COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWELFTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 15 June 1962, at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. LACHS (Poland)
Secretary: Mr. SCHACHTER

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and use of outer space (item 3 of the agenda) (continued)

Draft proposals by the USSR, the United States of America
and India (continued).

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CONSIDERATION OF LEGAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE
(item 3 of the agenda) (continued)

Draft proposals by the USSR, the United States of America and India
(A/AC.105/C.2/L.1, L.2, L.3, L.4 and L.5) (continued)

Mr. FASSI-FIHIFI (Morocco) said that some of the legal aspects of the
exploration and use of outer space were intimately linked to the problem of
disarmament and therefore tended to give rise to the customary division of views
in accordance with the attitudes of the two Power blocs. It was the more
remarkable that all the statements made in the Sub-Committee had emphasized inter-
national co-operation, and he hoped that the auspicious atmosphere of the Sub-
Committee's first session would be matched by a successful continuance of its work.

The countries of Africa and Asia, most of which had not fully shared in the
benefits of the great scientific and technical revolution of the past century, were
firmly resolved to play their part, from the very outset, in the new scientific
developments, which seemed likely to bear even greater fruit. Morocco would
support any effort tending to promote international co-operation, more particularly
in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. Only the countries known for
their policy of non-alignment could successfully play the part of mediator.

The Soviet Union had submitted a draft declaration of basic principles
(A/AC.105/C.2/L.1) and the United States proposals on assistance to space vehicles
and personnel (A/AC.105/C.2/L.3) and on liability for space vehicle accidents
(A/AC.105/C.2/L.4). In submitting their proposals, both countries had undoubtedly
had their national interests in mind, but he ventured to reaffirm that it was
the paramount duty of all to place their knowledge at the service of mankind
and to ensure that outer space would not one day become the scene of conflict.
Research should be governed by a spirit of collaboration and should serve purely
scientific purposes. Since rules had to be evolved on which space law would
eventually be based, his delegation welcomed the proposals for the further study of
the principles which should govern the activity of States in the exploration and
use of outer space. His delegation accordingly supported the proposals submitted
by the Indian delegation (A/AC.105/C.2/L.5).

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.