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ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING

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

Chairman:

Mr. JANKOWITSCH

(Austria)

- General debate (continued)
- Report of the Legal Sub-Committee

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

74-83016

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

Mr. AHMAD (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving my country's delegation this opportunity, which is indeed our very first, to address the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. First of all I wish to express our profound appreciation and thanks to you and to other distinguished representatives for the warm and kind words of welcome to the new members of the Committee, which also include my country's delegation. May I assure you that we will not be wanting in our efforts to contribute towards the excellent and highly useful work of this Committee of the United Nations which has the good fortune of being presided over by a distinguished and respected person like you, Mr. Chairman, and which had the honour of being chaired earlier by a man no less than the present Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Looking back to the work accomplished by the various bodies of the Committee, my delegation would like to avail itself of this opportunity to congratulate them for the excellent work done this year in their respective sessions. We find it particularly heartening that Working Group II of the Legal Sub-Committee succeeded in producing the Draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Looking ahead to the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee, my delegation is of the view that --- as indeed was also mentioned by the representative of Japan yesterday --- all three major questions, namely the Draft Treaty relating to the Moon, use of direct broadcast satellites and matters relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellites, should be regarded as equally entitled to the priority attention of that Sub-Committee.

With regard to the last two mentioned areas, my delegation would support guiding principles which would promote development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of man on earth. Those developments should take place with due regard to sovereignty of States and every care should be exercised so that new conflicts do not arise between member States in respect of activities of each other. Having pointed out this need, my delegation would at the same time like to emphasize that the possible benefits of these powerful media, with promise of immense contribution to socio-economic amelioration of the common man, especially in the developing countries, must not be allowed to go to waste due to over-elaboration of precautionary aspects to meet various apprehensions.

(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

International co-operation in space research and applications is the cornerstone of the work of this Committee. My delegation will therefore actively support all measures leading to furtherance of international co-operation. Realizing that most of the developing countries need access to education and training facilities in the field of space technology applications, my delegation welcomes the holding of interregional/regional seminars, training workshops and panels in different countries with the sponsorship of the United Nations and its agencies.

Thus we look forward with interest to the regional seminar on remote sensing to be held in Indonesia in 1975. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to inform the Committee that the Government of Pakistan is considering hosting a regional seminar workshop in remote sensing applications some time in the latter part of 1976.

With regard to the United Nations space applications programme in general, my delegation is of the view that long-term planning of this programme should be given priority consideration in the next year's work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. We believe that the contents and scope of this programme need to be enlarged very considerably. My delegation has accordingly co-sponsored the proposal to elicit opinions of Member States of the United Nations on this subject and other related matters through a questionnaire which is now before the Committee for consideration and approval. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to inform the Committee that, the Government of Pakistan has prepared its response to last year's questionnaire, though rather belatedly, concerning remote sensing of the earth by satellites. This response will be transmitted to the United Nations Secretariat very shortly.

Finally, my delegation would like to extend its support to the view expressed by the representative of Italy that preparatory work for the holding of the Second United Nations Conference on Space Applications should be expedited, and this session of the Committee may wish to give a preliminary consideration to this matter rather than wait until next year when in-depth study of various relevant aspects might have been covered by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom): Since we are now approaching the end of our general debate, allow me to remove a metaphorical figleaf and reveal to the Committee that the United Kingdom delegation has nothing substantially different to offer on this occasion than the contributions our representatives have made at the various related meetings over the last 12 months. Nevertheless, if only to put it on record that our position on the issues before us remains constant, I should like to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the general debate to give the United Kingdom's view on the work of the various Sub-Committees and Working Groups since this Committee's last session.

Before doing so, I would associate the United Kingdom delegation with those delegations that have already expressed their appreciation of Mr. Abdel-Ghani's work in the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations, our sorrow at his departure and our best wishes for his future career.

May I also join those delegations that have extended a warm welcome to the new members of the Committee.

I turn first to the Legal Sub-Committee. The agreement on the registration convention so vividly described by Mr. Tuerk represents a worthy achievement for the last session of this Committee, and we look forward to being able to endorse the text at this meeting and to the rapid entry into force of its provisions.

We have noted that the drafting of a moon treaty proved less susceptible to agreement. The questions of the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies, the scope of the treaty and the timing of advance notifications about missions to the moon are important issues, and it is only understandable that Governments are cautious in committing themselves to binding agreements on these questions. None the less, now that the Legal Sub-Committee is to consider the treaty as a matter of priority at its next session we can feel some confidence that faster progress will be made.

As regards direct broadcast satellites, the Committee made a certain amount of progress with the elaboration of the five principles, but there is clearly a long way to go before any agreement can be reached, and we therefore consider that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue its task urgently next year. We also fully appreciate the arguments for reconvening the Working Group on Direct

(Mr. Broad, United Kingdom)

Broadcast Satellites, but if it is indeed decided that that Working Group should be reconvened next year we would see considerable advantage in having its meetings take place either at the same time as or a week or so before the meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee so that the Working Group can provide immediate assistance to the Legal Sub-Committee.

Turning now to remote sensing, we sympathize with the difficulties the Committee experienced in discussing an international instrument. We consider it premature to talk in terms of an international instrument when the technical and organizational developments remain so unclear, and we therefore doubt whether high priority can usefully be given to that topic at this stage.

One further point on the work of the Legal Sub-Committee. We should like to state that we are quite content with the present arrangement for the venue of the meetings. We do not see any strong case for transferring that venue to Geneva.

I turn now to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Here we consider that the Working Group on Remote Sensing has completed its examination of the technical aspects of the subject, although there are many areas still to be explored by both the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee itself. We therefore do not think that a further session of the Working Group will be necessary next year.

The United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1975 proposed by Mr. Murthy has our full approval, and we congratulate him on the success of that programme to date.

So far as the proposed conference is concerned, the United Kingdom Government retains an open mind at this stage. We have not yet been able to consider the implications of holding such a conference and will require a precise set of proposals from the Secretariat concerning topics for discussion, and timing and location of the conference before coming to any decision. We should also want to weigh carefully the views of other delegations in order to ascertain whether or not there really does exist a strong demand for such a conference.

In 1973 the United Kingdom delegation submitted a paper questioning the role of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. We continue to consider it

(Mr. Broad, United Kingdom)

important that this Committee avoid the pitfalls of duplication and dissipation to which the representative of France, in his candid and analytical speech, drew our attention.

We welcome the listing of the Committee's priorities, and hope that this will serve to channel its energies into useful areas.

The concluding inference the United Kingdom delegation would wish to draw from the work of the various bodies as I have described them is that, despite the real political and technical problems, we have been making significant progress in these various Sub-Committees and that at this session of our Committee we therefore have reason to be optimistic about our future work in this important field.

Mr. LOPEZ BASSOLS (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Mexico would like to express its sense of responsibility and its intention to co-operate to the full with this Committee. We should like to take this opportunity to set forth the position of Mexico regarding the various items on our agenda.

First, we should like to welcome the new members of this Committee.

The first results of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly have been quite widely recognized, and we are very pleased on this occasion to note the fruits of the negotiations, which have lasted more than five years, on the Draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

The spirit of co-operation which prevailed in the Legal Sub-Committee enabled our delegation to co-operate to the full in establishing a compulsory marking system. The agreement is one more step forward in the progress of space law.

In connexion with the Draft Treaty Relating to the Moon, its crucial purpose, as we understand it, is to avoid any kind of claim of sovereignty over the natural resources of our satellite. We believe it is the common heritage of mankind, and that this principle should govern the way in which juridical and statutory claims on the resources of the moon are dealt with. We therefore feel that informal consultations should be carried out. We should wait until we see the result of the Conference on the Law of the Sea, and we should see what is done at the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee.

(Mr. Lopez Bassols, Mexico)

As regards the Working Group on Remote Sensing, we agree with other delegations that it has appropriately carried out its mandate and we reiterate our desire that the proliferation of subsidiary bodies be avoided. Such subsidiary bodies would be justifiable only after careful thought as to cost and mandates, since 40 per cent of the members of this Committee are developing countries.

We must also stress our position in favour of accelerating the development of a legal framework to govern the activities of States as regards direct broadcast satellites and remote sensing satellites. Duties and rights must take priority over organizational activities, and in that context we support the Brazilian proposal.

We have considered the proposed convening of a United Nations conference on the application of space technology towards the end of this decade, and we believe that with the aid of the study the Secretariat is to prepare we shall be able to examine its feasibility and appropriateness.

(Mr. Lopez Bassols, Mexico)

Our delegation has co-sponsored a draft questionnaire, as it shares the idea that there is a lack of accurate information on the level of knowledge in countries as regards their need for aid in the practical application of space technology, particularly in those countries --- such as ours --- which have an urgent need to receive such assistance.

The delegation of Mexico is very pleased to see the excellent work that has been carried out by the United Nations Expert and we feel it would be appropriate for his mandate to be extended by three years. We are particularly interested that a joint UNESCO-United Nations seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean on the use of space technology in education and development will be held in 1975.

We also fully share what you, Mr. Chairman, said at the beginning of the Committee's work, and particularly those ideas you put forth when you said that this Committee should not merely formalize the work done by its subsidiary bodies but should also serve as a catalyst for international activity in the field of space application; and, therefore, we are very optimistic about this task that we have been accomplishing and which you have been guiding so wisely, particularly in this very active year.

I should like to use the last moment of my statement to pay a tribute to Mr. Abdel-Ghani for his work in space and earth technology.

Mr. COCCA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): If I reiterate at this time, Sir, how pleased the delegation of Argentina is in attending a plenary meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space under your expert chairmanship I shall be adding nothing new. Under your guidance, we have been able to attain conciliation on very difficult positions and we are quite convinced that now, as previously, you will contribute most effectively.

It is a great pleasure for me to begin the formal part of my statement -- as in the Working Groups and in the Sub-Committees -- by giving a very cordial welcome to countries which for the first time are sharing in our work during this session.

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

The tasks which have been entrusted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space are already no longer an activity which merely concerns a few States which have technical progress at their disposal; but, rather, it has become an inexhaustible source of international co-operation which will make it possible to use universally practical applications arising both from space technology and from outer space exploration. For this reason, and also in view of the fact that the Committee should more appropriately reflect the composition of the international community, the Republic of Argentina initiated the idea that the number of members in this Committee should be increased. This goal has been accomplished; and, as regards the delegation of Argentina, we have had the privilege of being able to count upon the co-sponsorship of some proposals and to participate actively in drafting other joint initiatives which have been carried out in the Working Group on Satellites and in the Legal Sub-Committee with the new members.

None the less, we are aware of the absence from our forum of Mr. Abdel-Ghani, and, as we have already said in the Legal Sub-Committee, we acknowledge very deeply the way in which for so many years he has carried out his work in the Outer Space Affairs Division.

The Republic of Argentina attaches great importance to the development of activities related to the exploration and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes and, in so far as possible, has been making very great efforts to attain this goal. Argentines understand the greatest well-being of peoples is a political requirement which is inherent in each country; it is a proven technical possibility and, particularly, this is a moral imperative. Our efforts are so directed.

During 1973 experiments falling within the EXAMETNET programme continued at the launching base of Mar Chiquita. Also participating in this programme are Brazil, the United States of America and France, and, as associates, Spain, Australia and Japan. The programme, as is already known, is measuring wind and temperature in the stratosphere and in the low mesosphere, and includes the launching of 10 United States Loki rockets.

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

During 1974 the DIM rocket, built in Argentina, began to be used to obtain the afore-mentioned measurements. Moreover, between 19 and 20 March, over a 24-hour period, there were nine successful launchings, one every three hours, thus acquiring the sought scientific information. This programme also falls within the EXAMETNET programme. This experiment was carried out jointly from Natal, Ascencion Island, Kourou, Fort Sherman and Fort Churchill.

In co-operation with the Federal Republic of Germany, our country has been carrying out the EGANI project, that is, the Argentine-German Experiment on Ionized Clouds, designed to measure the physical properties of the ionosphere in so far as magnetic and electrical fields are concerned. In this experiment, the Federal Republic of Germany has supplied payloads and Argentina has furnished the rockets and carried out the launchings.

The Experiment in 1973 launched two RIGEL rockets and one CASTOR rocket, both built in Argentina. An altitude of 400 kilometres was reached by the latter. Personnel of the Max Planck Institute and the National Commission on Space Research of Argentina participated in this. Right now, we are preparing a campaign for 1975 which will consist of the launching of two CASTOR rockets from the Antar sector of Argentina, in other words the Marambio Base.

In co-operation with the United States, two programmes to launch globes have been carried out; these are the GALAXIA-73 and the GALAXIA-74. In these experiments, which are designed to measure the galactic radiation, research personnel from the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research and the Rice University -- United States -- and the CNIE and the IAFE of Argentina participated. A new experiment to be carried out with the same objective is forecast for 1975.

In 1973, in co-operation with the United Kingdom and CNIE, an experiment was carried out which involved the launching of two SKYLARK rockets from Great Britain. These were launched from Villa Mercedes, San Luis. These launchings made it possible to photograph, with on-board cameras, an area of 500,000 square kilometres. At present we are analysing information

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

obtained, and in CNIE we have been able to correct pictures very accurately. It is therefore felt that rocket photography rather than satellite photography can be a worthy method in studying natural resources.

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

The latest experiment, which was carried out on 18 June last, consisted of the launching of the RIGEL rocket to a height of 260 kilometers in order to measure X-rays emanating from galactic sources. This experiment was carried out between the CNIE and the IAFE from Argentina, and the results obtained are now being processed.

In connexion with the eleventh session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, I should like to express our great pleasure with the recommendation that the United Nations continue to sponsor experiments being carried out at the CELPA base of Mar Chiquita. We hope that the Committee will approve this recommendation.

We should like to report that the activities forecast for 1975 at this base fall within the principles of international co-operation and training in the field of scientific-technological exploration of space for peaceful purposes.

We are quite sure that the Committee will devote its attention to the draft questionnaire prepared by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, with the sponsorship of many delegations in order to guide the Secretariat if it should be decided to prepare a report on points of interest, priorities and specific means of assistance or space technology applications.

We also hope that the Committee will consider favourably the proposal put forth by various delegations to extend the duration of the mandate of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications.

As regards remote sensing of natural resources from space, we feel that paragraph 14 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is appropriate in that it would ensure that adequate attention would be given to the necessity of establishing a legal framework for this activity.

Argentina attaches the greatest importance to legal regulation in this connexion, and we intend to present a new draft treaty, following on the work begun in 1970 during the ninth session of the Legal Sub-Committee. In our opinion, no activity in the field of science and technology is restricted merely to the national sphere, and space is of course international and has universal scope. The Secretary of State of the United States said quite correctly in the General Assembly that

"... wealth is an obligation, resources a trust, and joint action a necessity." (A/PV.2214, p. 33-35)

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

We share that thought, which, in order to be implemented, requires an adequate legal framework.

As regards the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, we regret that substantial progress has not been achieved on the Treaty Relating to the Moon. None the less, in view of the interest demonstrated by various delegations -- an interest which we fully share -- we hope that a consensus will be reached which will make it possible to establish an appropriate international system and mechanism for the utilization of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies, which constitute the joint heritage of mankind; such a system should include means for the effective solution of any controversies which might arise.

We have also supported the draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, which, if it does not contemplate all the aspects put forth by many delegations, none the less constitutes a strong step forward in codifying outer space law. We also are very pleased to hear that some Argentine proposals have been included in this international instrument.

That Convention is also proof that opposing positions can be reconciled. Because its final text has been attained with the full consent of all the participants in the negotiations, we attach a very high value to this compromise, which ensures that it will be faithfully observed. On the other hand, its full implementation is, fundamentally, entrusted to the good faith of the States; to good faith in the sense of the Charter of the United Nations.

We feel that the activities carried out by both Sub-Committees are constructive, as would be expected of such competent bodies comprised of high-level representatives. For that reason, we feel that they are fully able to deal with the entire planned programme of work, and it will therefore not be necessary to convene additional working groups in 1975.

In conclusion, the delegation of Argentina would like to refer to the report on the session of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites which was held in Buenos Aires in December 1973 and to urge the Committee to support the recommendations made by that Group for the convening of

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

similar meetings and for programmes of training and developing teams to prepare and analyse data in a more simplified way and at less cost than is the case with the programmes now in force. All those measures would make it possible for space technology to become more accessible to those countries which have not yet completed their development.

The CHAIRMAN: That concludes the general debate. I am happy to note that twenty-two members of the Committee have made statements, and that among them we have had the benefit and the privilege of hearing four of the new members of the Committee; that is a source of particular gratification.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE (A/AC.105/133)

The CHAIRMAN: The report of the Legal Sub-Committee is before the Committee in document A/AC.105/133. I suggest that we begin our examination of the report by focusing attention on a number of general considerations and that we then narrow down the scope of our discussion to the more specific suggestions and proposals contained in the report.

In the programme of work that we have adopted, the Committee has been allotted for the consideration of the Legal Sub-Committee's report this afternoon's meeting and two meetings on Friday. By the end of the afternoon meeting on Friday we should have concluded consideration of that report.

Mr. LINDENBERG-SETTE (Brazil): Mr. Chairman, if it would not upset the programme of work which you have just proposed to us, and which indeed we have already accepted, I would ask whether it would be possible to adjourn this meeting at about 5.45 p.m. Many of us have a sad duty of friendship, of faith and of respect to perform today and we should be very grateful if our request for an early adjournment could be granted.

The CHAIRMAN: In view of the earlier understanding that this afternoon's meeting should end at 5.30 I think the representative of Brazil's request may be granted with pleasure.

We must now hear statements and comments on the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, and, as I have said, perhaps in the first round of exchanges we might address ourselves to the more general aspects of this report, in so far as delegations have not done so already in the framework of the general debate, and then address ourselves to the more specific items which we find in the report.

Mr. VELLODI (India): As I mentioned this morning, Mr. Chairman, we certainly would like to make some comments, but unfortunately we are not quite ready at this time, so perhaps you would give us an opportunity on Friday.

But the reason I asked for the floor was somewhat different. I should like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, and, through you, the Secretariat, whether any tentative dates have been fixed for the fourteenth session of the Legal Sub-Committee. I should like to have this information because the way we deal with some of the issues currently before the Legal Sub-Committee would depend very much on when that body is meeting. For example, if the Legal Sub-Committee is expected to meet, say, in February or March, that would be one thing; if it meets later, in May or June, that would be completely different. I do not require the exact dates --- just the month --- but I should like to have the information, if possible, today.

The CHAIRMAN: Would the Secretary care to comment on this question?

Mr. ROBINSON (Committee Secretary): We have been meeting with the Department of Conference Services, and we hope, within the next 10 or 15 minutes, to be able to distribute to Member States the list of possible dates given to us for meetings of the Committee and its two Sub-Committees.

The CHAIRMAN: We can then decide which of those possible dates we would like to choose.

Perhaps the representative of India would like to wait a little and see what these suggested possibilities are, and then we can approach this subject with a little more precision.

(The Chairman)

I see that the Committee seems to be exhausted from the general debate, which was a very rich experience, but perhaps we could use the time still at our disposal to start discussing the report.

Mr. VELLODI (India): I should like to raise one point, and that relates to the draft Convention on Registration. I was not present at the meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee in Geneva, and therefore the point that I am raising is more in the nature of a question put to someone who was present at those meetings. Possibly Mr. Tuerk might be in a position to answer this here; or if he feels he would like to give me the information outside the Committee, I would appreciate that equally. This refers to the fifth preambular paragraph to the draft Convention. I should like to have some indication of what exactly was the stage at which the Legal Sub-Committee completed consideration of this Convention, and clarification of the special reference in the footnote to the effect that the main Committee will have to take a decision on this preambular paragraph. As I said, if this is a sensitive issue that Mr. Tuerk would rather not open for discussion here, I would be quite happy if he were to answer me outside.

The CHAIRMAN: Would the Chairman of Working Group II care to comment on this matter?

Mr. TUERK (Chairman of Working Group II of the Legal Sub-Committee): It is a sensitive issue, but I will give a very short reply nevertheless.

It was considered by some delegations during the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee that the question of the fifth preambular paragraph was not a purely legal matter and that therefore it was not only within the purview of the Legal Sub-Committee but should go to the parent Committee, which is a political body.

Mr. HAFLEY (Canada): Over the past two days in the general debate we have heard many representatives commend the Legal Sub-Committee for its excellent work in elaborating the draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space which is before us today for our consideration and approval. All delegations have expressed optimism that this Committee will endorse and submit the draft Convention to the General Assembly for adoption at its next session.

(Mr. Haffey, Canada)

The only drafting aspect of this Convention which requires a decision of this Committee is whether we should delete the fifth preambular paragraph, which reads:

"Taking note of the treaty relating to the moon and other celestial bodies, concerning an international legal régime for the exploration and use of the moon and other celestial bodies," (A/AC.105/133, para. 24)

I believe that all delegations that have made reference to this subject in their general statements agree that, in the light of the difficulties which have been encountered in completing the task of drafting the moon treaty, it will be necessary to delete the fifth preambular paragraph before endorsing the registration Convention and submitting it to the General Assembly for adoption this autumn.

We are all aware that a number of delegations made significant concessions and compromises in order that this consensus agreement could be reached in the Legal Sub-Committee on the text of the draft registration Convention. In the hope that the spirit of co-operation which prevailed in the Legal Sub-Committee will continue to prevail here, on behalf of my delegation I wish to propose that this Committee endorse the text of the draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, as contained in paragraph 24 of document A/AC.105/133, with the exception of the fifth preambular paragraph, which should be deleted.

The CHAIRMAN: The proposal of the representative of Canada is now before the Committee.

Mr. RAPIN (France) (interpretation from French): I shall speak only very briefly, as I think very little can be added to what was said by the representative of Canada. Nevertheless, my delegation would like to express its pleasure over the welcome given by this Committee to the draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Indeed, most delegations were pleased to note that such a text had been prepared, even though, like my delegation, they were not completely satisfied with many provisions in that draft.

The compromise which has been achieved seems to us a wise one, and, as I indicated during the general debate, my delegation too now proposes that this text should be adopted by our Committee and submitted to the General Assembly.

(Mr. Rapin, France)

As was stated by the representative of Canada, the only problem still unsolved is that of the fifth paragraph of the preamble to the Convention. My delegation approves the proposal he has made of withdrawing this paragraph. It would not be possible to adopt a text referring to a treaty which is not yet in existence and which does not seem likely to be forthcoming in the near future despite all our good will and despite all our efforts to this end.

I should like to mention that that is the way we interpret the proposal. This certainly does not reduce the priority we attribute to the elaboration of a Moon treaty.

Mr. PIRADOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation reserves the right to comment on the fifth paragraph of the preamble to the Registration treaty on Friday.

The CHAIRMAN: I have one suggestion in mind. Apparently not all delegations are ready at this time to comment on the various provisions of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee. Perhaps the Committee would prefer that we should adjourn now and reconvene on Friday morning to continue consideration of the report with due speed and determination. I would therefore put the question to the Committee, unless there is a general wish that we should pursue the subject now.

Mr. HOSENBALL (United States of America): We have just received the note circulated on tentative meeting dates, and in order perhaps to save some time later we would like to raise this question. Only one date is given for the Legal Sub-Committee and reference is made to the fact that "the Department of Conference Services is unable to provide any alternative dates without having to incur additional financial implications".

I think it would be useful for the Committee to have some alternative dates, together with an indication of the financial implications of those dates, in order to enable us to consider what is available.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that the note which has just been circulated by the Secretariat will be taken up by the Committee at a later stage when we come to relevant decisions on further meeting times and meeting places, but the request of the representative of the United States will be taken note of by the Secretariat and perhaps we can have this added information.

Mr. VELLODI (India): Following on the clarification sought by the representative of the United States, we also are a bit concerned at the fact that the paper distributed now gives only one possible time for the Legal Sub-Committee, which is 10 February to 7 March. I did ask earlier for this information because it seemed to my delegation that one should explore the possibility of a later date for the Legal Sub-Committee.

Without prejudice to any decision that might be taken here, I think we should have from the Department of Conference Services some alternative dates, whether in New York or in Geneva, with, of course, the statement of the financial implications that the delegation of the United States has asked for. But my delegation is particularly anxious to see whether there is a possibility of the Legal Sub-Committee meeting later -- not in early February to early March, but perhaps a month or six weeks later. I need not go into our reasons for asking for this. As you rightly said, Mr. Chairman, the Committee will later on take up the question of dates, but it would be useful to us if the Department of Conference Services were to be asked by the Secretary of the Committee to look at the possibilities of suggesting alternative dates for the Legal Sub-Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that one possibility which one has to keep in mind is to exchange the dates now available between the two Sub-Committees. I think perhaps that also could be considered, but I do not think we should go into the matter now. It would be extremely useful if the Secretariat could provide the additional information requested by the representatives of the United States and India, which would give us a better possibility to examine these questions.



(The Chairman)

Now, if there are no further speakers at this time on the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, I shall assume that the Committee wishes to adjourn at this stage and reconvene, with renewed vigour after tomorrow's holiday, at 10.30 on Friday morning. As we adjourn, may I, on behalf of the Committee, offer best wishes to the delegation of the United States on its national holiday.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.

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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 5 July 1974, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. JANKOWITSCH

(Austria)

- Statement by the Chairman
- Report of the Legal Sub-Committee (continued)
- Organization of work

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