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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 2 July 1973, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. JANKOWITSCH

(Austria)

- Consideration of reports: (continued)
- (a) Report of the Legal Sub-Committee
 - (b) Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee
 - (c) Report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites

This record is issued in final form pursuant to the decision taken by the Committee in September 1970 (see Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/8020, para. 10)).

CONSIDERATION OF: (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE (A/AC.105/115)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE (A/AC.105/116)
- (c) REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITES (A/AC.105/117)

Mr. TODOROV (Bulgaria) (interpretation from French): The Bulgarian delegation welcomes the fact that you, Mr. Chairman, with your intelligence, tact and skill are presiding over the proceedings of the Committee and we would express our confidence that the Committee will obtain excellent results under your chairmanship at this session.

Your statement on item 2 of the agenda was so complete that it spares us the effort of dwelling on the scientific and technical progress in international co-operation in the conquest of outer space achieved by States since the fifteenth session of the Committee. We should simply like to state that we share your optimism, all the more because in the last year the spirit of co-operation between the most advanced States in space activities has been strengthened considerably.

The agreements recently concluded between the USSR and the United States permit us to hope that this spirit of co-operation will continue to grow and will guide States in their future activities in the conquest of outer space for the welfare of all peoples.

Since the Bulgarian delegation has had the opportunity of participating in the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and since I am one of the last speakers in the general debate, I shall be extremely brief and shall confine myself to some brief general comments on some of the questions under discussion.

My delegation supports the recommendation of the Legal Sub-Committee that our Committee should make every effort to find at this session a solution to the three important problems of the draft treaty on the moon which have not yet been the subject of agreement -- more specifically, the field of application of the treaty and its title; the nature of the information on the activities conducted

(Mr. Todorov, Bulgaria)

on the moon; and the legal status of the natural resources of the moon. On these three issues there are compromise proposals and we hope that the delegations most concerned will find a satisfactory solution. In this connexion I should like to express the profound regret of my delegation that the compromise text on article X of the draft treaty on the moon which was proposed at the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee was not deemed acceptable by certain delegations. Nevertheless my delegation is ready to support any compromise text on which the delegations most concerned might agree.

As regards the draft convention on registration the Bulgarian delegation welcomes the very useful and concrete work which has been done in the preparation of a draft text. We hope that our Committee will conclude the work on this draft by finding a compromise solution to the problems on which there are still diverging views and will be able to present the draft convention to the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

The United Nations General Assembly requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to elaborate principles for the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. We believe that this is one of the most important and most urgent tasks before the Committee. The proposal of the Soviet Union on the basis of which the General Assembly adopted resolution 2916 (XXVII) was extremely timely. Almost all delegations consider that all the conditions have been met and that our Committee should prepare draft principles and present them to the General Assembly as soon as possible. The discussion at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly and at the last session of the Working Group of the Committee demonstrated that there is unanimity of views among the Member States regarding the time-limit for the elaboration of such principles. There has been agreement in our debate that the elaboration of some principles should have the highest priority in the work of the Committee. Delegations have stressed the need that television satellites should serve the cause of peace and the development of friendly relations and mutual understanding among peoples, as well as the economic and social development of States, in particular the developing countries. The activities of States in this field should be in keeping with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Todorov, Bulgaria)

The question which arises at this session and on which the Committee must pronounce itself is the following: Which of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should deal with the elaboration of principles for the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting? Should it be the Legal Sub-Committee or the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites? Since there are legal and political questions involved, my delegation believes -- and we expressed our views in detail at the last session of the Working Group -- that the Legal Sub-Committee should deal with this matter. That is how we understand the "fragile compromise" on the convening of a regular session of the Working Group prior to the session of the Legal Sub-Committee.

Finally, I should like to associate my delegation with those that have spoken in favour of the geographical distribution of sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, that is, that the Committee itself and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should meet in New York and that the Legal Sub-Committee should meet in Geneva; as for the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, that should meet in Geneva if the Committee decides to convene a regular session of that Group.

It is not necessary to recall the difficulties facing small delegations in participating in all the organs of the Committee if their sessions are held only in New York. The sessions of the Committee should be convened within some period of time after the sessions of the subsidiary bodies. This would permit Governments to receive documents in time, to study them and to carry out consultations before the sessions of the Committee, if necessary.

For that reason my delegation supports the proposal of the delegation of the Soviet Union that the Committee should meet in the month of September and not in June.

Mr. BYAMBA (Mongolia): Mr. Chairman, first of all on behalf of my delegation I should like to express my satisfaction at seeing you at the helm of this Committee, which, under your most able guidance, has done considerable work in a relatively short span of time to promote and enrich international law, and space law in particular.

(Mr. Byamba, Mongolia)

I should also like to welcome our dear friend Comrade Arkady Schevchenko, the new Under Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs who has taken part in these meetings with us. Furthermore, I should like to extend my welcome to the new United Nations Expert on Space Applications, Mr. Murthy. I express to both of them our best wishes for success.

(Mr. Byamba, Mongolia)

The Committee has three substantial reports before it. They are the report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/115), the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/116) and the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites (A/AC.105/117).

Given the tradition of efficiency and productivity for which the Committee is known, my delegation came to this session with a renewed sense of assurance and high expectations. That is but natural because, together with an ever-expanding horizon of human knowledge, space science and technology are advancing with, if I may say so, cosmic speed and the scope of human activities is rapidly expanding to a hitherto unknown distance --- celestial bodies. That is no doubt why the international community is so rightly preoccupied with, inter alia, the progressive development and codification of international law in the field of outer space. The whole work of this Committee constitutes a clear reflection of that.

My country, although not a space Power, attaches great significance to the further development and codification of space law, sincerely believing in the urgent necessity of having appropriate international instruments to govern the ever-increasing space activities of nations. We believe that the conduct of each and every State in an orderly manner in outer space is a prerequisite to unhampered development of international co-operation in the field of space science and technology. It is because of that conviction that we welcomed the birth of a series of treaties and conventions on outer space and we welcome any further initiatives towards that end.

Having said that, my delegation wishes to state that the elaboration of the draft treaty concerning the moon is one of the most commendable tasks that the Committee has on its order of the day. In this respect my delegation cannot but express our regret that, although in fact a great deal of progress was already made during the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee, there still exist a number of issues to be settled, relating to the scope of the treaty, the question of common heritage, the resources of the moon and so on. And my delegation hopes that at this session of the Committee it will be possible to produce a final version of the treaty if enough goodwill and a constructive, co-operative attitude are displayed by all members of the Committee. I assume that each and every

(Mr. Byamba, Mongolia)

member will show a high degree of flexibility so that a compromise or "package deal" on unsettled matters can be worked out. The same applies to the draft convention on registration.

Lastly, my delegation shares the view expressed here that certain adjustments should be made in the schedule of meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee. The system of rotation though basically sound may prove disadvantageous if applied too automatically, without careful consideration of its financial implications for Member States, especially those of the developing countries. Therefore, my delegation supports the idea of convening the meetings of some subsidiary bodies, including the Legal Sub-Committee, in Geneva.

Mr. REIS (United States of America): I would begin my saying how much my delegation appreciates the very kind and really very generous remarks of other delegations on the successful completion of the first visit by our astronauts to Skylab. We were of course concerned over the mechanical difficulties which were initially encountered in the Skylab mission, and we too were impressed by the ingenuity and resourcefulness of those, both on the ground and in space, who analysed the problems, developed remedies and put them into effect. Skylab is another demonstration, so it seems to us, that man will play an essential role in the space systems of the future; and in this sense we believe it is right to say that the Skylab crew acted on behalf not only of the United States but of all men.

Skylab marks a continuation of international co-operation in the space programme of the United States. The Earth Resources Experimental Package aboard the orbiting laboratory will provide data for scientists in more than 20 countries who are investigating possible research applications in agriculture, forestry, ecology, geography, meteorology, hydrology, hydrography and oceanography.

We are proud to have been a pioneer in the international co-operation in space of which Skylab is an important current embodiment, and we are pleased at the expansion of co-operative relationships, not just those in which the United States plays a part, but those among other nations throughout the world. Many of these have already been mentioned during the general debate in this

(Mr. Reis, United States)

Committee. We are also proud that co-operation has become so integral a part of the United States space programme that in 1972 each and every NASA launching had a distinct international aspect.

Ten of those missions involved international co-operation on a basis in which both sides assumed full financial responsibility for their contributions to joint projects. An example is the Aeros satellite, proposed, designed, built, instrumented and, indeed, funded by the Federal Republic of Germany; NASA contributed the launch vehicle in consideration of our programme interest in the satellite's scientific objectives.

Another example is the orbiting Astronomical Observatory 3, which carried an experiment proposed and funded by the United Kingdom. That satellite, named "Copernicus", has already honoured the five hundredth anniversary of the great Polish astronomer by making more than 2,000 observations of 92 ultraviolet and X-ray sources in the sky.

Still another example is the significant international involvement in the last two Apollo missions. Apollo 16 carried a Swiss experiment for measuring solar winds, and both Apollo 16 and Apollo 17 carried biological experiments contributed by the Federal Republic of Germany and France. Both missions returned quantities of lunar surface material for analysis in 340 experiments from some 20 other countries.

In addition, NASA launched six satellites for international organizations and for other Governments on a non-profit cost basis. In a seventh international launching, an Italian team used Italy's unique San Marco sea platform off the coast of Kenya to launch a United States satellite on our behalf.

Nineteen seventy-two will also be remembered for the Earth Resources Technology Satellite. Some 150 experiments proposed by scientists in nearly 40 countries -- and I might note that 13 of them are members of this Committee -- are now being pursued on the basis of ERTS data. These programmes of analysis are enlarging man's understanding of the potential applications of earth sensing from space. As I have noted, this work is now being carried forward with the Earth Resources Experiment Package on Skylab.

(Mr. Reis, United States)

In the meanwhile we have been seeking to build for the future. During the past year work has continued on additional joint satellite projects -- with Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. We have signed new agreements for joint sounding rocket projects with France, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Norway, Spain and Sweden. There has been major progress on the joint US/USSR experimental flight which will test compatible rendezvous and docking procedures in 1975. And in the area of space science and applications, joint US/USSR Working Groups can point to the exchange of lunar samples and of detailed physiological data derived from manned space flight, to a joint programme of measurements of surface phenomena in the Bering Sea and to continuing consideration of common problems encountered in exploring the planets.

(Mr. Reis, United States)

Of major significance for the future has been the action early this year by the Council of the European Space Research Organization to establish an ESRO Special Project for the development of a Sortie Laboratory -- which in Europe is called "Space Lab" -- which will operate in conjunction with the NASA Space Shuttle. Seven European countries have so far listed themselves for participation. Agency-to-agency and intergovernmental agreements are currently being negotiated. When this project comes to fruition, it is certain to constitute a very major co-operative venture in the development of advanced space technology.

That brief review of United States co-operative activities leads me to the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. The United States delegation would like to draw attention, as meriting particular study, to the sections of the report which deal with the status of the United Nations programme on space applications and with the progress and future efforts of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites.

The presence of Mr. Murthy, the new United Nations Expert on Space Applications, afforded the Sub-Committee an opportunity to take a fresh look at the programme for which he is responsible. After considering his report and proposals, the Sub-Committee recommended the experimental appointment of two part-time regional consultants and the preparation of audio-visual presentations, for the purpose both of facilitating the work of the Expert in disseminating information on space applications and of creating an awareness of their economic and social potential. Looking ahead to 1974, the Sub-Committee approved a programme devoted primarily to panel meetings and training workshops. These recommendations seem a reasonable approach to the utilization of limited resources. We believe they should be commended to the General Assembly. And I would like to take this occasion also to renew our statement of the over-all support of our Government for Mr. Murthy and his programme.

Probably the most important section of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is that which addresses itself to the activities of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites. At the heart of this section, it seems to us, is its recommendation that the Outer Space Committee should approve the establishment of a task force to undertake the specialized work

(Mr. Reis, United States)

of identifying and reporting on alternatives for the dissemination and optimum utilization of environmental and resources data, keeping in mind in particular the data requirements of the developing countries. The principal objective of the task force would be to identify, study, and analyse for the benefit of the Working Group the best means of disseminating remote sensing data acquired from space in the interest of promoting the optimum developments of this space application for the benefit of States and the international community as a whole.

In this connexion we would recall that during the deliberations of the Working Group early this year, the United States representative stated that if, following an examination of cost and other factors involved, the need for an international distribution centre -- or centres -- of some kind should become apparent, its character defined and, at a later date, its establishment agreed, the United States would undertake to make available on a timely basis a master copy of the data we receive from our experimental satellite programme.

With that in mind, my delegation believes that the Outer Space Committee should approve the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee that a task force be established for the purposes mentioned. The task force study seems to us the most sensible way to proceed at this stage in ascertaining how benefits from remote sensing technology can be given the widest possible international availability.

We appreciate the significant progress made by the Working Group on Remote Sensing, under the leadership of its able Chairman, and suggest that the report of this Committee to the General Assembly should include reference to the advances that have been recorded in this important space application.

We consider that the report of the other Working Group of this Committee, the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, on its 1973 session contains some useful results. Although consideration of new developments in the satellite broadcasting field was somewhat curtailed owing to the very extensive general debate, viewpoints were clarified through a broad exchange of views, aided, we hope, by the technical briefing on the state of the art of satellite communications presented by our representative. A précis of that briefing is contained in working paper A/AC.105/L.71, which we prepared for circulation to this Committee in the hope that it might provide members with a perspective on the status of this promising new technology.

(Mr. Reis, United States)

We think that, whenever consideration may be given to the question of principles concerning satellite broadcasting, it will be essential to take account of relevant technical and economic factors. We were able to accept the recommendation to reconvene the Working Group on that basis, as reflected in the statement of the Group's terms of reference found in paragraphs 77 through 79 of its report.

Turning now to the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, we have noted that many delegations have expressed disappointment that the Sub-Committee was unable to complete its work on either the treaty on the moon or the convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space. We share their disappointment. Indeed, we come to the current session of this Committee prepared to participate in making further progress toward agreement on both treaties. The new readiness of the United States to accept what other delegations consider a suitable review provision in the registration convention bears witness to the reality of our commitment.

It seems apparent that our informal consultations during the week just passed have brought us closer to agreement. On the other hand, it has become more evident than before that in both treaties differences still persist on issues of importance. Agreement has so far escaped us concerning how the moon treaty should deal with the question of possible future exploitation of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies in the period prior to the establishment of an international régime. The United States delegation would like to subscribe to what the representative of France, Mr. Charvet, suggested the other day: that it would be unwise to let differences over a very hypothetical future possibility block conclusion of a treaty containing many provisions affording new benefits to all countries. I might say that, once agreement is reached on natural resources questions, my delegation does not believe that it should be very difficult to resolve the other outstanding issues.

(Mr. Reis, United States)

With respect to registration, we find the short-term outlook for agreement a bit more promising. In fact, we seem close to success in our efforts to bridge the one real gap which remains: differences as to the need for a provision on the marking of space objects. My delegation has repeatedly stated its views as to the lack of utility such a provision would have in identification assistance, and I need not repeat those views now.

If agreement should not prove possible in the remaining informal consultations, we should leave both treaties as priority items for consideration in the agenda of the 1974 session of the Legal Sub-Committee, hoping and expecting that Governments will use the time between now and that next session of the Legal Sub-Committee to deliberate further on the remaining issues. We sincerely hope that agreement would then be within reach.

I want to close on a note that is at once official and deeply personal. When we reflect on the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space over the past decade, no relationship has been happier than ours with Minister Celso Antonio de Souza e Silva. Elected Rapporteur of this Committee on 8 September 1969, he has, we believe, in his work consistently demonstrated the highest quality. That is hardly surprising, given the integrity and clarity of his thought. Notwithstanding the most profound differences on fundamental points -- and I have only to reflect on his statement as representative of Brazil of this morning -- I must say that I personally have learned much from him, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge his elegance of thought, his candour and his friendship. I very much regret his departure, while wishing him on behalf of our delegation bon voyage and health and happiness in Brasilia.

Mr. VELLODI (India): Although we have already made our statement in the general debate, there is one small matter on which I should like to make a very brief statement at this stage.

Paragraph 35 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee contains a recommendation for continuing United Nations sponsorship of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station. I wish to express

(Mr. Vellodi, India)

to the Sub-Committee the gratitude of my delegation and Government for that recommendation.

The Government of India would like to respond positively to that gracious gesture, and I have pleasure in informing this Committee that the Government of India would like to organize training courses at Thumba in two specific areas. The first area would be that of vehicle technology, which would include, *inter alia*, vehicle preparation, check-out, launch operations and problems relating to range safety. The second area would involve range instrumentation covering ground telemetry, tracking systems, payload check-out, data acquisition and preliminary analysis.

In order to assist persons from the developing countries wishing to participate in such courses, we are prepared to offer up to ten fellowships per year, which will cover living expenses in India and also meet the cost of internal travel connected with the training.

In due course we shall get in touch with the United Nations Expert on Space Applications to work out the details of our offer.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has now concluded its consideration of item 3 of its agenda.

I should again like to thank all delegations for their constructive contributions to our debate and for the kind words of support they have addressed to me. I assume the Rapporteur will thank members in person for the kind words they addressed to him.

As far as the further organization of our work is concerned, I understand the Rapporteur wishes to make a statement to inform the Committee on the state of preparation of the report and to put to it certain suggestions as to the procedure to be followed in connexion with the report.

Mr. SOUZA E SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: According to the practice followed by the Committee in previous years, following the general debate the Rapporteur tries to sum up the debates held in the Committee and to arrive at what he considers to be the consensus of the Committee, based on the trends and issues that have been here.

Accordingly, I have with the help of the Secretariat prepared a first draft which will be submitted to the Committee very soon; I shall speak of dates later. At this stage I should like to say that a few points still remain to be solved by the Committee and I shall need some guidance from you, Mr. Chairman, and the Committee concerning the way in which I should deal with the first draft of the report to be submitted to the Committee. With the Committee's permission I shall now list the items on which I need such guidance:

1. Priorities for the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee.
2. The matter referred to in paragraph 28 of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's report concerning the report of the Secretary-General on the various types of assistance extended to developing countries by the United Nations system, in particular by the United Nations Development Programme and the specialized agencies.
3. The future role of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. This question is dealt with in paragraphs 36 to 41 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.
4. The enlargement and reorganization of the Committee.
5. The dates and places of next year's sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
6. Pending questions relating to the treaty on the moon and the convention on registration, on which some decisions may be taken by the working group and in the informal consultations still under way.

Having said that, I can inform the Committee that I shall have the first draft ready by noon tomorrow at the latest. As is the case every year, the first draft will be available in English only. Once again I must apologize to the Committee in that respect, though I do so more on behalf of the Secretariat than on my own behalf, since I am a Rapporteur, not a translator. The foreign language in which I can work happens to be English. The versions of the report in the other working languages will be ready by Thursday morning at the latest. I therefore suggest that the first reading of the draft report take place, as is usually the case, in an informal meeting of this Committee, on Thursday morning.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Rapporteur for the information he has given the Committee on the status of the preparation of the report. The Rapporteur has also submitted to the Committee a number of questions on which he has asked for guidance in the drawing up of the report. I should like to suggest to the Committee that when we come to item 4 of the agenda, "Other matters", members could address themselves to such other matters as they wished to raise and, in addition, following up the suggestion of the Rapporteur, could provide some guidance for the drawing up of the report. It would also be possible in the course of the discussion on the report to comment on the various points suggested by the Rapporteur. I understand that the Rapporteur would be grateful for members' additional help and support in this difficult task.

Mr. MILLER (Canada): I should like to say how grateful my delegation is to the Rapporteur for taking the initiative, which to some extent is traditional both with the Committee and with him personally, of raising six specific points for our consideration. Those were the same types of points that were beginning to concern my delegation and we felt that they needed some ventilation, as he put it, by the Committee. Having listened carefully to the statements in the general debate, we think it is rather evident that there are a number of opinions on these particular points that will need accommodating. Having said that, I would add that the purpose of my intervention was to ask the Rapporteur through you, Mr. Chairman, if he had nevertheless attempted in the first draft of the report, which will be available in English at noon tomorrow, to cover any of those points. If so, we might benefit from a reading of that draft before the discussion. However, if he has not attempted to cover those points in the draft report, we might usefully have a ventilation of them perhaps tomorrow, even in advance of seeing what will be in the draft that he will submit at noon.

Mr. SOUZA L. SILVA (Brazil), Rapporteur: I thank the representative of Canada for his suggestion. As he knows, in this work I try to do as little guessing as possible. Delegations referred, of course, to some or all of the six items that I enumerated, but, to my knowledge, that did not represent a consensus of the Committee itself. In any case, in the

draft report those points on which no decision had, to my knowledge, been taken would be indicated and they would then be submitted to the Committee for further debate and, if possible, for a decision.

Mr. VELLODI (India): Like the representative of Canada, I wish to express my delegation's thanks to the Rapporteur for specifically mentioning the six points on which he seeks guidance from the Committee so that he can draft the appropriate paragraphs of the report. It is my impression also that the draft that will be before us tomorrow at noon might not cover those six points. I should like to ask you, Mr. Chairman -- because I did not participate in the previous sessions of this Committee -- whether it is your intention to put those six points to the Committee for discussion and whether you would like us to give our views on them. If that is so, then I should like to make some comments on most -- if not all -- of the points raised by the Rapporteur.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to reply immediately to the question asked by the representative of India. It would seem from the suggestion of the Rapporteur that not only the Rapporteur but the Committee itself might benefit from a discussion of these six points prior to the final drafting of the report. As I suggested earlier, it might be useful to hold that discussion tomorrow under item 4 of the agenda, "Other matters". Delegations would then have an opportunity to comment, if they so wished, on the six points raised by the Rapporteur. If that is agreeable to delegations, we could proceed in that manner.

Mr. CHARVET (France) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, my delegation fully agrees with the procedure you have recommended. The Committee has very clear decisions to take on some of these points, such as priorities, the expansion of the Committee, the time and place of future meetings, and the future role of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Therefore, in the course of this discussion, the Committee must come to some decision on these points so that such a decision can be included in the draft report.

Mr. VELLODI (India). Mr. Chairman, if I heard you correctly you suggested that we discuss these points at our meeting tomorrow. I have one practical problem. For an unavoidable reason I shall not be in New York tomorrow and, with your permission, I should like to make some comments on these points at today's meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: If any delegations wish to comment on these points now, they are perfectly free to do so, but those delegations wishing to wait until tomorrow to make their comments may do that.

Before the representative of India makes his comments, I should like to make a small comment on the remarks of the representative of France. It is certainly true that on all the matters mentioned by the Rapporteur it will be necessary to ascertain the consensus of the Committee. But that will not necessarily have to be done tomorrow. The final moment for arriving at that consensus will come when the Committee adopts the report.

So I think tomorrow's meeting could be very important in the sense of preparation for taking these decisions and arriving at that consensus. We could, however, if we do not arrive at agreed conclusions tomorrow, continue the effort in the course of our discussion of the report.

Mr. VELLODI (India): My remarks on the issues raised by the Rapporteur will be very brief and, I hope, to the point.

The first issue raised by the Rapporteur was the question of priorities for the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee. I believe that this should not create any serious problem, as far as obtaining a consensus of the Committee's views is concerned. There are now two priority items before the Legal Sub-Committee, on which a certain amount of progress has been made -- and we all hope that more progress will be made in the near future so that it will be possible for the Legal Sub-Committee to take up other items. The report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites makes it very clear that the issue of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII), while it will be discussed by the Working Group itself at a meeting to be convened early in 1974, will thereafter go to the Legal Sub-Committee, along with the recommendations of the Working Group.

So, as far as my delegation is concerned, it is very clear that the next item to be discussed in the Legal Sub-Committee is that of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII), operative paragraphs 1 and 2. Of course, there is nothing to preclude the Legal Sub-Committee from taking up that item even before the completion and disposal of the other two items, but it is a question of priorities and of what can be achieved.

As I said earlier, it is our hope that one or both of the items now before the Legal Sub-Committee can be disposed of in time so that the Legal Sub-Committee can thereafter take up the implementation of resolution 2916 (XXVII). That is my delegation's comment on the first issue raised by the Rapporteur.

(Mr. Vellodi, India)

The second issue he raised relates to paragraph 28 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which contains a request to the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on the various types of assistance extended by the United Nations system. It is not very clear to me exactly what it is that the Rapporteur wishes from the Committee on this paragraph.

As far as my delegation is concerned, we support the recommendation of the Sub-Committee; we attach very considerable importance to this issue of assistance from the United Nations, as I tried to make very clear in my statement; and I believe that any question of expansion of efforts by the United Nations will be significantly benefited if we do have a comprehensive report of the type that the Sub-Committee has recommended. So, as far as my delegation is concerned, we do not see any difficulty here again in obtaining a consensus, which will be to endorse the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that the Secretary-General be asked to prepare that report.

Similarly, the third issue relates, in my view, to the future work of the Sub-Committee -- that is, paragraphs 36 to 41 of the Sub-Committee's report. This issue is, of course, a very, very important one, and I think the Committee owes its thanks to the delegation of the United Kingdom for having raised this big question of principle: exactly what shall be the future work of the Sub-Committee? Here again the Sub-Committee's report to the main Committee is fairly clear: it has made a recommendation, which in a sense means that the Sub-Committee should continue its work, but in a slightly different way -- that is, as in the Legal Sub-Committee, here also we should allot certain priorities. And paragraph 39 indicates that the Sub-Committee's view was that the priority items which should be considered by the Sub-Committee at its 1974 session should be, first, remote sensing and, second, the United Nations programme on space applications. So here again it seems to me that the Committee should endorse the Sub-Committee's recommendation. I do not know whether that third issue which the Rapporteur mentioned had any other angle or any other factor which I have not taken into account. As far as my delegation is concerned, the recommendation of the Sub-Committee is a good one, and we should support it.

(Mr. Vellodi, India)

The fourth item mentioned by the Rapporteur, if I heard him correctly, was the question of the membership of this Committee -- the question of enlargement or, in general, the question of composition. This is certainly a very, very important issue, several delegations have raised it in the course of our discussions. We have not had the time to engage in consultations. I believe -- and I am sure you will agree with me, Mr. Chairman -- that the question of composition is always a very difficult one. We are convinced that the composition of the Committee needs to be reviewed, and there is certainly justification for adjusting the composition of the Committee to the situation that exists today in the United Nations. When the composition was originally agreed upon, the situation was different from what it is today; and then a year or two later, the membership was increased by three or four. All this happened in a situation which, we believe, does not exist today. There have been developments during the past few years, and I think it necessary -- indeed, unavoidable -- that the question of composition should be looked into. The point is: How do we go about it? Do we express our views on this question in the course of statements made in the Committee so that they can be reflected in a paragraph of our report to the General Assembly as an issue that deserves immediate attention, or can we do anything more than that? Here I am actually thinking aloud. I do believe that the least we should aim at is to have a paragraph in the report to the effect that this question was touched upon during the general debate.

The next issue is that of next year's sessions: It will be recalled that my delegation made a suggestion in this matter; I hope it will be taken into account. It was that, in order to take into account any decisions or recommendations that might come out of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, a brief, one-day meeting of the main Committee should be attempted early in January. This is a suggestion; I did not hear any delegation, during the course of the general debate, speak about it, either supporting it or objecting to it. It is possible that other delegations do not view the matter as I do. In any case, this is something which you, Mr. Chairman, will, I hope, take into account.

(Mr. Vellodi, India)

Apart from that, the only other issue that came up during the discussions here was, I believe, the suggestion of the representative of the Soviet Union about the meetings to be held in Geneva. My delegation has always in the past felt that there should be some effort made in order not to concentrate all the meetings of the United Nations in one place. We tend to support the Soviet suggestion, and I am sure that you, Mr. Chairman, and the Secretariat are already exploring the possibilities of scheduling the meetings of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites in Geneva.

(Mr. Vellodi, India)

As for the exact timing, it is not for me to make any suggestions. It will depend on the Office of Conference Services, as to when it can provide us with time in Geneva -- that is, if the Committee here agrees to have the meetings in Geneva. From purely practical considerations -- and I speak only for my delegation -- there might be some advantage in scheduling the meetings just prior to the Legal Sub-Committee's meetings. I imagine that many delegations attending the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, especially with the mandate it now has, would include some persons who would be required to participate in the Legal Sub-Committee's meetings. So there might be some advantage in having the meetings just prior to the Legal Sub-Committee's meetings. On the other hand, it may well be that a gap between the two might provide Governments with a little time to consider seriously the implications of the recommendations of the Working Group before they are considered by the Legal Sub-Committee. However, generally we are in favour of having the meetings of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites in Geneva.

On the last issue to which the Rapporteur referred -- the treaty and the convention -- we are aware of the efforts that have been going on in informal discussions, and obviously I cannot add anything to what I have said.

Mr. REIS (United States of America): I should like to make two very brief comments.

First of all, my delegation will of course be pleased to listen to the views of delegations with regard to these various issues -- indeed a number of delegations have addressed themselves to some of these questions already -- but I should like to suggest that, perhaps more than the need for formal, recorded and public statements of national viewpoints, it would be useful if an opportunity could be provided, perhaps of the sort which I believe you, Mr. Chairman, had in mind for the meeting on Thursday morning, to discuss in a more private way certain of these issues which are of

(Mr. Reis, United States)

considerable sensitivity. I think that with regard to the especially sensitive issue of the composition of the Committee, for example, we are more likely to expand the area of agreement and of consensus if we are able to engage in the rather more informal, shall I say, statement of views which a private meeting or closed meeting would permit. My delegation has no objection to stating its views on enlargement in public, but, if we are trying to reach, let us say, a maximum consensus, I really believe that we should do better to deal with these issues privately. For one thing we have to name names of countries, and that is an invidious procedure if done on the record, one that is likely to lead, it seems to me, to rigidity of views rather than flexibility.

Secondly, with regard to one suggestion that has been made from a number of quarters, that is, on the possibility of holding a 1974 session of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites in Geneva, as you know, my delegation invariably supports the holding of meetings in New York, but I would say that we should be less disinclined to consider such a session in Geneva if we could be given some reasonable assurance that costs could be held to an absolute minimum. In that connexion, I wonder whether the Secretariat would be good enough to inquire of the Secretariat in Geneva now -- so that when we come to this on Thursday we shall be prepared -- whether there is not within the first six months of 1974 an appropriate period in which interpreters would be available without additional costs. This might make all the difference in the attitude of my delegation at least and perhaps of others as well. Since I know it always takes a few days to get a suitable response from the European Office, perhaps it might be well if an inquiry could be made, if that has not yet been done.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegation wish to comment on the various matters, procedural or substantial, before us? If not, I might perhaps venture a suggestion, in response to the counsel of prudence offered wisely by the representative of the United States. I think that what the Rapporteur had in mind when suggesting additional guidance on numerous items of the report was that, in view of the short time available

(The Chairman)

for the informal meetings in connexion with the preparation of the report, it might be helpful to have a better idea at this stage of various outstanding points on which consensus in the Committee still has to be reached. We could perhaps envisage the possibility of having a private meeting, prior to the meeting on Thursday to consider the report, to look into these various points raised by the Rapporteur. This could be done, for instance, tomorrow afternoon. We could devote tomorrow morning's meeting to the consideration of the item "Other matters", have a private meeting in the afternoon to look into these various points, and then on Thursday morning consider the full draft report, texts of which will by then be available, we hope, in all or at least in most of the working languages. That is one possibility.

I might remind you at this stage that we have a working group which has not completed its tasks. I hope that, as has been suggested to me by a number of delegations, after the close of this meeting, the mini-group can meet on questions relating to the moon treaty, but I hope to be able by tomorrow morning to suggest a tentative date for another meeting of the full working group to look into various other matters concerning the two treaties which are still before us. Incidentally, the results of the work of the Working Group are, again, linked closely to the report, as the report has to reflect those results. With those various considerations in mind and with an interesting work programme to look forward to -- and I hope to be able to make proposals in regard to the definite outlines tomorrow morning -- I shall now adjourn the meeting, if no other representative wishes to speak.

Mr. OGISO (Japan): I should like to make a brief comment on the possibility of holding the meetings of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites in Geneva next year. I support the suggestion made by the representative of the United States on this. However, I should like to add one thing -- that is, I should like the Secretariat to inquire of the Office of Conference Services in Geneva as to whether space, in addition to interpreters, will be available for the Working Group next year in Geneva.

I should like to know also whether space is available for this Working Group in New York next year. I should like the Secretariat to inquire about this from the Office of Conference Services at Headquarters.

Mr. WYNDHAM (Australia): I should also like to support the proposal made by the representative of the United States. My delegation has traditionally not been in favour of meetings of the subsidiary organs of this Committee outside New York and would be very interested to know what additional costs would be incurred as the result of a decision to move further meetings to Geneva.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand that the Secretariat has taken due note of the requests that have been made. I hope that it will be able within a short time to reply to these queries.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.