportation to and from our facility from the United Nations. Naturally we would hope that all those visiting the facility would be our guests for lunch. Please also extend our invitation to members of the United Nations Secretariat concerned with outer space matters.

"Of particular interest, the delegations which visit our facility will have the opportunity to examine the exterior and the interior of the Lunar Module in its latest configuration. We would also be interested in showing our guests our mock-up of the cockpit area of our proposed reusable space shuttle.

"We look forward to seeing you, Mr. Ambassador, if at all possible, and other members of as many delegations as can join us.

"Sincerely yours,

(Signed) John B. Rettaliata
Vice-President
Grumman Corporation."

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Secretary of the Committee.

I should like to invite representatives to indicate to the Secretary of the Committee whether they wish to participate in this excursion to Long Island so that we can inform our hosts accordingly.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.