

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.



# UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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ENGLISH

## COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

### VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 3 July 1973, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria)

- Organization of work
- Other matters

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)).

## ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: Members will remember the understanding we reached yesterday on the procedure to be followed today. In the light of that understanding I would now like to suggest the following programme for today: We shall start this morning's meeting with agenda item 4, "Other matters". Under that agenda item I propose, with the Committee's consent, to call on the representative of the European Space Research Organization (ESRO), who has asked to speak and who, owing to a number of technical difficulties, could not address the Committee earlier. After his statement other representatives who wish to speak on agenda item 4 will be free to do so. After we conclude our discussion of that item, I intend to adjourn the meeting and convene a private meeting to deliberate on a number of points related to our report on which the Rapporteur, at our meeting yesterday afternoon, asked for additional guidance from the Committee; that will probably take up the balance of the morning.

I would suggest that in the afternoon we assemble as a working group in conference room 8 and examine the two treaties which are before that group and try to reach conclusions that we might eventually embody in the report. That would not preclude further efforts during the remainder of the week. I do not think it will be possible to come to a final decision in the working group's meeting this afternoon, but we should be able to gain a preliminary view of the progress achieved and the amount of agreement we will eventually be able to record in the report.

Those procedural suggestions are designed to enable us to make the maximum use of our day. We do have a tight schedule in view of the happy event which our United States friends will be celebrating tomorrow and which, although giving us a day off, will make it necessary for us to rearrange and tighten our schedule during the remainder of our session.

As I hear no objections, I take it that that procedure is agreeable to the Committee.

## OTHER MATTERS

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of the European Space Research Organization.

Mr. ARETS (European Space Research Organization (ESRO) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for calling on me to speak and I promise that I will not abuse this privilege.

On behalf of the Director General of the European Space Research Organization I should like to tell the Committee how honoured my organization is to have received the observer status which this Committee granted it a year ago.

The participation of my organization in the various Sub-Committees and in this session in the work of the Committee has so far been rather symbolic; but I can say that in the near future we shall be in a position to co-operate with the Committee more actively, to the extent that it desires such co-operation. My organization's programmes and activities are developing in such a way that the concerns of this Committee and those of my organization tend to coincide more and more.

I would recall that ESRO has so far launched seven scientific satellites and 150 sounding rockets. At the end of 1971 the organization decided to undertake, in addition to its scientific programme in which 10 Western European States participate, several application programmes. In the first place, there is a programme of European telephone and television distribution satellites designed to carry a part of the telecommunications traffic in Europe by 1980. Then there is a programme of aeronautical satellites designed to improve security of aerial navigation above the oceans as well as communication of aircraft with the ground.

(Mr. Arets, ESRO)

This programme is now the subject of negotiations with the United States and Canada aimed at installing, at the outset over the North Atlantic, a system of experimentation and evaluation in 1977. There is also a programme of meteorological satellites, constituting Europe's contribution to the World Weather Watch and to the Global Atmospheric Research Programme. Finally, the organization is carrying out studies concerning maritime satellites and earth resources and direct broadcasting satellites.

In addition to those programmes, which are now under way or being studied, the European Conference of Space Ministers will convene on 12 July in Brussels to decide on, or to confirm, participation of Europe in the American post-Apollo programme, which for Europe consists in the development of a space laboratory, called "Space Lab", and in deciding on the construction of a (L III S) heavy launcher the major part of the responsibility for which will be assumed by France.

Finally, the member States of the organization have indicated their desire to integrate within a single space organization the programmes on which up to now there have been developments on a purely national level. The wording of the titles of these programmes which Europe is or will be carrying out in common indicates the interest which my organization is duty bound to show in the work of this Committee and the contribution which its experience and responsibilities can make to the Committee if it so desires.

My organization has concluded agreements for co-operation with many Members of the United Nations. I would cite in particular the United States, the Soviet Union, India, Japan and Canada. It has observer status with such specialized agencies as ITU, ICAO and IMCO. These precedents and the desire of the member States of my organization to place the organization's programmes within the framework of the broadest international co-operation are a good augury for the participation of ESRO -- which will doubtless be replaced very soon by a European space agency -- in the work of this Committee, whose importance we recognize and the results of whose work we appreciate.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on any representatives who wish to speak on this item of the agenda, "Other matters".

Mr. SKALA (Sweden): Mr. Chairman, I should like to touch upon the question of maritime satellites. As you may recall, we mentioned this question in our general statement and referred back to earlier discussions in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. In that Sub-Committee Sweden drew the attention of members to the fact that this is a most interesting and important question in the applications field, a kind of specialized communications service which will probably be of great interest to countries in the late 1970s and in the 1980s.

The question is currently being discussed primarily in the International Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), which has created a special panel of experts for the matter. This panel of experts is not only discussing technical matters but also going into great detail as far as legal and organizational matters are concerned; it has already come up with some interesting suggestions for future organization in this specialized field and has indeed called for an international conference in 1975 -- the Conference was originally scheduled to take place earlier, if I remember correctly.

There is no doubt, in my delegation's view, that this is a question of very general interest which should not pass unnoticed in this Committee. We have said many times that this is the central point for discussing space matters and it would not seem appropriate to leave out of the picture that most important application. As may be recalled, there has already been in existence in this Committee a specialized Working Group on Navigation Satellites. I do not intend to say that we should resuscitate that body; I just wished to mention that the question had been on our agenda on earlier occasions. I also recall that you, Mr. Chairman, mentioned this subject one year ago in your general introductory statement.

This service will be of great interest to all countries, but my delegation is not convinced that the discussion as it is now going on in IMCO is really taking care of all interests. It may well be that this application will be of great interest, for instance, to the developing countries. It might be very useful for them to be able to take part later on in the new organization

(Mr. Skala, Sweden)

relating to maritime satellites. If they are not able to join the organization, at least they should be able to use that kind of communications for their own shipping purposes, for if they do not, that might well mean that their competitive position would not be very favourable.

Therefore, considering the general interest in this question, we have felt that the Outer Space Committee should at least be informed about what is going on in IMCO. So far very little has been said by IMCO to this Committee. IMCO was represented at the last session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. However, in his general statement on that occasion the IMCO representative did not mention this question. He talked generally about IMCO's interest in environmental matters, and so on, but he did not deal with maritime satellites. As a result of the discussion in the Sub-Committee, the Sub-Committee adopted paragraph 24 of its report (A/AC.105/116) where it asked IMCO to inform this Committee about its present activities in the maritime satellite field.

As far as I know, IMCO is not represented at this session and I have not seen any documentation on this matter from IMCO.

My question at this stage is really addressed to the Secretariat: What has been done in this field and what can we expect? I would say that it is not at all our intention that the Committee should take over the discussion that is going on in IMCO, but we do see a need for information.

Mr. MILLER (Canada): The remarks of the representative of Sweden prompt me to lend the support of Canada to the request he has made of both the Secretariat and the Chairman. More particularly, I think we should focus our attention on paragraph 24 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. I would suggest that if we are faced with a report from the Secretariat that to its knowledge nothing very much has happened as a result of that paragraph this Committee should perhaps similarly express the desire that it be informed by IMCO as to its activities in the field of maritime satellites and its related work.

Canada would, then, like to support the Swedish request and to suggest that our report to the General Assembly might contain something appropriate on this point.

The CHAIRMAN: The Rapporteur has noted the suggestion made by the delegations of Sweden and Canada.

Since no other representative wishes to speak on the item now before us, I shall now, in accordance with the procedure I outlined earlier, adjourn the meeting. The informal meeting will begin shortly.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.