

The CHAIRMAN announced that Mr. Capotorti, the representative of Italy, was leaving the Sub-Committee. On behalf of the members, he expressed his appreciation of the contribution which Mr. Capotorti had made, particularly with regard to the formulation of article X.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



PROVISIONAL

For participants only

A/AC.105/C.2/SR.203  
18 April 1973

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Twelfth Session

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Monday, 16 April 1973, at 10.50 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. WYZNER

Poland

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Draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space  
(continued)

Organization of work

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the four working languages (English, French, Russian or Spanish), preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. Corrections should be sent in quadruplicate within three working days to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, Room LX-2332, and also incorporated in one copy of the record.

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73-83244/A

DRAFT CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE (continued)

Mr. MORRISON (Australia) observed that, at the opening of the current session, the Sub-Committee had had before it the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space - prepared by the Working Group on Registration at the previous session - Canadian-French amendments to that text and an alternative draft convention introduced by the United States delegation. Following informal discussions among the delegations concerned, an unsponsored, unofficial document based on those texts had been given priority in the work of Working Group II. Consideration of that document had been much advanced by 13 April 1973. The text contained no provisions relating to the marking of space objects, but the Australian delegation considered that appropriate provisions to that end should be included. It also considered that the text as it stood did not cover to an adequate extent matters of information. Accordingly, he announced that the Australian delegation reserved its position on the draft convention on registration as a whole, although it would participate in the further activities of Working Group II in the hope that it would become possible for it to modify that attitude.

The CHAIRMAN, drawing attention to the text of the draft convention on registration that had been approved by Working Group II at its meetings on 13 April (PUOS/C.2(XII)/WG.II/4), said that the Working Group had made significant progress in its work on the draft convention.

Mr. REIS (United States of America) endorsed the Chairman's view; the progress made by Working Group II had been very remarkable. There was no reason why the Sub-Committee should not take an optimistic view of the prospect of completing the draft convention at its current session.

Mr. MILLER (Canada) endorsed the views of the United States delegation; substantial progress had been made on the text, and there were relatively few problems remaining to be solved. The draft convention promised to be a useful addition to outer space law. The negotiation of multinational instruments did not customarily lead to solutions which were entirely satisfactory to all parties. The Canadian delegation still hoped that the Sub-Committee would be able to prepare a draft which warranted consideration by its parent body.

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(Mr. Miller, Canada)

The question of marking was extremely important, and the Canadian delegation had consistently advocated the inclusion of provisions for the marking of each space object launched into outer space. The Canadian-French proposal had modified the provisions of the draft which had emerged at the previous session so as to make them less onerous for launching States. Working Group II was moving towards a simple formula which would require the launching State merely to place the registration number or international designation somewhere on the space object. He hoped that a formula commanding unanimous support could be evolved at the current session. As to the information to be included in the register maintained by the Secretary-General, the relevant Canadian-French proposals again represented a reduced requirement intended to accommodate those Powers which were most active in outer space. His delegation's basic approach was that the register should contain at least as much information as was currently offered voluntarily. The agreement reached thus far on article III - the key article - provided for the inclusion of much more information than was currently offered and was therefore a distinct improvement.

The Canadian delegation considered that, in preparing an international agreement in a highly technical and rapidly developing field, it would be very foolish not to make provision for review in the light of subsequent technological developments. A review clause was very necessary, and he hoped that a consensus could be reached in that regard.

Mr. PIRADOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), noting the optimistic tone of previous statements, said he did not think that the Sub-Committee faced any insuperable obstacles in completing the tasks before it. The Sub-Committee's experience proved that even remarkably complex problems could ultimately be resolved. Only minor issues were impeding completion of work on the two instruments before the Sub-Committee. During the previous session, it had been felt that legal thinking should not only keep pace with technological progress but actually anticipate it. That should be the Sub-Committee's attitude in its current work.

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#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with the procedures already established, the Sub-Committee should devote the remainder of the day to working, as Working Group I, on the treaty relating to the moon, with the following day devoted to the preparation of the draft convention on registration.

Mr. MILLER (Canada) said that, although his delegation had consistently stressed the importance of the question of registration, it recognized that the Sub-Committee's main effort at the current stage should be focused on the treaty relating to the moon. Accordingly, it would be well to defer until the end of the current day's work any decision as to whether or not the following day should be devoted entirely to work on the draft convention on registration.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Sub-Committee should adjourn and reconvene as Working Group I, taking a decision at the end of the day on the organization of its future work in the light of the Canadian representative's remarks. Various delegations had suggested that the adjournment should be for a period of 15 minutes. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Sub-Committee agreed to his suggestion.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.



# UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



PROVISIONAL

For participants only

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20 April 1973

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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Twelfth Session

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 18 April 1973, at 10.50 a.m.

Chairmen: Mr. WYZNER Poland

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- Draft treaty relating to the moon (continued)
- Draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space (continued)
- Organization of work

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