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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 1 July 1974, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. JANKOWITSCH

(Austria)

- Opening of the seventeenth session
- Tribute to the memory of General Juan Domingo Peron, President of Argentina
- Adoption of the agenda
- Statement by the Chairman
- General debate

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OPENING OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

The CHAIRMAN: I declare open the seventeenth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF GENERAL JUAN DOMINGO PERON, PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA

The CHAIRMAN: A few moments before this Committee convened, shocking and saddening news reached United Nations Headquarters. General Juan Domingo Perón, President of the Republic of Argentina, died in the late hours of this morning in Buenos Aires. It is therefore our very first duty to offer to the distinguished Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations, Ambassador Carlos Ortiz de Rozas, and, through him, to the Argentine people and Government, the most sincere and warm condolences of this Committee on this sad event.

Paying tribute to, and evaluating the historic role of an outstanding statesman whom his people thrice called to the highest responsibilities of his nation will be the task of future writers of history not only of Argentina and Latin America but indeed of the world of the twentieth century. And, indeed, Juan Domingo Perón is among those who have made history. In a long and rich life which reached into the last century and covered seven decades of our century, he was among those active and restless spirits whose influence on his contemporaries inside and outside his country was tremendous. He was not only marked by history and the historic trends of our century; he made history, and he made change. His enduring influence was due to his unending association with one of the most powerful influences of our time: the people.

To pay tribute to him today is also to pay homage to the Argentine Republic and its unique and irreplaceable role in world affairs. But we are also paying tribute to a firm believer in the United Nations and its universality. I am sure that all members of the Committee will want to join in a universal expression of mourning by observing a minute of silence in memory of the great Argentinian and great universalist Juan Domingo Peron.

The representatives, standing, observed a minute's silence.

Mr. ORTIZ DE ROZAS (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): In brief but very moved words I should like to express thanks for the homage which the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has paid the President of Argentina, Juan Perón.

It will be my very sad privilege to inform the people and Government of Argentina of this homage, this event which will have very deep repercussions. I feel this must have been the first such public event since the death of our chief of State, which occurred merely a few hours ago.

To a certain extent it is symbolic and appropriate that this should have happened, because General Perón always directed his deepest wishes to, and stressed, particularly in recent times, making a fact of the feeling of universalism to promote peace, progress and the well-being of all people making up that world, above and beyond any obstacles and barriers. His faith in the destiny of mankind, joined in a single goal, is a guide and inspiration for future generations of Argentinians.

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

In my country, and as a starting-point towards this great goal, General Peron was the builder of a movement which interpreted the fervent desires of the people for national union on the basis of social justice, freedom and respect for the dignity of man. With God's help, the Government and the people of Argentina will continue to follow the path marked by that illustrious statesman.

I am sure that the testimony of solidarity here will give invaluable encouragement to my country in this difficult time, when it has lost an authentic leader.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/AC.105/L.77)

The agenda was adopted.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: In opening this year's session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, I take great pleasure in welcoming not only the past members of this Committee but also and particularly the new members: Chile, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan and Venezuela.

When at our last session we initiated the discussion on the enlargement of the membership of the Committee, we noted that in the light of the need to extend more widely the benefits of the peaceful uses of outer space the membership of the Committee should be broadened so as to allow more equitable geographical distribution as well as appropriate representation for developing countries. It is therefore with a sense of satisfaction that I note the General Assembly's decision to expand the membership of this Committee, which for over a decade had remained the same. The Committee will no doubt draw immense benefits from the participation of its new members, and we look forward to co-operating with them in our mutual work.

(The Chairman)

During the year under review many significant developments have taken place, both in the scientific and in the political aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space. We are full of admiration for the remarkable scientific feats that were conducted in outer space, particularly by the two major space Powers. It is not my intention to dwell at length on these achievements which are well known to all of us here; however, mention might be made of the continued success of the ERTS-I programme and the launching of the ATS-F satellite last month, as they are clearly related to the work programmes with which we are concerned here. It is mostly the remarkable success of the ERTS-I programme that has encouraged the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee to devote more time and energy to the implications of remote sensing of the earth by satellites. The successful operation of the experimental satellite broadcasting programmes in the United States and later in India with the use of the ATS-F satellite will have far-reaching implications, with which the Committee will have to deal, particularly in finding ways and means whereby all States could benefit from these programmes.

The USSR, in addition to having scored great scientific achievements with its Luna and Soyuz series, as well as with its Intercosmos-Copernicus-500 launching, has been engaged with the United States in a series of preparatory work for its Apollo-Soyuz tests. All these developments have underlined the encouraging trend towards more extended and comprehensive international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

It is to be hoped that remote sensing satellites and broadcasting satellites in particular will help to solve some of the problems of development with which the United Nations as a whole is preoccupied at present and after this spring, which saw the remarkable event of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the problems of raw materials and development.

For our part, the Committee and the subsidiary bodies have been fully concerned with these and other related matters during the last year. We have had a particularly heavy work schedule, and our subsidiary bodies have had meetings almost continuously through the first half of this year. The reports of those bodies which are before us now are testimony to the extensive work

(The Chairman)

that has been carried out. Their success was due in great measure to the dynamic leadership of the chairmen of those bodies, and, on behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank, in particular Ambassador Wyzner, Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee; Professor Carver, Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee; Ambassador Rydbeck, Chairman of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites; and Mr. Franco Fiorio, Chairman of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites.

Turning now first to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, I wish to pay a warm tribute, on behalf of the full Committee, to the members of the Legal Sub-Committee for the outstanding achievement that body has recorded this year in improving upon its already impressive record and adding yet another important international agreement to the body of international legislation concerning outer space. The adoption by the Legal Sub-Committee of the Draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space is without doubt a major accomplishment. I welcome the decision of the Legal Sub-Committee to authorize its Chairman or the Chairman of its Working Group 2 to attend this session of the Committee and present the Draft Convention and information relating to it. While it is a matter of regret that, owing to urgent business in Geneva, Ambassador Wyzner cannot be with us, we are happy to have among us today Mr. Turk, Chairman of Working Group 2 of the Sub-Committee, where most of the work of drafting this convention took place. It is therefore not my intention to go into further details on this question, except to draw members' attention to the fact that the text of the draft which has been submitted to the Committee for its approval is contained in paragraph 24 of the Legal Sub-Committee's report (A/AC.105/133) and to note that the Sub-Committee has left to the Committee the decision on whether or not to delete the fifth preambular paragraph of the text of the draft Convention before it is submitted to the General Assembly for adoption, if the Committee should agree to do so.

(The Chairman)

The last session of the Committee requested the Legal Sub-Committee to complete the draft treaty relating to the moon, along with the draft convention on registration, as matters of highest priority. At this year's session, the Sub-Committee continued its work and concentrated on those provisions on which agreement had not yet been reached. Several new proposals were made and they were discussed in Working Group I of the Sub-Committee. However, no agreement was reached on the main outstanding issues relating to the legal status of natural resources of the moon and the scope of the treaty, and therefore the Sub-Committee considered that it should continue its work at its next session again as a matter of priority. A summary of the discussions that took place is set out in annex 1 of the report of the Sub-Committee. As this was a matter that was considered in detail in informal meetings of the Working Group at the last session of this Committee, perhaps we could look forward to continuing our consultations with a view to narrowing the gap between the various views held by members on these two main outstanding issues.

In taking up the matter of direct broadcast satellites, the Legal Sub-Committee had before it the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, and the Legal Sub-Committee established a working group of its own to consider principles relating to direct broadcast satellites. We welcome the decision of the Sub-Committee to begin substantive consideration of this matter through a working group which it has established to deal with it. I hope that the degree of consensus already achieved in the work of the Legal Sub-Committee will augur well for the future work of the Sub-Committee in this field.

The General Assembly also recommended last year that the Legal Sub-Committee should respond at its next session, this year, to the request by the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites for its views on the legal implications of the earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites. There was a general exchange of views on the subject. The Sub-Committee, however, did not have time to formulate a response to the request of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites for its views on the legal implications of remote sensing, as recommended by the General Assembly, and was unable to give full consideration to the proposals before it under this item. The Sub-Committee therefore considered that at its next session it should continue work on this question as a priority item on its agenda.

(The Chairman)

The Sub-Committee, also because of lack of time, was not able to consider the other agenda item, dealing with matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities. However, some delegations recorded their views on this item in the general exchange of views.

Turning now to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, I am happy to note that progress was made in the area of remote sensing of the earth by satellites, one of the two priority items assigned to the Sub-Committee last year.

I must note, in this connexion, the most useful work carried out by the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites and its Task Force. The detailed work accomplished by the Working Group enabled the Sub-Committee to concentrate on specific areas and arrive at a consensus. In this respect the possibility of establishing under United Nations auspices an international global centre for remote sensing, as well as of setting up regional data acquisition and/or data storage and dissemination centres, with the possible attachment of education and training centres to such facilities, was of major interest to the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee, realizing the complexity of the problems involved in these matters, has recommended to the Committee that the Secretary-General be requested to undertake, in consultation with other agencies concerned, studies relating to the organizational, financial, administrative and cost implications of such a programme.

It is heartening to note also that under the guidance of the Sub-Committee, and within the stringent financial implications, the United Nations Space Applications Programme continues to make the useful contribution of drawing the attention of developing countries to the possible contribution of space technology to their development. Under the programme, several panel meetings, seminars and workshops were held during the year under review. Among them were a regional panel on remote sensing, in Argentina; a symposium on meteorological satellites, in France; a summer school on remote sensing, also in France; and a panel meeting on broadcasting systems, in Japan. During the rest of the year the United Nations will hold a regional seminar/workshop in Egypt, on remote sensing, as well as an interregional seminar in Brazil on remote sensing. Others are planned for 1975, including a regional seminar on meteorological satellites, which will be held in Kenya, and a regional seminar on remote sensing, which will be held in Indonesia.

(The Chairman)

A number of fellowships offered by Member States in various areas of space applications have also been administered by the United Nations. The United Nations Expert on Space Applications has visited several developing countries in order to promote awareness in practical applications of space technology, and several regional consultants will be employed by the United Nations on a short-term basis to assist the Expert in this task.

Several of these projects have been undertaken in co-operation with the specialized agencies, which continue to conduct their own valuable programmes in this field. Of particular interest to the United Nations this year have been the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) meteorological research and operation programmes for improving international service and the action being taken, in response to the General Assembly, on WMO's Tropical Cyclone Project to find ways and means of mitigating the harmful effects of tropical storms by utilizing space technology. Also of interest has been IMCO's efforts towards the establishment of a maritime satellite system. IMCO is convening in 1975 an international conference for the purpose of establishing such a system. I am sure both these projects are of interest to the members of this Committee. ITU and UNESCO, in the area of space communication, and FAO and UNESCO, in the area of remote sensing, continue to carry out their respective programmes, and members of the Committee may receive details of some of these programmes from representatives of these agencies during this session. At this stage I wish to welcome also the representatives of the specialized agencies and COSPAR to our meeting.

The United Nations Programme on Space Applications has now been in existence for several years. It is perhaps time now to evaluate the impact of this programme with respect to the objectives given it in 1969. The Sub-Committee has recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to prepare a comprehensive report on the nature and types of assistance needed and sought by Member States, especially the developing countries, in the field of space applications with a view particularly to considering the formulation of the future United Nations Programme on Space Applications. In preparing this report, the Secretary-General was requested to seek the views of Member States through a questionnaire to be approved by the Committee. For that purpose a draft questionnaire was submitted to the Sub-Committee by some delegations, and it is annexed to the Sub-Committee's report. However, owing to lack of time,

(The Chairman)

the Sub-Committee could not discuss it in depth and, consequently, invited interested members to meet prior to the Committee session to undertake the preparation of such a questionnaire for consideration and approval by the Committee. I understand that informal negotiations are taking place on this matter, and the Committee will have the opportunity to discuss this question within the next few days. It is appropriate that the Committee should devote due attention to this matter, as the response to this questionnaire from Member States will be most decisive in shaping the future United Nations programmes on space applications. It is my hope that on the basis of the replies of Member States to the questionnaire, which will be reported to the Committee, we shall be able to assess and develop the programme in a manner that is most effective in bringing the practical applications of space technology to the developing world.

(The Chairman)

The Sub-Committee also discussed the possibility of a Second United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be held possibly in 1978, a decade after the first Conference. The Sub-Committee did not reach any firm conclusions on this matter, as it did not have all the pertinent information, and therefore has requested the Secretary-General to obtain the views of Member States and to submit a report next year for consideration by the Sub-Committee. This is also a matter that the members of the Committee might wish to give some attention to at this session.

To turn to the work of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, it is most gratifying to note that it has carried out the mandate given to it by the Committee at our last session in an exemplary manner. It is with great satisfaction that I note the important work accomplished by that Working Group over the years. Beginning in 1969 with the technical implications of direct broadcast satellites, the conclusions of which still appear to be valid, it has studied the entire gamut of the political, social, economic and legal implications of this new technology. Its five reports are comprehensive and include a complete survey of the subject. This year it carried out a study of the legal implications and, in accordance with the mandate given to it by the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session, has established the areas in which legal principles may be drafted. It has identified areas of agreement on such principles, as well as those on which differences of view still exist, enabling the Legal Sub-Committee to undertake immediately the drafting of principles without the need for any further preliminary studies or discussions. The results of the consideration of the Working Group relating to the draft principles governing direct television broadcasting by satellites is contained in section IV B of its fifth report (A/AC.105/127), which is before us. We must all express our appreciation for the work which this Working Group has accomplished so well. Since the last session of the Working Group, the Legal Sub-Committee has had the opportunity to consider the question further, and I have already referred to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee in this area.

(The Chairman)

Having thus briefly reviewed the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee, and having pointed out to you some, if not all, of the matters with which we have to deal here, I wish to conclude by drawing your attention to one or two important general questions with which we will have to deal at this session.

As a policy-oriented body, this Committee will have to establish a work programme for the subsidiary bodies and a system of priorities and direct them to make definite recommendations on given questions. In this way the subsidiary bodies should be able to give in-depth consideration and prepare useful programmes for the consideration of this Committee and thereby enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations as a whole in this field.

As far as the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is concerned, it has recommended for the consideration of the Committee an agenda in paragraph 61 of its report. However, with regard to the main item on that agenda, relating to remote sensing, the Sub-Committee, in paragraph 14 of its report, having noted the valuable work carried out by its Working Group and having recognized that the study of organizational and financial matters of remote sensing should progress together with consideration of its legal aspects, has suggested that the Committee at this session might wish to review the situation and formulate instructions to its subsidiary bodies in regard to their future work in this field, taking into account the results so far achieved in the subsidiary bodies.

In this connexion, we should also take note that the Working Group on Remote Sensing had itself considered its report final. Taking all this into account, we will have to establish a definite programme for the subsidiary bodies on the question of remote sensing.

Now, as far as the Legal Sub-Committee is concerned, the Committee will have to determine the various priorities that should be accorded by the Sub-Committee to the questions on its agenda. At its last session the General Assembly requested the Legal Sub-Committee to consider as a matter of priority questions relating to the moon treaty and the convention on registration, and thereafter to consider questions relating to direct broadcast satellites and remote sensing, in that order. Now that the Convention on Registration has been finalized, the Committee will have to give specific guidance to the Legal Sub-Committee on how it should organize its agenda on the remaining issues.

(The Chairman)

In drawing up the work programme and priorities we will also have to consider the future of the two Working Groups, which have contributed a great deal to our work so far.

In connexion with our task in dealing with this matter I wish to repeat what I said in my first statement as Chairman of this Committee in 1972, that:

"As the policy-oriented focal point, it is up to the Committee to identify the interests of the international community in the field assigned to it and to ensure that due action is being taken in important areas of space applications. If the Committee establishes a work programme and proper priorities for both its Sub-Committees it will not be considered simply a body which only formalizes the work of its subsidiary organs but a real catalyst for international action in the area of space applications as well as in other areas". (110th meeting, page 23)

It is my hope that we can all work and co-operate together during the next two weeks to further, in some measure, the international collaboration in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space.

Before I conclude my statement, I wish to make reference to an event which is as regrettable to me personally as I am sure it is to our Committee as a whole. This is the event referred to in paragraph 13 of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee report, and it relates to Mr. Abdel-Ghani's decision to leave the United Nations and return to the service of his own country after an association of nearly 25 years with the United Nations in one capacity or another. Mr. Abdel-Ghani has been the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division since its inception. In that capacity, as well as in the positions he has held as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as Secretary of this Committee, and, for a time, as Secretary of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, Mr. Abdel-Ghani has been of great assistance to all of us, as individuals, as Member States, and as an international community facing the problems and potentials of a new technology. We shall miss him. I think I speak for all of us when I wish him well in his future work.

(The Chairman)

Before we turn to the next agenda item, I understand that Mr. Abdel-Ghani, Director of the Outer Space Affairs Division, wishes to make a short statement. I therefore call on him.

Mr. ABDEL-GHANI (Director, Outer Space Affairs Division): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the kind words you said about me on your behalf and on behalf of the members of the Committee. I should like to ask for your indulgence and that of the members of the Committee as I say on this occasion a few very simple words.

In bidding farewell to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which I have had the privilege and the pleasure of serving for 12 years, I wish to say in all frankness that I feel deep in my heart and mind that I owe a great debt to this Committee. It is a debt of knowledge, of friendship and of better understanding of the United Nations. I shall start with this last point.

(Mr. Abdel-Ghani)

There is no doubt that my work in the establishment and supervision of the Outer Space Affairs Division enabled me to know much more about the activities of the United Nations and its complexities than I had known through my service on the other side of the fence -- I mean in the Egyptian Mission to the United Nations.

I was appointed Secretary of the Outer Space Committee in March 1962 and U Thant wrote in his handwriting that this was a temporary measure to be reviewed in due time. Perhaps now is the due time. On 1 May 1962 a small unit was established in the Political and Security Council Affairs Department to deal with some outer space matters. I had with me two or three officers and we started together to explore the range of our assignment. We realized from the beginning that we were going to serve a Committee that was to be different from almost any other body in the United Nations, in the sense that it would be a forum for co-operation and not a stage for confrontation.

Thus, we found that it was our duty to help the Committee in that direction, and to take this objective as our guidance in every study or report we were preparing, as well as in discharging other Secretariat responsibilities. Looking back at those 12 years, I can say with pride that all the reports and studies -- all of them without exception, even those that dealt with some controversial questions, such as remote sensing and direct broadcast -- whether prepared by the Secretariat or by consultants in co-operation with the Secretariat, were well received in the Committee and in its subsidiary bodies.

We, my colleagues and I, realized that co-operation in the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space should not be restricted to co-operation between East and West, but should also be extended to cover North and South. This other objective commanded our serious attention, and thus the Secretariat took the responsibility of preparing certain activities aimed at co-operation between space and non-space Powers; between advanced and developing countries in this field. The main proposal of the Secretariat in this field, which was strongly supported and elaborated upon by Canada, was the holding of a conference addressing itself to the needs of the developing countries, with the purpose of familiarizing their Governments and authorities with benefits to be derived from the peaceful uses of outer space.

(Mr. Abdel-Ghani)

The proposal was accepted. the conference convened, and results developed into what is now our space applications programme of organizing panels, seminars and workshops. It is a modest programme, but it is a useful one, and we hope that it will be continued and strengthened.

In doing this work -- that is to say, in establishing and supervising the Outer Space Affairs Division and in making the necessary preparations and, afterwards, in servicing the Outer Space Conference -- I was able to learn a great deal about the work of the United Nations and the United Nations family, and about its complexities. Now that I am retiring from the Secretariat service, I shall say what I never said before: namely, that it was not an easy job.

From the beginning there were the problems of whether to establish a Secretariat unit on outer space or not, in what department it should be established, what functions it should discharge and what functions should remain beyond its terms of reference, what relationship it should have with other departments and with specialized agencies, and so on -- all these administrative and co-ordinating processes which we had to go through for several years. This may be due to the fact that the Outer Space unit in the Secretariat was the first of its kind, before the United Nations became involved in similar activities such as the sea-bed.

Thus, the work was of an exploratory and, if I may say so, improvised character. However, it is gratifying that now, when I am retiring from that assignment, the Outer Space Affairs Division is composed of two sections, manned by 11 professionals and six secretaries, discharging a wide range of responsibility in providing both the substantive and the conference services to the Committee and its various subsidiary bodies, and conducting a satisfactory programme of panels and seminars on space applications.

I must here express my thanks for the support I received during the last year from our distinguished Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Arkadi Shevchenko. He gave the Division much of his attention and through his continuous efforts the Division received support both in manpower and in functions. I am grateful to him as well as to four of his predecessors, Arkadev, Kiselev, Suslov and Nestorenko, with whom I worked in the most friendly and co-operative way in discharging my responsibility for an important Division in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs.

(Mr. Abdel-Ghani)

As for my debt of knowledge, I wish to say that the Committee enabled me to learn and to deal with an important aspect of international co-operation. My work, with the assistance of my colleagues, to prepare the necessary material for the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, was in fact a continuous process of instruction and learning for me. Attending the meetings of the Committee and the Sub-Committees and Working Groups and listening to the statements and deliberations of the representatives would no doubt provide anyone with a wide range of knowledge, technical, legal, economic and political matters, which enriches our minds and widens our outlook of the world.

I also owe a debt of friendship. I am grateful for the opportunity -- several opportunities -- afforded me by this Committee and its subsidiary bodies to establish close relationship with a large number of distinguished people in the various fields of outer space activity. In many cases this relationship has developed into real friendship.

(Mr. Abdel-Ghani)

It would take a long time to mention all the distinguished individuals I have met through my work with this Committee. But allow me to mention a few persons I have had the pleasure of knowing very well, because their work served as landmarks in the activity of this Committee.

You will recall that the corner-stone of the work of the Committee was a United Nations document known as the Blagonravov-Dryden agreement. It was really an honour to know and to work with these two eminent scientists, the late Mr. Hugh Dryden from the United States and Academician Blagonravov from the Soviet Union, to whom, through the USSR delegation, I wish to send my best wishes and regards on the occasion of his recent retirement. These two great scientists were associated with several of their countrymen, each of whom was distinguished in his field and to all of whom I owe some of my knowledge and understanding.

It was also an honour, and, in fact, a great pleasure, to know that great man from India the late Vikram Sarabhai, whom I saw establishing the Thumba range near the Equator and with whom I spent days in the Himalaya mountains in preparing the Vienna Conference on Outer Space. He served, with great distinction, as the Scientific Chairman of the Vienna Conference, which was a turning-point in the work of the Committee and of its Secretariat.

My pleasure and pride extend also to knowing, through the Committee or its subsidiary bodies, a younger generation in this field. I will mention only one name, that of Fernando de Mendonça, from Brazil, who through vision and energy established a unique institute in the field of space applications. I have just this last weekend returned from Brazil, where COSPAR was holding its annual meeting, and I saw how much people from several countries appreciated the knowledge they received from the workshop held at that institute, where the successful Brazilian experiments in space applications were presented and explained.

It would not be possible for me to go through the long list of distinguished scientists, experts, administrators, jurists and diplomats with whom I have had the privilege of working in this Committee, in the two Sub-Committees and in the three Working Groups, as well as in several international and national organizations. However, as I take the opportunity of attending this Committee for the last time in my Secretariat capacity, I should like sincerely to say that

(Mr. Abdel-Ghani)

it was a pleasure to serve the Committee under four distinguished Austrian diplomats: the late Ambassador Franz Matsch, its first Chairman, who continued to give the Outer Space Affairs Division his guidance and advice even after his retirement; Mr. Kurt Waldheim, who twice presided over the Committee and also over the Vienna Conference on Outer Space, and who decided, as Secretary-General, to strengthen the Outer Space Affairs Division; Ambassador Haymerle, whose diplomatic tact and patience was appreciated by the members of the Committee and its Secretariat; and you, Mr. Chairman, who, in spite of your many preoccupations as the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, and as a distinguished personality in your country, has been giving the Committee and its Secretariat much of your attention. We all know that you took the initiative in enlarging the membership of the Committee, and I know that you made efforts in order to enlarge and strengthen the Outer Space Affairs Division.

In that connexion, I wish to say that ~~there is one thing I really regret,~~ ^{there is one thing I} ~~really regret,~~ and that is that I am retiring from the United Nations Secretariat before being able to render whatever service I can to the new members of the Outer Space Committee. But it is gratifying that I am leaving after the door has been opened for the enlargement of the Committee and the admission of several countries, especially developing countries. In itself that step should open up a new page in the activities of the Committee.

My thanks of course go to the Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Datcu, and to the Rapporteur, my friend Mr. Correa, with whom the Secretariat will be ^{happy} ~~XXXX~~ to co-operate in ^{preparing} ~~XXXXXX~~ the report of the Committee, as it did with his two predecessors, Ambassador Souza e Silva and Ambassador de Silos.

I served for several years as the Secretary of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and preparation of its reports was in fact the core of our work in the Secretariat. I very much appreciate the friendly co-operation I received from its Chairman, Professor Carver of Australia.

The Legal Sub-Committee is served by its efficient Secretary, Miss Kwen Chen, and her colleagues in the Legal Office. But it was my privilege to attend the meetings of the Sub-Committee and to contribute as much as I could to its work and to benefit from the deliberations of that Sub-Committee, not only in terms of widening the scope of my knowledge of space law but also in terms of benefitting

(Mr. Abdel-Ghani)

from the ability and the tact of its members in negotiating and concluding two of the most important instruments in international law: the Space Treaty and the Liability Convention. In the process I had the privilege of having ~~xxx~~ kind and friendly relationship with its present Chairman, Ambassador Wyzner, and his predecessor, Mr. Manfred Lachs, the President of the International Court of Justice.

I have certainly learned a great deal, and who could fail to learn from the chairmen of the three working groups, Ambassador Rydbeck, Mr. Franco Fiorio and Professor Chitnäs? Each is a well known authority in his field.

The opportunities offered me by working with this Committee go beyond the United Nations. It offered me the opportunity to establish both personal and formal relationships with many of the distinguished scientists in COSPAR and IAF -- people of the calibre of Professor de Jager, the President of COSPAR, and his predecessor, Professor Maurice Roy of France and Professor Luigi ~~xxxx~~ Napolitano, the President of IAF and those who preceded him in that post, and the distinguished American scientist ~~Dr. Draper~~, President of the International Academy of Astronautics and the great authority on space law, ~~xxxxxxx~~ Professor Eugene Pepin, the dean of the Institute of Space Law in Paris. Of no less importance has been the opportunity offered me in establishing the best of relations with the secretariats of the specialized agencies interested in promoting international co-operation in this field, particularly with those of UNESCO, ITU, WMO, FAO, IMCO, ICAO and WHO.

I have said that I owe a debt to the Committee. Before concluding my statement, I want to say that I owe still another debt of gratitude. In fact, it is a heavy debt. It is ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{my debt to} my colleagues in the Outer Space Affairs Division, men and women alike -- and they are equally divided, which proves it is a progressive division.

I do not want to sound modest, but I can simply say that my departure does not make much difference in the work of the Outer Space Affairs Division, thanks to the very good staff I am leaving behind me.

The members of the Committee praised the work of the Expert in Charge of Space Applications, Mr. Murthy, and his predecessor, Professor Ricciardi. I was fortunate in selecting these two knowledgeable and devoted experts, and I was

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happy to work with them in the implementation of the space applications programme. My other colleagues are, without exaggeration, among the best elements in the United Nations Secretariat. They are not only very interested in the work, and devoted to the discharge of their responsibilities, but each one knows his assignment perfectly well and carries out his job in an efficient way and at the same time they work as a team. I am proud of them all. In fact, they made my job very simple during the last two of three years, when I was only supervising the work, with each one carrying out his work to the full satisfaction of the chairmen and members of the committee and bodies he serves.

I end my farewell statement by reiterating my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, to the Vice-Chairman, to the Rapporteur and to all the members of the Committee, and wish you all success in your activities and happiness in your personal life.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Director of the Outer Space Affairs Division for his farewell statement, which contained an impressive historical and analytical review of the work of the Committee over the past years that was, I am sure, of great benefit to us all. Once again I wish to pay a tribute to Mr. Abdel-Ghani and to express our great regret at seeing him leave this most important assignment.

Mr. VELLODI (India): It is not my intention to start a number of statements on the occasion of Mr. Abdel-Ghani's departure. However, since I understand that this is his last day with us and that he is not likely to be here tomorrow, and because several delegations members from the Asian region have asked me to say a few words, I would, with the Committee's permission, like to do so, although I fully understand that you, Mr. Chairman, have spoken for all of us and Mr. Abdel-Ghani has also replied.

We had occasion to refer to Mr. Abdel-Ghani's departure when we met in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee two months ago, and for a moment I was delighted when I saw Mr. Abdel-Ghani here today because I thought he had changed his mind, but he told me no, and that this was his last day. Anyway, we are extremely happy to see him here, because I think it is fitting that he should leave us from this Committee and not from any of the Sub-Committees.

I cannot, when talking about Mr. Abdel-Ghani, refrain from speaking on a personal note. I have known him for many years -- perhaps 16 or 17. We were working in our respective delegations when I first came here. Mr. Abdel-Ghani was already by then, I believe, almost a veteran here in the United Nations, and there were many times, I remember, when I used to approach him as a colleague in a friendly delegation for advice and directions on how one should behave in the United Nations. Later we had the opportunity to work together in the Secretariat. For six or seven years we worked in the same department and shared some of the difficulties and pleasures that went with our work in the Organization. Mr. Abdel-Ghani and I have had discussions over the past five years, and on several occasions he talked to me about the possibility of his going back to serve his country. This is fate, in the sense that many

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of us who come from our Governments and work in the Secretariat have to go through the conflict of interest, on the one hand, literally the urge to get back to one's own Government and do something for one's own country, and on the other, the desire to stay on in the United Nations. After you have been here for a few years the United Nations almost gets into you, and it is much worse when you are in the Secretariat. I speak from personal experience. Therefore, the conflict must have been quite severe in the case of Mr. Abdel-Ghani after having spent perhaps an equal number of years in his delegation and in the Secretariat -- about 12 in each. And the fact that in the end he has been able to resist the urge to stay on in the Secretariat and go back to his country speaks not only for his desire to get back and to serve his country in a different capacity, in a capacity that is known to him, but the fact that he has served in the Secretariat for 12 years -- which is a long period for anyone on deputation from his Government -- is, I think, clear evidence, if evidence is necessary, of the deep dedication that he has always had to the work of the United Nations generally and to the work of the Outer Space Committee in particular.

Again on a personal note, I wish to thank Mr. Abdel-Ghani for the deep interest that he used to take in the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station. He has visited the station several times, he has represented the Secretary-General at meetings of the TERLS Advisory Committee, and we have benefited from the advice that he has given us.

I should like to conclude -- again speaking on behalf of some of the delegations from the Asian region -- by wishing Mr. Abdel-Ghani all the very best. We certainly shall miss him here, but we realize that he has to get back. He still has a number of years in front of him and I am sure his country needs his services, so we wish him well. It has been a great pleasure having him with us here and working with him.

Mr. BENNETT (United States of America): The United States, in paying a tribute to Mr. Abdel-Ghani's work in space co-operation and in expressing regret over his departure, would like to recall that, as a pioneer in space exploration, we have recognized from the first an obligation to leave future generations a full reflection of our efforts in this field of exploration. We concluded that documents, data and even photographs were not enough, and that a record at all levels of perception, including the personal and the artistic, would be needed. For that reason, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration called upon a number of distinguished artists, anticipating that they would be able to observe and depict with special insight the emotional impact and the inner meaning of the stirring exploratory events which we have all experienced during the past decade and a half. The result of that effort is a collection of more than 250 paintings, drawings and prints, which have been published in a volume called Eyewitness To Space.

It has seemed to my delegation that, in view of the significant contributions of Mr. Abdel-Ghani to the programme and the spirit of international co-operation which is so important in space activity, we could honour him no more appropriately than by presenting him with a copy of this special volume. In making this presentation, I should like to read out the sentiment which has been inscribed on the fly-leaf of this book:

"For A.H. Abdel-Ghani, Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat since its inception and himself an eyewitness to space, on behalf of the United States delegation to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, with appreciation for his distinguished service to international space co-operation."

Mr. Chairman, I shall deliver the book to Mr. Abdel-Ghani at the close of this meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed with the day's business and before I call on further speakers, I wish to obtain the Committee's concurrence on the draft programme of work which has been submitted to members as a note by the Secretariat and contains tentative proposals for the arrangement of our work according to the agenda that we have previously adopted. According to the draft programme of work, our first day, namely this afternoon, after the adoption of the agenda and statement by the Chairman, would be devoted to hearing an introductory report of the Legal Sub-Committee and then the first speakers in the general debate. Tomorrow, Tuesday, 2 July, both meetings would be devoted to the general debate. On Wednesday, 3 July, in the morning we would continue the general debate and in the afternoon we would turn to the special consideration of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, and so on.

I believe that all members have seen this note and, if it meets the broad approval of the Committee, I would suggest that we should proceed along these lines. If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Committee agrees to adopt this as our work programme, and that we should try as hard as we can to keep to the tentative time-schedule it contains.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: In accordance with the work programme just adopted, I call now on Mr. Turk, who, on behalf of the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, will make some introductory remarks on the report of the Legal Sub-Committee.

Mr. TURK (Chairman of Working Group II of the Legal Sub-Committee): It is a great privilege for me to be present here today, on behalf of the Legal Sub-Committee and its Chairman His Excellency Ambassador Eugenius Wyzner, for the purpose of submitting to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, which was adopted by the Legal Sub-Committee at its thirteenth session in May this year in Geneva.

I wish to express to you, Mr. Chairman, the deep appreciation of the Legal Sub-Committee for the profound interest you have constantly shown in its work as well as for your guidance and valuable assistance during the consultations regarding the Draft Treaty Relating to the Moon and the Draft Convention on Registration in the course of the sixteenth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1973.

For the benefit of those representatives who did not assist at the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee, and with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to give a very brief summary of the work of the Legal Sub-Committee on the various items before it, before turning to the draft convention on registration.

As members are well aware, the General Assembly, by resolution 3182 (XXVIII), dated 18 December 1973, requested that the Legal Sub-Committee should give highest priority to the Draft Treaty Relating to the Moon and the Draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. The General Assembly also requested the Sub-Committee to give high priority to the question of elaborating principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements and to devote part of its next session to the legal implications of the earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites. The General Assembly also agreed that the Sub-Committee should, as time permitted, consider matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities.

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The workload thus confronting the Legal Sub-Committee was rather heavy, but it tried its very best to comply with the requests contained in the aforementioned General Assembly resolution.

Three Working Groups were established for that purpose. Working Group I dealt with the moon treaty on the basis of a draft consisting of a preamble and twenty-one articles which were approved by the Legal Sub-Committee in 1972, six provisions endorsed by the Working Group in 1973, various informal proposals elaborated last year and also a number of new proposals made by various delegations at this year's session. The three unresolved issues regarding the moon treaty are: the scope of the treaty -- article I of the draft; the information to be furnished on missions to the moon -- article IV; and the question of the natural resources of the moon -- article X. Of those three problems, only the first, the scope of the treaty, and the third, the natural resources of the moon, have been discussed in a detailed manner in the meetings of Working Group I. The Working Group thereby focused on article X relating to the natural resources, as many delegations thought that a solution of this problem should precede that of the remaining questions. In spite of prolonged discussions, it was not possible, however, to reach agreement on the legal status of the natural resources of the moon.

I should like to recall that already last year this problem proved to be the main stumbling block in the way of the completion of the moon treaty. This year's discussions in the Legal Sub-Committee have shown again that it is unlikely that the treaty will be completed before an understanding on this question has been reached.

The Legal Sub-Committee thus finally considered that it should continue to work on the draft treaty relating to the moon at its next session as a priority item on its agenda.

Working Group II of the Legal Sub-Committee dealt with the convention on registration, on which I shall report later on in greater detail.

Working Group III was set up to discuss the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites on its fifth session (A/AC.105/127). It was decided to discuss the following principles, on which there was a high degree of consensus during the session of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites:

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applicability of international law; rights and benefits of States; international co-operation; State responsibility; and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Following consideration of various proposals submitted by delegations and also of informal papers, five principles in the aforementioned areas were formulated by a drafting group and then endorsed by Working Group III. These draft principles are, however, still quite heavily bracketed, which means that either no consensus could be reached or that there was no substantive discussion. The Sub-Committee finally expressed the opinion that it should continue its work on the matter as a priority item at its next session. In spite of the amount of work yet ahead, the Legal Sub-Committee has nevertheless already made a strenuous effort to establish legal principles in this certainly difficult field, and it is to be hoped that further substantial progress will be made in the near future.

The Legal Sub-Committee also considered matters relating to activities carried out through remote sensing satellite surveys of earth resources. The Committee had before it the text of various proposals on this matter. In view of the time taken up by the consideration of the other matters, only a short general debate on this item was possible. The Sub-Committee therefore also considered that it should continue work on this question as a priority item at its next session.

As you have already mentioned, Mr. Chairman, the Sub-Committee, because of lack of time, was unable to consider the agenda item dealing with matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities. The Sub-Committee finally also considered the question of the venue of its future sessions. In this connexion I should like to draw the Committee's attention to paragraph 11 of the Sub-Committee's report.

It is with great pleasure that I now turn to the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space as contained in paragraph 24 of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/133).

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For the Legal Sub-Committee the completion of the Draft Convention is the end of a long and sometimes difficult journey. I may recall that the General Assembly in its resolution 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961 called on States "launching objects into orbit or beyond to furnish information promptly to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space through the Secretary-General, for the registration of launchings" and requested the Secretary-General "to maintain a public registry of the information furnished".

Since then information has been published by the Secretary-General in a series with the document symbol A/AC.105/INF and the register has been maintained in the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat. Registration statements have been filed by Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States.

As early as 1968, France submitted to the Legal Sub-Committee a proposal entitled "Draft convention concerning the registration of objects launched into outer space for the exploration or use of outer space" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.45, reproduced in annex II, page 1, of A/AC.105/101).

The Legal Sub-Committee then briefly considered at its eighth (1969) session the French proposal and recommended that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee be invited to study the technical aspects of the registration of objects launched into outer space. In response to the request of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its 1970 session, after a study of the technical aspects of registration, concluded, *inter alia*, that, in the light of present knowledge and for reasons of economy and safety, a marking system to survive re-entry was not considered technically practical at the present time.

At its ninth (1970) and tenth (1971) sessions, the Legal Sub-Committee was unable to consider the question of registration further in view of the priority accorded to the Liability Convention. At the 1971 session, the Legal Sub-Committee, having completed the draft convention on liability, gave consideration to its further work. This consideration led to the recommendation to the Outer Space Committee that the latter consider the desirability of establishing a priority

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order for several important subjects to be included in the agenda of the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee. At its 1971 session, the Outer Space Committee recommended that priority be given to matters relating to the registration of objects launched into space for the exploration and use of outer space, and to questions relating to the moon.

Substantive discussion of the registration convention therefore began at the eleventh (1972) session of the Legal Sub-Committee, which had before it the aforementioned French proposal. During the session a draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space was submitted by the delegation of Canada (A/AC.105/C.2/L.82, reproduced in annex II, page 4, of A/AC.105/101). Following consultations between the two sponsors, the French and Canadian drafts were combined into a single draft convention (A/AC.105/C.2/L.83, reproduced in annex IX, page 7, of A/AC.105/101). The Legal Sub-Committee re-established a working group of the whole to consider the provisions of the joint draft convention. The Working Group formulated a preamble and nine articles (A/AC.105/101, para. 31) including provisions on which agreement was not reached and which were placed in square brackets. The Legal Sub-Committee noted the texts prepared by the Working Group and was of the opinion that the draft convention on registration required further consideration as a matter of priority. In fact, most of the provisions formulated by the Working Group were placed in square brackets. The only provisions on which agreement was reached in the Working Group were the establishment of national registration by States individually or jointly and the maintenance of a central register by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, while the contents of such registers -- that is, the information to be furnished -- remained a matter of disagreement.

Essentially disagreement centred on the question of the marking of the space objects. At its twelfth (1973) session, the Legal Sub-Committee resumed its consideration of the draft convention on registration. A proposal entitled "Convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space" was submitted by the United States (A/AC.105/C.2/L.85, reproduced in annex II, page 1, of A/AC.105/115); and Canada and France replaced their previous joint proposal by a proposal for a "Convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.86, reproduced in annex II, page 6, of document A/AC.105/115), which was based on the text elaborated by the Sub-Committee at its

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previous session, together with certain changes and amendments. The Sub-Committee re-established Working Group II to consider those proposals. Following this consideration and after substantial informal consultations, the Working Group approved the texts of a preamble and 10 articles, as well as the title of the draft convention (A/AC.105/115, para. 24).

In my capacity as Chairman of Working Group II, I then reported to the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of that group, drawing the attention of the Sub-Committee, *inter alia*, to the questions on which no agreement had been reached; these were: the question of the marking of space objects and the question of the inclusion of a review clause. Differences of views on marking ranged from considering marking as an essential element of registration to regarding marking as not technically feasible and therefore considering that no reference to it should be included in the convention.

The Legal Sub-Committee took note of the texts approved by Working Group II, which did not include provisions concerning the aforementioned unresolved issues -- and recommended that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should make its best efforts to complete the draft Convention relating to registration at its sixteenth session, in June-July 1973.

Following that recommendation of the Legal Sub-Committee the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its last session established an informal Working Group, under the chairmanship of the Chairman of this Committee, which was able to agree on the text of a review clause. No agreement could, however, be reached on the question of marking. The different views on this question were summarized by the Chairman of the informal working group as follows:

"... a number of delegations maintained the view that any provision on marking should be mandatory and was an indispensable element of the convention. The view was also held that it would be desirable to include an article providing for marking applied internally or externally on the space object at the time of the manufacture and for communication of this fact to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A further view was advanced that the convention should not contain any provision on marking because there was not now available, nor will it be in the foreseeable future, an economically

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feasible or technologically practicable marking system. The opinion was expressed that a reasonable compromise might be the adoption of a provision for non-compulsory marking, but making mandatory the providing of information on such marking to the Secretary-General."

As it had thus not been possible to finalize the Draft Convention on Registration, the General Assembly in its resolution 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 recommended, as I have already stated, that the Legal Sub-Committee should, as a matter of highest priority, make every effort to complete that draft convention at its next session.

The Legal Sub-Committee at its thirteenth session, held in Geneva from 6 to 31 May 1974, re-established Working Group II in order to pursue its work on the Draft Convention on Registration. Working Group II thereby based itself on the text of a Draft Convention on Registration contained in appendix B of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (General Assembly Official Records, twenty-eighth session, Supplement No. 20 (A/9020)); that text consisted of a preamble and 10 articles as well as the title of a Draft Convention -- which were, as I have already mentioned, approved by Working Group II during the twelfth session of the Legal Sub-Committee in 1973 and taken note of by the Sub-Committee at that session -- and a review clause approved by the afore-mentioned informal working group of the Outer Space Committee in 1973, as well as a provision on marking of space objects which had been worked out at that time in informal consultations and submitted to member Governments for consideration, but on which no agreement had been reached.

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The discussions in Working Group II focused mainly on the marking provision contained in article III (bis) on page 40 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. After various proposals on this question had been submitted by a number of delegations, a compromise article on marking was finally agreed upon in the course of informal consultations. As this provision provides for voluntary marking and a substantial number of delegations had been of the opinion that a convention on registration should contain a provision on mandatory marking, a further compromise was reached during the aforementioned informal consultations to amend the review clause contained in article VIII (bis) on page 42 of the report of the Outer Space Committee. I shall give more details on these provisions in the further course of my report.

After further informal consultations, Working Group II was able to approve the entire text of a Draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space on 27 May 1974. In the course of these informal consultations, the desire was also expressed to entrust the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the function of Depositary of the Registration Convention. Agreement to change the final clauses of the Draft Convention accordingly was reached and the revised final clauses were endorsed by the Working Group. A drafting group set up by Working Group II made the necessary final adjustments of all the authentic texts of the Draft Convention. One matter, however, was left undecided, as you have already mentioned in your statement, Mr. Chairman, and that is the reference to the Moon Treaty in the fifth preambular paragraph; the feeling was expressed in Working Group II that a decision on this matter should be left to the parent Committee. As Chairman of Working Group II, I then had the privilege of submitting the Draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space to the Legal Sub-Committee -- which approved the draft convention at its 222nd meeting on 28 May 1974.

At this juncture I should like to emphasize the fact that the Draft Convention on Registration before this Committee today is a tribute to all the members of the Legal Sub-Committee; to their tireless and unending endeavours to find solutions to complex issues, to their strenuous efforts to reconcile divergent points of view and different legal traditions, and to their spirit of compromise

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and co-operation displayed at the most difficult moments of our negotiations. It is, therefore, with profound admiration for the hard work of this group of eminent jurists that I am now presenting the Draft Convention on Registration to this Committee. In this connexion I should also like to pay tribute to the significant role played by the members of the Secretariat in assisting the work of the Legal Sub-Committee; their competence and devotion has greatly facilitated the work of the Sub-Committee.

Permit me now, Mr. Chairman, to give a brief outline of the text of the Draft Convention itself as contained in the report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/133) and to which you have already referred in your introductory statement.

The preamble refers to the so far existing international legal instruments relating to outer space. These are: the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, of 1966; the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, of 1967; and the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, of 1971.

The preamble, furthermore, sets out the purposes of the Convention: namely, to make provision for the national registration by launching States of space objects launched into outer space; for a central registry of objects launched into outer space to be established and maintained on a mandatory basis by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and to provide additional means and procedures for States Parties to assist them in the identification of space objects. In this connexion the States Parties express their belief that a mandatory system of registering objects launched into outer space would, in particular, assist in their identification and would contribute to the application and development of international law governing the exploration and use of outer space.

Article I contains the definitions of "launching State" and "space object"; both terms correspond to article I (c) and (d) of the Liability Convention. Furthermore, the term "State of registry" is defined as a launching State on whose registry a space object is carried in accordance with article II. In this

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context I should like to refer to article VIII of the Outer Space Treaty, which refers, *inter alia*, to a State Party on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried.

Article II concerns national registration: its paragraph 1 provides for registration by the launching State of a space object launched into earth orbit or beyond in an appropriate registry; the Secretary-General of the United Nations is to be informed of the establishment of such a registry. This article does not, however, lay down any stipulations as to the contents and the conditions for establishing and maintaining this registry; these are, according to paragraph 3 of Article II, left to the discretion of the State of registry concerned. Paragraph 2 of article II deals with the question of registering a space object which has been launched by two or more States; in such case these States shall jointly determine which one is to enter the space object on its registry, whereby the provisions of article VIII of the Outer Space Treaty -- which provide for jurisdiction and control of a space object being in outer space or on a celestial body by the State on whose registry the object is carried -- have to be borne in mind; specific agreements which the launching States have concluded or might conclude on jurisdiction and control over the space object and over any personnel thereof remain however unaffected by the fact that a particular launching State agrees to register the space object in accordance with this article.

Articles III, IV and V deal with the Register which the Secretary-General of the United Nations is to maintain, and the provision by States of information concerning space objects to be included in that Register. Article III, which provides for the establishment of this Register, also stipulates that there shall be full and open access to the information contained therein, a provision which is, *inter alia*, of considerable importance to the international scientific community.

Article IV, paragraph 1, sets forth the various types of information each State of registry is required to transmit to the Secretary-General; the information required largely follows the reporting practice employed by various countries engaged in space activities already for a number of years. Accordingly, a State of registry has to transmit the name of the launching State or States,

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an appropriate designator of the space object or its registration number, the date and territory or location of launch, basic orbital parameters, including nodal period, inclination, apogee and perigee, as well as an indication of the general function of the space object. This information is to be forwarded as soon as practicable -- which means that the Convention does not lay down any specific requirement as to the time for providing this information; this is left to the State of registry to determine.

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Paragraph 2 of article IV provides that a State of registry may transmit, from time to time, additional information to the aforementioned Register. Paragraph 3 of this article stipulates that the Secretary-General shall be notified by the State of registry to the greatest extent feasible and as soon as practicable of space objects concerning which it has previously transmitted information and which have been but no longer are in earth orbit. This provision is meant to ensure that the Secretary-General's Register is kept up-to-date as far as possible.

Article V contains the provision on marking of space objects which had, as I have already mentioned, given rise to considerable difficulties during the negotiations. The present provision embodies a compromise between those delegations which had insisted on the compulsory marking of space objects and those which held the view that marking was not economically feasible or technologically practicable -- that is to say, it would not survive re-entry into the atmosphere. Article V accordingly states that whenever a space object launched into earth orbit or beyond is marked with an appropriate designator or registration number referred to in article IV (1) (b), or both, the State of registry shall notify the Secretary-General of this fact when submitting information regarding the space object in accordance with article IV. This notification is also to be recorded in the Secretary-General's Register. Article V thus provides for voluntary marking while stipulating mandatory reporting to the Secretary-General.

Article VI provides that States parties, in particular those possessing space monitoring and tracking facilities, shall respond to the greatest extent feasible to requests by a State party for identification of a space object which has caused damage to it or which may be of a hazardous or deleterious nature in cases where the application of the provisions of this Convention has not yet enabled that State party to identify such a space object. Such assistance shall be granted under equitable and reasonable conditions whereby the requesting State shall submit information as to the time, nature and circumstances of the events giving rise to the request; the precise arrangement in this connexion shall be the object of agreement between the parties concerned. In a way, this provision complements the provision on marking, as the basic reason for the attempt to introduce compulsory marking has been apprehensions of not being able to identify

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a space object which has caused damage or which is regarded as potentially harmful. In that context I should also like to recall that Working Group II has reached agreement that the term "damage" as used in this article is used in the same sense as in the outer-space Treaty -- see article VII of that Treaty.

Article VII of the Registration Convention lays down the conditions under which the Convention shall be deemed to apply to any international inter-governmental organization which conducts space activities and is identical to article XII, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Liability Convention.

Articles VIII through XII contain the final clauses. Article VIII deals with signature, ratification and accession, and entrusts the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the function of Depositary. In this connexion, it was understood by the Legal Sub-Committee that the precedent established by the General Assembly on 14 December 1973 in relation to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons including Diplomatic Agents would be followed. The Convention shall enter into force after the deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification.

Article IX concerns the amendment procedure, whereby any State Party to the Convention may propose amendments, and is identical to article XXV of the Liability Convention.

Article X contains the review clause and provides that the question of the review of the Convention shall be included in the provisional agenda of the United Nations General Assembly ten years after its entry into force in order to consider, in the light of past applications of the Convention, whether it requires revision. However, at any time after the Convention has been in force for five years, and at the request of one third of the States parties to the Convention, and with the concurrence of the majority of the States parties, a conference of the States parties shall be convened to review the Convention. This wording corresponds to article XXVI of the Liability Convention. In order to meet the demands of those delegations which had favoured mandatory marking, this review clause furthermore expressly states that

"such review shall take into account in particular any relevant technological developments, including those relating to the identification of space objects".

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Thus an eventual review of the Convention will have to take into account progress of space technology whereby the provisions of the Convention enabling States Parties to identify space objects might be adapted accordingly.

Article XI concerns the withdrawal of States parties from the Convention. Notice of withdrawal is permitted one year after entry into force of the Convention, and such withdrawal shall take effect one year thereafter. This article corresponds to article XXVII of the Liability Convention.

Finally, Article XII refers to the authentic texts of the Convention, Arabic having been included.

The Draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space thus represents a new and important step forward in the development of space law -- the *corpus juris spatialis* -- and will, I am sure, very usefully complement the existing international agreements in this field, in particular the Liability Convention. The Draft Convention may not seem to be perfect to all delegations in all its aspects, but its provisions certainly reflect the common ground the Legal Sub-Committee was able to obtain after intense and protracted negotiations whereby concessions had to be made on all sides -- but concessions constitute the very essence of consensus. The members of the Legal Sub-Committee, after long efforts and after overcoming quite a number of obstacles, earnestly hopes that this Convention, which it submits to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for approval, will meet the expectations of its parent Committee and will, furthermore, in due course gain world-wide acceptance.

In conclusion, I now warmly wish to commend to this Committee the Draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

The CHAIRMAN: We have taken note of the statement of the Chairman of Working Group II of the Legal Sub-Committee.

GENERAL DEBATE

The CHAIRMAN: In accordance with our programme of work, we shall now commence the general debate. As members will have noticed from the proposed work programme, only three and a half meetings will be devoted to the general debate. It will greatly assist the work of this session if members of the Committee planning to make statements during the general debate will notify the Secretary of the Committee in advance of meetings so that their names may be placed on the list of speakers, and it would be particularly helpful if a specific time could be mentioned.

In order that the general debate may be arranged in an appropriate manner, I would also propose that we agree to close the list of speakers in the general debate by 12 noon tomorrow, if that meets with the Committee's approval.

It was so decided.

Mr. PIRADOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): This session of our Committee is opening at a very significant time, when the entire world is closely following the visit of the President of the United States, Richard Nixon, to the Soviet Union. It is hard to overestimate the importance of this event for the destiny of the world and for the development of international co-operation. For us, members of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, it is highly symbolic and significant that today the inhabitants of many countries are obtaining information by means of space technology about the visit of the United States President to our country, just as, one year ago, they were able by the same means to obtain information about the visit to the United States of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev.

Outer space serves the cause of peace; it serves the cause of friendship and mutual understanding among peoples. Outer space brings people together, people who live in the most remote corners of the world, and it makes them witnesses to and in a certain way direct participants in the most important international events. Our task is to assign this noble function for ever to outer space.

During the year that has elapsed since the last session of the United Nations Outer Space Committee, the Soviet Union has, in accordance with the directives of the Twenty-Fourth Congress of the Communist Party setting forth the five-year plan, carried out planned implementation of scientific tasks in outer space for the purpose of further developing telecommunications, television and meteorological forecasting, the study of natural resources, geographic studies and solutions for other economic tasks by the use of satellites, automatic and manned apparatus, as well as fundamental scientific studies of outer space and of the planets of the solar system.

Together with the more important events of the past year in the field of space study, we could mention the launching last summer on the Earth-Mars trajectory of four automatic spaceships for the purpose of studying the "red planet", that is, Mars, and the launching in September 1973 at a very high orbit for manned spaceship of Soyuz-12.

(Mr. Piradov, USSR)

The crew of the Soyuz-13 space ship had on board a small observatory by means of which various astronomical observations were carried out, among them observations of the comet Kohoutek, as a result of which very important data were obtained about natural resources and the structure of the earth and its water-courses.

On 2 June 1974 the Soviet automatic space ship Luna-22 was put into lunar orbit and that space ship will deal with very important scientific tasks. After the implementation of a number of manoeuvres and after completing the programme of television photographing, a second, corrective orbit was applied to the space ship on 13 June, as a result of which its epicentre was raised to 299 kilometres and its pericentre was raised to 181 kilometres. Such an orbit ensures the appropriate conditions for carrying out studies of the moon's gravitational field which was begun by the Luna 19 automatic space ship in 1971.

Quite recently, on 25 June 1974, under the study programme for outer space our country launched the scientific space ship Salut-3. The purpose of that launching is to perfect the design of space ships, on-board systems and their apparatus and to carry out scientific and technical studies and experiments in outer space.

The emergence of the means for space technology has opened up tremendous possibilities for direct study and conquest of the space surrounding our own planet. The very scope and variety of these tasks, which can be accomplished through these scientific methods, make it imperative for international co-operation among States to be carried out -- all the more so since the fruits of space study will, in the final analysis, be enjoyed by all mankind. For example, such studies will promote the creation of peaceful coexistence among States having different political and social systems. This shows that despite ideological contradictions and social and economic differences such countries can begin fruitful scientific and technical co-operation and promote mutual understanding. The basis for such co-operation is to be found in the principles of peaceful coexistence of States, mutual respect and, of course, mutual advantage.

(Mr. Piradov, USSR)

The Soviet Union is co-operating with many States which wish to make their contribution to the study and conquest of outer space. We have businesslike and co-operative relations with the other countries of the socialist commonwealth. By the joint efforts of those countries, a broad complex of studies is being carried out under the title "Intercosmos". One of the activities of the Intercosmos programme was the launching of the earth satellite Intercosmos-11 into outer space on 17 May. On board that space ship there was various scientific apparatus which had been manufactured by specialists of the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. Throughout the seven years of the Intercosmos programme there have been joint studies of scientists of the socialist commonwealth which have achieved a very high level. At present, space studies are being carried out in four directions: space physics, space meteorology, space telecommunications and space biology and medicine.

(Mr. Piradov, USSR)

Each country makes its own appropriate contribution to the joint studies, which in turn promotes scientific and technical development of the countries concerned.

The two leading space Powers have now been co-operating for a number of years in the field of space study. A very important event of international scope was the signing in 1972 during a high-level meeting between Soviet and American officials of the Agreement on co-operation in the study and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. Hence, as can be seen, this co-operation is being achieved. One of its purposes is to provide for the creation of appropriate means of docking of Soviet and American manned space ships. The training programme planned for the joint launching of the Soyuz and Apollo space ships in 1975 is being carried out very actively and in a very businesslike atmosphere. Already there have been several meetings of Soviet and American astronauts who will participate in this flight; there have also been meetings of specialists who are preparing this unique experiment.

At the present time, at the space training centre named after Yuri Gagarin, in the Moscow suburb of Zvezdnyy, a meeting is being held between Soviet and American astronauts. This meeting is not just for the purpose of getting acquainted. The working days are filled with training programmes and with the preparation of methods to transfer from one space ship to another and other measures. The implementation of the Soyuz-Apollo project will be an important step in the development of joint efforts in outer space by the two leading space Powers and will open up broad perspectives for strengthening international co-operation as a whole.

This large programme of joint work in outer space has been carried out for several years now with India, France, Sweden and a number of other countries. Co-operation in studying outer space is being carried on very actively between the Soviet Union and India. For example, we are developing very successful contacts between Soviet and Indian scientists in carrying out the launching of an Indian satellite using a Soviet rocket.

In accordance with the agreement concluded in 1966 between the Soviet Union and France calling for co-operation in the field of the study and conquest of outer space for peaceful purposes, a number of joint measures are being carried out by the two countries. In October 1973, in the City of Ajaccio, in Corsica, a

(Mr. Piradov, USSR)

meeting was held between Soviet and French scientists at which the results of the development of co-operation and joint efforts in studying outer space were drawn up, particularly as regards the fields of space meteorology and space communications as well as space biology and medicine. Space biology represents a very important part of Soviet-French co-operation. These joint experiments will help us solve problems relating to immunology or physiology in conditions of weightlessness. A decision was taken concerning carrying out joint experiments of the "bioblock" type by using artificial satellites.

In the view of the Soviet and French scientists and political leaders, co-operation between the two countries is proceeding very successfully and has already made a very useful contribution in the development of space science and in strengthening friendly relations between France and the Soviet Union. A clear indication of French-Soviet co-operation in matters relating to outer space is the presentation by the Soviet and French delegations at the thirteenth session of the Legal Sub-Committee of a joint working document which contained the Draft Principles Governing Remote Sensing of the Earth Resources from Outer Space.

I should now like to comment on the report of the Legal Sub-Committee. At the outset, I should like to point out that the Soviet delegation has on the whole a very positive view of the work done by the thirteenth session of this Sub-Committee. As is known, the Legal Sub-Committee's agenda included two high priority items, namely, the Draft Treaty Relating to the Moon and the Draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Both these items were discussed in detail at the session. Furthermore, it was possible to come to a full agreement on the draft convention on registration. We consider that to be a very great success in the work of the Sub-Committee and we should like very sincerely to congratulate all those delegations which participated in the preparation of this draft.

At the same time, we should like to stress that the Soviet delegation, like many other delegations, has always considered both these priority matters as very closely interrelated -- so closely interrelated, in fact, that the Draft Convention on Registration includes a reference to the Moon treaty. That has reflected the

(Mr. Piradov, USSR)

general hope that work on both these drafts will be concluded more or less in the same time.

Guided by a spirit of mutual understanding and our desire to achieve constructive results, our delegation will not insist that the Draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space should be submitted for the approval of the General Assembly only at the same time as the Draft Treaty Relating to the Moon. However, we should like to state that the preparation of the Draft Treaty Relating to the Moon remains a priority item on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee, and on that of the Committee as a whole, and it should be completed within a very short time.

(Mr. Piradov, USSR)

In particular, we suggest that, following last year's example, during this session of the Committee a working group should be set up to deal with the draft moon treaty and to study the possibilities of settling promptly all outstanding questions in the light of the results of the work of the thirteenth session of the Legal Sub-Committee. These possibilities are available; they do exist.

Thus during the session of the Legal Sub-Committee a certain change in the positions of a number of delegations was observed as regards the question of the natural resources of the moon. Interesting proposals were made by the delegations of Bulgaria, Mongolia and Czechoslovakia, and those proposals have enabled us to assess very soberly the possible approaches to solving this question.

The most promising solution to the problem, however, was to be found in the original text of the draft treaty that was submitted by the Soviet Union. Its basic purpose was that there should not be included in the draft moon treaty a provision concerning the régime for the use and exploitation of the moon's natural resources -- while keeping open the possibility of preparing, at a subsequent phase, a special international agreement on the natural resources of the moon. We consider the expression of this realistic approach to be one of the most important results of the past session of the Legal Sub-Committee, and we call on all delegations not to lose valuable time and to study this approach very carefully.

The Legal Sub-Committee held a lengthy discussion on the legal regulation of activities in the field of direct television broadcasting. We welcome the fact that the Sub-Committee came to a concrete formulation of the draft of the corresponding principles that were prepared for the purpose of concluding an international agreement or agreements, as is provided for in General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII). Only the first step has been taken; only the bases of these texts have been prepared, because these texts are full of brackets. However, this is a very important step in the right direction, and one which, we do not doubt, will lead us to success.

The Soviet delegation considers the problem of settling and regulating activities in the field of direct television broadcasting to be one of the most important problems of modern space law, and this is evidenced by the draft convention submitted by the Soviet Union in 1972.

(Mr. Piradov, USSR)

We call on the Committee to give this problem its most careful attention and to direct its Legal Sub-Committee to continue the preparation of principles governing activities in the field of direct television broadcasting as a high-priority item on its agenda.

We consider it important to stress that it is not the Working Group on Direct Television Broadcasting, but rather the Legal Sub-Committee itself, which, in our view, should deal with this very important, responsible task. Only the Legal Sub-Committee is able to approach this task with all due understanding of the political and legal problems involved.

Finally, the Sub-Committee carried out an interesting exchange of views on the legal regulation of activities in the field of remote sensing of the earth. I have already mentioned the joint Soviet-French draft of principles in this field which was presented at the Sub-Committee's session. We are also familiar with other proposals on the problem of remote sensing. Our delegation has consistently proclaimed the need of preparing an international legal document that would regulate activities on remote earth sensing, and we believe that this matter also deserves priority consideration in the Legal Sub-Committee's work. We are ready to hold a very broad exchange of views with interested delegations for the purpose of accelerating the preparation of such a document.

We have before us also the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the work of its eleventh session, which was held last April. This document gives us reason to state that the Sub-Committee has achieved certain specific results in its work. The basic item on which that Sub-Committee's attention has recently been concentrated is that of remote sensing of the earth. In the Sub-Committee's report we see a recommendation that the Secretary-General of the United Nations be requested to carry out broad studies on the question of organizing international co-operation in this field and on the financial implications of such studies. We hope that such studies will enable the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to carry out useful work in connexion with the problem of remote sensing of the earth.

(Mr. Piradov, USSR)

In evaluating the results of the work done by the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, which submitted its final report to the Sub-Committee, we are inclined to conclude that that Working Group has fulfilled its task. We believe that further consideration of the technical and organizational aspects of remote sensing should be carried out directly in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee itself, without convening another working group for that purpose at this session. Thus this whole problem should be concentrated in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and all legal aspects of this problem should be entrusted to the Legal Sub-Committee.

At the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's session great attention was given to the United Nations programme on the applications of space technology. This programme has been applied for some years now and, generally speaking, successfully. However, the questions of the most rational utilization of the resources and funds assigned to the programme and of the most promising fields of activity for the programme are, in the view of our delegation, of extremely timely importance.

Now I should like to address a few words to Mr. Abdel-Ghani, Director of the Outer Space Affairs Division.

We have known Mr. Abdel-Ghani for some time now and we very highly appreciate his merits. We are very sorry to see him leaving us today, but we wish him success in the new career he has chosen; we wish him good health and happiness.

(Mr. Piradov, USSR)

I am very pleased to announce to Mr. Abdel-Ghani that the Soviet Academy of Sciences has entrusted me with the honour of presenting to him a memorial medal and a letter from the Soviet Intercosmos Society because of his contribution to the development of international co-operation in the conquest of space, and I shall do this with great pleasure immediately after the conclusion of today's meeting.

Our Committee also has before it a number of items which could be grouped together under the title of organizational matters. As might be inferred from my statement, the Soviet delegation does not consider it useful to convene in 1975 any of the Committee's Working Groups. In view of the fact that we have such important subject Sub-Committees as the two which we do have, we do not consider it useful to create additional working groups because by so doing we would be departing from our basic task, which is that of focusing all our attention on the Sub-Committees' work, rather than diverting our attention from the Sub-Committees' work to the Working Groups' work.

We would also like to suggest that we review the decision that has been taken by the Committee concerning the rotation of the sessions of its Legal Sub-Committee between Geneva and New York and, beginning in 1975, to hold sessions of that Sub-Committee only in Geneva. The reasons for which the Soviet delegation favoured the abrogation of the rotation system have been set forth on many occasions and I hardly need repeat them.

I should simply like to add that, upon the request of the Soviet delegation, the Secretariat of the United Nations Office in Geneva prepared a document concerning the financial implications of holding sessions of the Sub-Committee in Geneva, which has been appended to the Sub-Committee's document. We see from this document that, after the introduction of the new system of United Nations planning and financing, holding the Legal Sub-Committee's session in Geneva would not be more expensive than holding them in New York and, as a matter of fact, would be much cheaper. Furthermore, the United Nations Secretariat in Geneva would prefer to use this period of time for various types of meetings because it considers it a rather slack period.

(Mr. Piradov, USSR)

It seems to us that all this represents a very good reason for holding the fourteenth session of Legal Sub-Committee in Geneva during the months of March and April 1975. We would request you, Mr. Chairman, on the basis of the very authoritative conclusions drawn by the United Nations Secretariat in Geneva, to arrange for the necessary measures and to prepare the appropriate documents and recommendations for the General Assembly, which would provide for the convening of the fourteenth and all following sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee in Geneva, and this on a permanent basis.

As to the sessions of the Committee itself, our past two years of experience has demonstrated the difficulties that have arisen in preparing these sessions. We therefore would prefer to go back to the previous procedure when sessions of the Committee were held at the end of August and the beginning of September.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to wish you and all our colleagues on the Committee every possible success in their work at this session.

The CHAIRMAN: I wonder whether any delegation wishes at this stage to participate in the general debate.

Mr. VELLODI (India): I do not wish to participate in the general debate since the statement of the Indian delegation is not ready. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to refer to a point that was contained in the extremely important statement that was just made by the delegation of the Soviet Union. May I do so?

The CHAIRMAN: I suppose that we should perhaps first listen to statements in the general debate and then deal with various parts of them when the appropriate time comes. So perhaps the representative of India would reserve his comments for the items on the agenda under which the relevant part of the statement came.

Mr. VELLODI (India): With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to make the point at this stage because it is rather important, certainly for my delegation, to know what you intend doing regarding the suggestion which I believe has been made in the Soviet statement that we might during the meetings of the main Committee at this session have -- if I understand correctly -- a meeting of Working Group I on the Draft Treaty Relating to the Moon. Perhaps I have misunderstood the statement but if I was correct in understanding that it is the Soviet suggestion that such an attempt might be made during this session, as was done last year, then I would like to make two observations.

One is that last year we did consider the legal questions during the meetings of the main Committee, if I remember right, primarily because the Legal Sub-Committee last year made a recommendation to that effect. As far as I know, the Legal Sub-Committee has not made any recommendation to that effect at this time. The Legal Sub-Committee's work was over a month ago, and although I say this with some hesitation, because my delegation would be the last to come in the way of any progress or any attempts at making progress in this important issue concerning the Draft Treaty Relating to the Moon, we do have practical difficulties.

Our delegation is not equipped as of now to deal, whether in an informal working group or in formal session, with the Draft Treaty Relating to the Moon. As you know, Mr. Chairman, we do have the sea-bed meetings in Caracas, to which our legal people have gone, and I am not sure whether the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee is expected to be present during our session. These are just points that I would like to mention, because the earlier the decision is taken, the better, Mr. Chairman. If you take a decision that we must consider this and follow it up, please let us know soon enough so that we can make arrangements.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to say that the Chairman certainly cannot rule or decide whether or not to set up a working group. It may be recalled that, with regard to certain recommendations and wishes expressed by the Legal Sub-Committee last year, we decided on a procedure to pursue consultations among ourselves to achieve progress on the two main Conventions before the Legal Sub-Committee at that time. We adopted that decision at the last session of the Committee in order to achieve progress.

We certainly could not meet here as Working Group I of the Legal Sub-Committee, because that Working Group belongs to the Legal Sub-Committee and is not a sub-organ of this Committee. However, I am prepared, if the Committee so wishes, and if there is a general feeling that we should proceed with consultations, to assist in arranging for delegations to engage in such consultations. Now, a desire to that effect has been expressed by the Soviet delegation, and if further delegations should wish procedures for consultations to be set up, I think the Committee could provide some mechanism under the informal chairmanship of any delegation willing to assume that function.

I see from the report of the Legal Sub-Committee that in Geneva Working Group I was represented by the representative of Hungary, Working Group II by the representative of Austria and Working Group III by the representative of India. We could follow that pattern, or any other pattern agreeable to the Committee, and set up a working group.

At this stage, however, I do not feel that I have heard enough comments from the Committee on this matter. I shall therefore take note of the suggestion of the representative of the Soviet Union, and perhaps in the course of tomorrow, when further statements will be made in the general debate, the Committee will be in a better position to see what it should do in this matter.

At present, there is only one name on the list of speakers for the 132nd meeting, scheduled for tomorrow at 10.30 a.m. I would appeal to those delegations wishing to speak in the general debate to place their names on the list of speakers before leaving this room.

(The Chairman)

In the light of past experience, I would also appeal to members to come to meetings at the appointed hour. I shall try to call meetings to order as close to the scheduled time as possible -- 10.30 in the morning and 3 o'clock in the afternoon. In recent years we have lost considerable time. As I said earlier, just three and a half meetings are reserved for the general debate, so please let us go forward tomorrow morning by keeping very close to the schedule.

I wish to announce that an informal meeting will take place in Conference Room 6 at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow -- that is, just before our afternoon meeting -- for the purpose of drafting the questionnaire referred to earlier.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

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CONFERENCE ROOM 6
2.30 p.m.

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UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



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5 July 1974

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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 1 July 1974, at 3 p.m.

Corrigendum

Page 36, line 4, and pages 37-53, carry-over line

For Mr. TURK read Mr. TUERK

Pages 38-40

Lines 14 and 15: for The Committee read The Sub-Committee

Page 43

Line 21: after under the chairmanship of the insert distinguished

Page 46

Line 29: after Convention on Registration insert is

Page 48

Line 24: after Register insert a full stop

Page 51

Line 29: for arrangement read arrangements

Page 53

Line 12: for corpus ruris spatialis read corpus juris spatialis

Lines 20 and 21 should read

hope that this Convention, which they submit to the Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space for approval, will meet the expectations of their parent