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(Vice-Chairman)

(Finland)

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space:  
reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,  
the World Meteorological Organization and the International  
Telecommunication Union; Report of the Economic and Social Council,  
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## AGENDA ITEM 27

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (A/5181, 5229, 5237; A/C.1/L.320; REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CHAPTER VII, SECTION IV: A/5203)

The CHAIRMAN: This morning we take up item 27 of the agenda "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space".

Under this item three reports have been submitted for our consideration:

1. The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, document A/5181, covering the work of the Committee and its Scientific and Legal Sub-Committees since the adoption of resolution 1721 at the Assembly's sixteenth session. Five proposals on legal questions submitted to the Committee at its last session are transmitted to the General Assembly for its consideration. They appear in Annex III of the report.

2. The report submitted by WMO, in response to resolution 1721 C, on the advancement of atmospheric sciences and their application in the light of developments in outer space (A/5229).

3. The report submitted by ITU, in response to resolution 1721 D, on telecommunication and outer space (A/5237).

I wish also to draw the attention of members to document A/AC.105/7 and Add.1, which contains information relating to outer space activities supplied by Governments on a voluntary basis in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI).

The Committee also has before it Chapter VII, Section IV, of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/5203), which, in accordance with the letter of 24 September from the President of the General Assembly concerning the allocation of items to this Committee, is also to be dealt with under this item.

Members of the Committee will also have seen the draft resolution submitted by the United States of America in document A/C.1/L.320, which has since been co-sponsored by Canada.

(The Chairman)

The field with which these documents are concerned is a vast and important one. It is also one in which positive action has been taken towards international co-operation in the course of the past year.

In an encouraging exchange of messages in March of last year, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the President of the United States expressed the willingness of their countries -- the two nations which are leading mankind in the conquest of outer space -- to co-operate in this great and challenging task. Other countries are entering the space age, and international co-operation for the benefit of all, regardless of their scientific and social development, is inevitable.

At its second session, held in September, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed upon a series of recommendations, unanimously presented to it by its scientific Sub-Committee, concerning the exchange of information, the encouragement of international programmes, and the organization of international sounding rocket facilities, which offer a realistic basis for practical co-operative action. Among the international programmes referred to are programmes for international co-operation in the fields of telecommunications and satellites meteorology, with regard to which ITU and WMO have submitted preliminary reports.

In the legal field no comparable progress can be reported. No agreement was reached in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space or its Legal Sub-Committee, but five proposals on legal issues are put forward for our consideration. I trust that these proposals will permit further, and fruitful, efforts towards the goal of international co-operation in outer space so that, in the Secretary-General's words in the introduction to his annual report, the exploration and use of outer space may be not "... a source of discord and danger, but an area of understanding and increased confidence."

Finally, before I call on the first speaker on my list, I should like to welcome the representatives of the specialized agencies -- WMO, ITU, UNESCO, WHO and IAEA -- who are with us today and who will participate in our work.

Mr. GORE (United States of America): Before speaking on behalf of my Government, permit me to express to the Chairman and to my colleagues the personal pleasure and honour that I feel in participating for the first time in the discussion of this extremely important subject in this significant Committee.

This is Year Six of the age of space -- the greatest era of exploration in the history of man -- a period of breathtaking discovery with unforeseeable consequences for the future of all peoples and of all nations.

A short five years ago it was not known that man could survive travel in space: today we are confident that he will arrive safely on the surface of the moon within the decade. Five years ago, people wondered whether all the effort and cost of space exploration would prove to be worthwhile: today, after nearly 150 successful satellite launchings and deep probes into the universe, activities in space are already providing practical, everyday benefits to mankind.

Since the outer space item was debated in this Committee during the sixteenth session of the General Assembly, just one year ago, scientists have made extensive progress in the quest for knowledge of the universe:

The feasibility of telecommunications between continents by artificial satellites has been dramatically demonstrated;

Immediately useful meteorological satellites have been placed in space to provide early reports of hurricanes, typhoons, and other weather formations, the knowledge of which is beneficial to many peoples;

There have been successes in orbiting man in space, demonstrating his ability to live in a strange and incredibly difficult environment;

Space probes have been launched towards Venus and towards Mars with the potential of giving the world its first close-up looks at these neighbouring planets;

New, definitive knowledge of the key mechanisms in the relationship of the sun to the earth have been obtained through the launching of the first orbiting solar observatory and interplanetary probes.

The first two international satellites have been launched, providing substantial new information on the behaviour of the ionosphere which is so important to our earthly communications and to our understanding of the earth's immediate environment.

(Mr. Gore, United States)

In the meantime several United Nations organizations have been engaged in trying to provide that man's conduct in outer space will be reasonably orderly, certainly peaceful, and in the best interests of all nations and all peoples. Our actions at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly achieved these notable results:

(Mr. Gore, United States)

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has been reconstituted and has held useful meetings in March and again in September;

The Outer Space Committee has adopted a number of recommendations for international co-operation in scientific and technical projects;

Legal experts have met to consider legal problems arising in the exploration and use of outer space;

The World Meteorological Organization has submitted proposals to strengthen weather services and meteorological research in the light of the demonstrated value of weather satellites;

The International Telecommunication Union is preparing to consider aspects of space communications which require international co-operation and will hold an important meeting on frequency allocation next fall; and

These and other Specialized Agencies are considering the implications for their work of the onrushing science of space.

In March the Committee established a Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and a Legal Sub-Committee which met in Geneva in the early summer. The Technical Sub-Committee, with commendable dispatch, agreed on a number of specific proposals, including one for sponsorship by the United Nations of international sounding-rocket facilities, and the full Committee has endorsed its report to the General Assembly which we shall later consider. The Legal Sub-Committee, however, was unable to reach an agreement -- as the Chairman has said in his statement at the beginning of today's session -- although discussions revealed a consensus on several important questions.

At the March meetings of the parent Committee in New York, there had been a wide measure of agreement on the need for an international agreement covering liability for space-vehicle accidents and on the desirability of measures to facilitate rescue and return of astronauts and space vehicles. These questions were the subject of thorough discussions at Geneva. The main difficulty in the Legal Sub-Committee, I am sorry to say, was that the Soviet Union was unwilling to consider these questions in the absence of agreement by the Sub-Committee to go forward with the Soviet draft declaration of general principles.

(Mr. Gore, United States)

The United States, for its part, recalled that the General Assembly had recently adopted an extremely important statement of principles on the law of outer space, and felt that the Legal Sub-Committee would be well advised to move ahead on some specific legal problems already identified in man's new adventures into space.

The fundamental and far-reaching nature of the Declaration of Principles which was voted unanimously by the General Assembly in December 1961, deserves special attention. First, the Assembly confirmed that international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, governs the relations of States in outer space. Thus the obligation to "refrain ... from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations" applies, without any possible equivocation, to conduct in outer space.

The General Assembly went further. In the same resolution it proclaimed another guiding principle: that outer space and celestial bodies are not subject to national appropriation, that is, that there will be no empire-building in outer space; and that outer space is free and open for exploration and use by all in accordance with international law.

These principles adopted by the General Assembly last year have seemed to us an excellent start on a working-statement to guide man's activities and behaviour in outer space. At the same time, the United States has made manifest, both at Geneva and at the September session of the full Outer Space Committee, our readiness and interest in working to develop further principles. We would hope that work could proceed and progress be recorded contemporaneously on general principles and solutions to specific legal problems.

We have been impressed by the thoughtful and constructive ideas set forth in the draft on general principles which was presented at the meeting of the full Committee by the United Arab Republic. In an effort to make a further contribution to the development of sound principles, the United States has also prepared a draft declaration, which my delegation will submit during the debate.

(Mr. Gore, United States)

The development of law for outer space requires more, though, than the formulation of general principles, and it requires more than the conclusion of agreements on specific problems such as liability, and rescue and return, to which I have already referred. It requires, in fact, the constructing of adequate assurance that the exploration and use of outer space will be for peaceful purposes. My Government wishes its views on the most pressing aspects of this problem explicitly stated and understood.

It is the view of the United States that outer space should be used only for peaceful -- that is, non-aggressive and beneficial -- purposes. The question of military activities in space cannot be divorced from the question of military activities on earth. To banish these activities in both environments we must continue our efforts for general and complete disarmament with adequate safeguards. Until this is achieved, the test of any space activity must be not whether it is military or non-military, but whether or not it is consistent with the United Nations Charter and other obligations of international law.

There is, in any event, no workable dividing-line between military and non-military uses of space. For instance, both American and Russian astronauts are members of the armed forces of their respective countries; but this is no reason to challenge their activities or to deprecate their accomplishments. A navigation satellite in outer space can guide a submarine as well as a merchant ship. The instruments which guide a space vehicle on a scientific mission can also guide a space vehicle on a military mission.

One of the consequences of these facts is that any nation may use space satellites for such purposes as observation and information-gathering. Observation from space is consistent with international law, just as is observation from the high seas. Moreover, it serves many useful purposes. Observation satellites can measure solar and stellar radiation and observe the atmosphere and surfaces of other planets. They can observe cloud formations and weather conditions. They can observe the earth and add to the science of geodesy. Observation satellites obviously have military as well as scientific and commercial application. But this can provide no basis for objection to observation satellites.

(Mr. Gore, United States)

With malice toward none, science has decreed that we are to live in an increasingly open world, like it or not, and openness, in the view of my Government, can only serve the cause of peace. The United States, like every other nation represented here in this Committee, is determined to pursue every non-aggressive step which it considers necessary to protect its national security and the security of its friends and allies, until that day arrives when such precautions are no longer necessary.

(Mr. Gore, United States)

As I have said, we cannot banish all military activities in space until we banish them on earth. This does not mean, however, that no measure on arms control and no measure on disarmament in space can be undertaken now. On the contrary, the United States believes that certain things can be done immediately to prevent an expansion of the arms race into space.

In the first place, it is the policy of the United States to bring to a halt the testing of nuclear weapons in outer space. In addition to proposing a comprehensive treaty banning all nuclear weapon tests in all environment with only that amount of international inspection necessary to ensure compliance, the United States has also offered a treaty banning testing under water, in the atmosphere and in outer space, with no international inspection. Thus, the testing of nuclear devices in space can be banned, at any hour the Soviet Union agrees to do so. A reasonable treaty is on the table.

In the second place, even though it is now feasible, the United States has no intention of placing weapons of mass destruction in orbit unless compelled to do so by actions of the Soviet Union. The draft treaty for general and complete disarmament, proposed by the United States and now before the Conference in Geneva, includes a provision against the placing of weapons of mass destruction into orbit during the first stage of the disarmament process. Nonetheless, while the difficult negotiations continue for the actual elimination of nuclear weapons and the means of delivering them, it is especially important that we do everything now that can be done to avoid an arms race in outer space -- for certainly it should be easier to agree now not to arm a part of the environment that has never been armed than later to agree to disarm parts that have been armed. My Government earnestly hopes that the Soviet Union will likewise refrain from taking steps which will extend the arms race into outer space.

Outer space is not a new subject; it is just a new place in which all the old subjects come up. The things that go on in space are intimately related to the things that go on here on earth. It would be naive to suppose that we can insulate outer space from other aspects of human existence.

(Mr. Gore, United States)

Some limited measures of arms control, as I noted earlier, may be achieved. But the key to the survival of mankind lies in the progress which we make towards disarmament on earth as well as in space. It is with this fact in mind that the United States has advanced three proposals for reducing world armaments: a draft outline of basic provisions of a treaty for general and complete disarmament; a draft treaty to ban all nuclear testing in all environments with a minimal amount of international inspection; and a draft treaty to ban all testing under water, in the atmosphere and in outer space, without any inspection at all. Progress on these proposals would provide the greatest single contribution which we could make to law and order in outer space. And my Government earnestly seeks such progress.

I should like to turn now to some other aspects of United States policy which are particularly relevant to our work in this Committee.

The United States believes that nations which conduct activities in outer space should take all reasonable steps to avoid experiments or other activities which seriously threaten to deny or to limit the use of outer space to other nations. This is consistent with well established principles of international law. We encourage prior international discussion concerning experimental activities in space which may have undesirable effects, and my Government is prepared in the future, as in the past, to consult with scientists of other countries as well as United States scientists wherever practicable and consistent with our national security.

The problems of possible harmful effects of space experiments are difficult at best. They must be studied by competent and objective scientific bodies. To this end we welcome the creation of a consultative group for this purpose by the International Committee on Space Research, COSPAR. The United States will continue to conduct its space programme with a high sense of responsibility in this respect, making available to the world scientific community, both before and after the experiments which it conducts, as much scientific data as is possible. We trust that other nations will do the same.

(Mr. Gore, United States)

It is the keystone of United States policy that its space programme should be as open and co-operative as possible. We report all launchings to the United Nations. We make an extensive and factual report on our space programme and plans to COSPAR every year. This past September we submitted an additional report on our national space programme to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which has since been circulated in a United Nations document. Early this year, we invited all members of that Committee to visit our launching site at Cape Canaveral, and nearly all of them accepted, which pleased us. Major Titov, on his welcome visit to the United States, actually inspected Colonel Glenn's space ship. So much for the openness with which my country conducts our space programme -- open so that, in the words of General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI), the exploration and use of outer space shall be "to the benefit of States irrespective of the stage of their economic or scientific development".

As for the co-operative aspect, it was at the twelfth session of the General Assembly in 1957 -- the opening year of the space age -- that the United States first proposed a United Nations role in the co-operative and peaceful development of outer space. Ever since, the United States has initiated or supported, within this Assembly and other United Nations bodies, all proposals for international co-operation in outer space and for making the United Nations the focal point for encouragement of such common endeavour.

(Mr. Gore, United States)

Meanwhile, our national programme has been developed with as great a degree of international co-operation as other nations have been in a position to undertake. It has been forthcoming to a striking degree. Five years ago the Soviet Union and the United States were virtually alone in the fields of space research and development. Today, happily, more than fifty nations are associated with the United States on one or another aspect of this important work. There are over two dozen space tracking and data acquisition stations in nineteen separate political areas in support of United States scientific programmes, the majority operated wholly or in part by technicians of the host countries. Scientists of forty-four nations are working with our space agency NASA in ground-based research projects in meteorology, communications, and other space sciences, directly utilizing United States satellites. Thirteen nations are engaged with us in actual flight projects in which experiments, jointly determined by the scientists of both countries, are sent into space either on vertical sounding rockets, or in earth satellites. The recently launched Canadian Alouette satellite and the United Kingdom's Ariel are conspicuous examples of such co-operation. These have all been truly co-operative experiments, the results of which are open to all, to every nation, to every citizen of the world. Finally, fellowships have been established to assist those newly and seriously interested in the theoretical and experimental aspects of space research.

It is the firm policy of my Government to co-operate closely with all nations of good will on all problems and opportunities. This, as I see it, is a normal consequence of our kind of open democratic society; and it is, of course, as much to our advantage as it is to the advantage of nations willing and able to co-operate with us. But the problems and opportunities of outer space are such as almost to compel international co-operation. Outer space is not only beyond the reach of sovereign claims by our decisions; it is universal in nature. It is an intriguing thought, which I find hopeful, that we may be on the threshold of an epoch in which science will batter down the political obstacles to international co-operation, that it will force us to co-operate increasingly for the down-to-earth reason that this is the only way to live sanely, or perhaps to live at all, in the age of space.



(Mr. Gore, United States)

There are two uses of outer space where interdependence calls for early co-operation, and where co-operation can yield practical dividends to all. The United States wishes to take part in a truly universal system of space communications and a truly universal system of weather reporting and forecasting, both using satellites in outer space. Both of these exciting prospects are close at hand. Many of the problems already have been solved. Technology in these fields is advancing rapidly. The need for international agreements and international action is pressing in upon us.

Just six months ago the world's first active communications satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral. Early in July of this year trans-Atlantic television was ushered in when co-operating ground stations in Brittany and in Cornwall picked up telecasts originating in the United States. TELSTAR, an experimental satellite, was given an extraordinary range of assignments. In some 400 demonstrations, it transmitted telephone calls, telegrams, radio-photographs, radio facsimiles and forty-seven trans-Atlantic telecasts originating both in Europe and in the United States. These latter, among other things, have permitted viewers in Europe to see and hear, simultaneous with their occurrences, special events programmes right here in the United Nations. The world has glimpsed some of the excitement and wonder of this, and we can imagine the potential benefits for education, for the free exchange of ideas among peoples of the entire world and for international understanding.

Within the next month the United States will launch Relay, a second type of repeater communications satellite which will bring Latin America as well as Europe into the constellation of space-linked continents, and very soon we will launch a third -- Syncom -- which will, in effect, remain fixed, stand still, so to speak, over a given point on earth. Why is this so? Because Syncom will orbit 22,300 miles above the earth and at that distance, scientists tell us, its speed will be synchronized with the turning of the earth, thus causing it to stand still, so to speak.

(Mr. Gore, United States)

Although much research and development remains to be done, the United States intends to press forward as rapidly as possible toward the establishment of an operational system of global satellite communications. The United States has authorized by legislation the establishment of a communication satellite corporation, private in character, but subject to governmental regulation. It is intended that this corporation be the United States participant in an international system. The United States, of course, will be responsible for the close supervision of the broad policies of the corporation in its international activities.

We hope to see established a single international system for commercial use based on the principle of non-discriminatory access. There are impressive reasons -- economic, political and technical -- why a single system is to be preferred to several competing systems. A single system would avoid wasteful duplication of scarce resources and also avoid destructive political competition. It would facilitate technical compatibility between satellites and ground terminals and would maximize operational efficiency. It would assure the best use of the frequency spectrum.



(Mr. Gore, United States)

If we are to achieve the objectives of a single commercial system, it should be a truly international venture, open to all countries. In view of the importance of communications to all States, many will want to own and operate their own ground stations. Some may want to participate in ownership of the satellites themselves.

What we propose, then, is a single global satellite communications system for commercial purposes, with wide participation in ownership and management, and operated so as to realize economic and political benefits to all nations.

My Government realizes, there are many problems which must be solved, and many obstacles which must be overcome, before such a system can be made operational. Even so, we are confident that success is possible. This confidence is encouraged not only by the success of Telstar and the anticipated early launching of relays, but by the example of Eurovision, in which eighteen Western European nations joined forces to erase communication barriers and thus enable some 100 million Europeans to receive telecasts originating in any of these eighteen nations. Eurovision was no mean accomplishment, and the United States pays tribute to those who solved the difficult problems of language, varied technical standards, and political differences.

In moving forward towards a global communication satellite system, we can learn from this European experience, and we can learn from the experiences in international co-operation in earth-bound communications. Communicating from space will pose new problems towards the solution of which there is little experience to draw upon. My country feels that we must cut through the underbrush of technical problems, and we must reach agreement on the political plane. Decisions will have to be made as to the type of satellite, or combination of satellites, to be used -- that is, the choice of satellite system; on participation in, and ownership of, the satellites and ground terminals; on the allocation of radio channels between uses and users; on technical standardization, and on assistance to less-developed countries, so that they, too, may be able to take advantage of this new medium of international communication.

(Mr. Gore, United States)

Clearly, the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference, to be convened in October of next year by the International Telecommunication Union, now takes on added importance. This conference will make allocations of radio frequencies for space communications. Unless ample space in the precious frequency spectrum is made available, there can be no fully global space communication system.

The allocation of radio frequencies is but one of many problems which will have to be solved through international agreement to clear the way for communications satellites. In recognition of this fact, the General Assembly, in resolution 1721 (XVI), invited the ITU to consider, at the 1963 conference, other aspects of space communications in which international co-operation will be required.

To prepare for the 1963 conference, the ITU has asked members, by the end of 1962, to submit information on three matters: their present programmes with respect to the development of space communications; the subjects they regard as appropriate for international co-operation in order to achieve global space communications; and which of those subjects, if any, they believe should be included on the conference agenda. The Secretary-General of the ITU will prepare a report for the guidance of member States on the basis of these replies.

The report of the United Nations outer space committee recommends, inter alia, that Member States and the specialized agencies concerned support improvement of the world-wide system for the distribution of meteorological information, in anticipation of the availability of meteorological data from satellites. The United States warmly endorses this recommendation. The United States weather satellites programme, as is known, has been operational for some time. In fact, six satellites of the Tiros family have been orbited since early 1960, and they have sent back highly-useful data on atmospheric phenomena. Two of them are doing this today. These data have been made available to the entire world, in radio teletype and radio facsimile broadcasts. Special advisory bulletins have been radioed to alert countries likely to be affected by special meteorological events, including tropical storms. As we know, upwards of 170,000 photographs of cloud conditions have assisted substantially in improving weather reporting and forecasting. Conventional meteorological observation can

(Mr. Gore, United States)

supply weather information covering less than one-fifth of the earth's surface. Meteorological satellites give promise, in time, of being able to supply such data on all of the earth's regions.

Year in and year out, tropical storms of hurricane-intensity have devastated the coasts of many countries, including Australia, Japan, India, Pakistan, and the Americas -- often with little or no advance warning. Few nations can afford the cost of maintaining weather stations on the high seas. The Tiros satellites have already helped to fill this gap. In 1961, Tiros III photographed twenty tropical storms and gave the first warning of hurricane Esther sighted in the South Atlantic. In 1962, Tiros V and VI have photographed at least sixteen tropical storms. In the case of ten of these storms, the information relayed from the satellite was received prior to any information received by the United States National Meteorological Center through conventional weather-observation services. This is, we believe, a striking example of the value of meteorological satellites. Their utility would be materially enhanced by improvements in facilities for disseminating the data which they are able to transmit.

General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) requested the World Meteorological Organization to prepare a report on appropriate organizational and financial arrangements to advance the state of meteorological science and technology and to expand existing weather forecasting capabilities in the light of developments in outer space. The WMO invited an American and a Soviet national to help in the preparation of the report. The late Dr. Harry Wexler, then Director of Meteorological Research of the United States Weather Bureau, and Dr. V.A. Bugaev, Director of the Central Weather Forecasting Institute of the Soviet Union, produced a draft which, after consultation with experts from other countries, was approved by the WMO Executive Committee in June. Here is an example of co-operation by representatives of the two leading space Powers in a field of prime interest to all the world. The WMO report, a comprehensive document, makes recommendations for the development of an internationally-co-ordinated plan for the use of meteorological satellites, for the establishment of a World Weather Watch as an international weather observation and prediction system, for the expansion of weather observation facilities, particularly in the equatorial zone, and for the improvement of tele-communication networks for the rapid exchange of meteorological data obtained both from satellites and by conventional means.

(Mr. Gore, United States)

The WMO will hold a congress in April of next year to consider these and other proposals in the report. The United States does not believe that we in the General Assembly should at this time attempt to pass on the merits of these proposals. It is clear that meteorological services should be strengthened so that they may be technically capable of processing weather data from satellites. It is also clear that research in the atmospheric sciences should be expanded to extend our knowledge of the physical processes that determine day-to-day weather conditions and influence long-term climate trends. It is clear, furthermore, that meteorological research should be expanded. The WMO should be encouraged to continue its work in both these fields. The United States hopes that Member States wishing to take advantage of meteorological data from satellites will strengthen their internal weather observation and forecasting services. In this connexion United Nations agencies in the technical and financial assistance field can be helpful by giving sympathetic consideration to requests from Member States to supplement their resources for strengthening their networks of meteorological observation.

In the coming year the United States expects to launch an advanced type of meteorological satellite which we call "Nimbus". As with Tiros, the data from this satellite will be received by a pair of complex and expensive receiving stations on the North American continent, and the results will be transmitted over the entire globe and will be available to all mankind. In addition, research and development now under way gives us reason to hope that with relatively inexpensive radio receivers read-out of weather data directly from this satellite for local regions will be possible. Thus, any nation with this inexpensive equipment would have direct access to regional meteorological information developed by the satellite -- information which would materially improve its immediate weather forecasting capabilities. Limited experimental testing of this system may be initiated next year. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Washington has issued a Press release giving further details about this new meteorological system. I have asked that copies of that Press release, which is currently being released in Washington, be distributed to members of this Committee at the conclusion of my remarks.

(Mr. Gore, United States)

So, United States policy in outer space is as follows: to be guided by the general principles already laid down by the United Nations for the establishment of a regime of law in outer space, and to negotiate an extension of those principles by international agreement; to conclude a treaty banning immediately the testing of any more nuclear weapons in outer space; to preclude the placing in orbit of weapons of mass destruction; to take all reasonable and practicable steps, including consultation with the world scientific community, to avoid space experiments with possibly harmful effects; to conduct a programme which is as open as our security needs will permit and as co-operative as others are willing to make it; to press forward with the establishment of an integrated global satellite communication system for commercial needs and a co-operative weather satellite system, both with broad international participation.

In more general terms, United States policy and United States programmes for outer space are peaceful in intent, co-operative in practice and beneficial in operation. In this hopeful but dangerous world we must and we shall continue to look to our own security in outer space as elsewhere; but we shall strive earnestly and hopefully in outer space as elsewhere to lessen the dangers, to achieve order under law and to secure the peace and welfare of all mankind. Yes, my country will work to make this great age of space -- in its sixth, its sixteenth or its sixtieth year -- the age in which man at last escaped from his sectarian earthly quarrels and went forth to create his universal destiny: an open and co-operative system of world order.

Mr. MATSCH (Austria): I should like to make a few comments on the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and on the interim reports of the WMO and the ITU.

My delegation believes that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Committee on Outer Space and should endorse the recommendations unanimously approved by that Committee, based on the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and on the interim reports prepared by the WMO and the ITU.

(Mr. Matsch, Austria)

The recommendations refer to the exchange of scientific outer space information and the encouragement of relevant international scientific programmes. We should welcome it if the General Assembly would accept in principle United Nations sponsorship with regard to the proposed international equatorial sounding rocket launching facilities on the terms proposed by the Scientific Sub-Committee and on the understanding that the project concerned would be a United Nations project in which the principal Powers would co-operate. It may be advisable for the General Assembly to instruct the Committee on Outer Space to take steps to prepare a broad charter for such facilities on the lines of the basic principles indicated in the report of the Committee on Outer Space. These equatorial launching facilities will be an essential prerequisite to start most important research work in outer space with regard, also, to the so-called equatorial electrojet -- an electric current in the upper atmosphere that follows the geomagnetic equator.

We note with gratitude that India has expressed interest in becoming the host country for such a launching facility. In this connexion, it seems appropriate to recall to this Committee that the Italian authorities already extended, in May 1962, an open invitation to interested Governments to use the so-called mobile San Marco platform -- a swimming platform -- for joint scientific programmes.

(Mr. Matsch, Austria)

My delegation has noted with great satisfaction that, following the exchange of messages between the Soviet Premier and the President of the United States on the prospects of development of concrete projects in the field of exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, scientists of the United States and the Soviet Union, in bilateral talks outside, but related to, the work of the Outer Space Committee, agreed on recommendations to their Governments with regard to co-operation and eventual co-ordination in meteorology and exchange of data from weather satellites and in mapping of the magnetic field of the earth in conjunction with the International Year of the Quiet Sun by special satellites. It seems that any global undertaking with regard to outer space requires co-operation and agreement between the two leading nations in space. The signing of this agreement on co-ordination in the use of two kinds of satellites by these two Powers would not only mean an important beginning of joint efforts in the peaceful use of outer space, but it may also have some psychological effects on other issues.

My delegation regrets that the Legal Sub-Committee was unable for the time being to agree on any of the proposals submitted to it, two presented by the USSR and two by the United States. The Austrian delegation feels that a start should be made by agreeing on some additional fundamental principles as guide lines for gradually establishing an outer space law.

The draft declaration of basic principles governing the activities of States pertaining to the exploration and use of outer space, which has been proposed by the Soviet Union, contains some considerations with which my delegation can agree, for instance, principle 4, which reads:

"The activities of States pertaining to the conquest of outer space shall be carried out in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and with other generally recognized principles of international law in the interests of developing friendly relations among nations and of maintaining international peace and security."

My delegation agrees with the representative of France, who stated at the September session of the Outer Space Committee that the drafting of this principle 4 in the Soviet draft declaration seems to be better than that of the terms of operative paragraph 1 of part A of General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI).

(Mr. Matsch, Austria)

The questions of assistance to astronauts in distress, of liability and of the return of space vehicles, as proposed by the United States and the Soviet Union, seem to be ripe for the drafting of relevant provisions.

The proposal submitted by the delegation of the United Arab Republic, as contained in annex III of the outer space report, could be a basis for further general discussion in the Outer Space Committee.

With reference to part IV of the report of the Outer Space Committee, concerning registration of objects launched into outer space, as provided by resolution 1721, we should like to note with satisfaction that both the representative of the United States and the representative of the Soviet Union have assured the Outer Space Committee that all objects launched into space by the United States and by the Soviet Union have been notified to, and registered by, the Secretariat of the United Nations. We consider it essential that this registration continue.

Telecommunication is essential in practically all uses of outer space. It is of great importance in the operation of all types of space vehicles and in the exploration of celestial bodies. But space vehicles will also provide new telecommunication facilities for terrestrial requirements.

In connexion with the ITU report, my delegation would like to comment on the next to the last paragraph of part IV, referring to space communication satellites. I quote the relevant sentence:

"Until such time as space telecommunication systems are established as a reliable and practical telecommunication medium with known operating properties and cost structures, it is too early to plan for their general integration into world-wide networks."

There seems to be no doubt that efforts should be made to devise and develop a single global space communication system for all nations, as indicated by part D of resolution 1721, rather than competing systems between contending blocs.

The first experiments of Telstar as a scientific innovation have demonstrated a promising beginning of a new era of direct communications between continents. By a global network of television and broadcasting, the circle of everyone's personal acquaintances would expand in many fields to a world-wide range.

(Mr. Matsch, Austria)

Although the Administrative Council of ITU, at its next session, in 1963, will examine the current position in all its aspects and will take any further action which appears necessary, and although the establishment of a global space communication system will take more than five years, nevertheless it seems to my delegation that the General Assembly should invite ITU to study, besides the technical aspects of space communications, also the legal and economic problems involved. What seems necessary is to start an organized creative international approach to this very important problem. Perhaps the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee could have a preliminary exchange of views with regard to the international juridical aspects of such a system.

With regard to the report of the World Meteorological Organization, we consider the plan to establish gradually a world-wide network called the "World Weather Watch" as a prerequisite to the collection of weather data on a continuing and global basis and the immediate dissemination of such data, and also to establish a system of observation of the entire atmosphere of the earth by weather satellites from the platform of outer space, to be a plan of the greatest importance. This system would analyze the processes of world weather events and would make possible a long-range forecast of the weather, and eventually modifications of weather, which would bring substantial economic benefits.

In order to implement on a world-wide basis this plan, the realization of which would be to the benefit of all nations, regardless of the level of their development, requests from Member States for technical and financial assistance to enable them to establish or improve their participation in the world weather watch network should be treated with priority by the United Nations agencies competent in the field of such technical and financial assistance.

We trust that the next WMO report will contain additional information on further development with regard to this programme.

(Mr. Matsch, Austria)

The WMO report admits that there are a great many unknowns in the atmospheric equation and basic physical forces, so that further research techniques are considered essential in order finally to understand the causative factors in weather events and to draw conclusions in order to eliminate or lessen disturbing weather effects.

We believe that the General Assembly should accept the offer of both specialized agencies, ITU and WMO, to submit further reports to the General Assembly and to its Outer Space Committee as necessary.

My delegation expresses the hope that the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will be continued in 1963 on the basis of resolutions 1472 (XIV) and 1721 (XVI) and of a resolution of the General Assembly, which we hope will also be adopted unanimously, containing additional directives for the further work of the Outer Space Committee.

Mr. MRCZCV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Quite recently, mankind celebrated the fifth anniversary of an event of world importance, an event which marked the beginning of the space age. On 4 October 1957, for the first time in history an artificial satellite of the earth was launched in the Soviet Union. Less than two years separate us from the day when the first cosmonaut in the world, Gagarin, made his heroic flight. After that, the world witnessed the achievements of the second Soviet cosmonaut, Titov. Space flights were also carried out in the United States by Glenn, Carpenter and Schirra. A very short time separates us from August 1962, when the two Soviet cosmonauts, Nikolaev and Popovitch, effected a group flight into space which was a phenomenal success in the fields of science, technology, economics and culture and a new triumph of the human mind. The cosmic space ship, Vostok III, in ninety-five hours flew sixty-four times round the earth and covered more than 2,600,000 kilometres. Vostok IV, in seventy-one hours, travelled round the earth forty-eight times and covered a distance of about 2,000,000 kilometres.

This group flight of the Soviet cosmonauts was a new and remarkable step forward towards inter-planetary communications. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this group flight into space, a flight which was unprecedented in its complexity and which is fundamental for the further penetration by man into space, for the conquest of the forces of nature and their utilization for the well being of man.

During these flights, an important programme of scientific research was carried out. The flight of these two space ships in closely related orbits made possible the acquisition of much information for establishing direct links between space ships and the co-ordinated action of cosmonauts. Very important data were obtained concerning the influence of a lengthy space flight on the physiological and psychological state of man's body. It should be stressed that during this flight there was also a direct and reciprocal communications link established between the space ships and earth stations by radio and television. We have just heard a detailed statement of the success achieved in the United States with regard to radio and television transmission over large distances. I should like to stress the important difference between the television transmissions that were effected during the space flights of Vostok III and Vostok IV and those mentioned

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

a few minutes ago. The transmission of the image by television from the two Soviet space ships were made without any relays. There was no television centre which transmitted it to viewers afterwards, as in the other case, but it was transmitted directly to televiewers in the Soviet Union and Europe without any relays through a so-called "inter-viewer".

The group flight of the Soviet cosmonauts was marked by remarkable accuracy, and this was reflected also in their almost simultaneous landing, and this indicates the remarkable perfection of Soviet technology.

I should also stress the fact that every new step in penetrating outer space leads to ever greater possibilities and opens up new prospects for research and for the further perfecting of technology. Step by step science is penetrating the universe, overcoming obstacle after obstacle and opening up ever new vistas. The group flight of the Soviet cosmonauts not only proved the possibility of further penetration into outer space, but also the possibility of men living and working there for long periods.

In his statement on 18 August 1962 on this matter, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, Mr. Nikita S. Khrushchev, stressed again that the achievements in the conquest of outer space and outer space itself are achievements that belong to the whole of mankind, and that the results of the penetration into space must be for the common benefit of all men living on our remarkable planet, the earth.

The colossal task and problems of penetration into outer space obviously requires the consolidation and development of international co-operation in this field. This was stressed in the messages sent by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, Mr. Nikita S. Khrushchev, to the President of the United States, Mr. John F. Kennedy, on 21 February and 20 March 1962, and also in the reply of President Kennedy of 7 March 1962. The importance of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space is now generally recognized. It has also been stressed that this co-operation must be based on international agreements dealing with the main problems upon which successful international co-operation in the study of peaceful uses of outer space depends.

We should like to recall in this connexion that as long ago as the beginning of 1958 the Soviet Government proposed the conclusion of a large-scale international agreement to organize co-operation in this field, and we took the initiative of seizing the United Nations of this problem.



(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

At its session in the spring of 1962, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space recognized that international co-operation in this field must also be considered as an important contribution to mutual understanding and to the strengthening of friendly relations among States. It was with this goal in view that at its spring session the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space decided that various proposals made and wishes expressed during the discussion concerning the legal, scientific and technical aspects of the matter would be transmitted to two sub-committees.

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

Then the Committee decided to come back to the reports of these two Sub-Committees. We are now seized with the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This document contains brief information on concrete measures taken by the United Nations in the year that elapsed since the adoption of resolution 1721 by the General Assembly.

The first thing that comes to mind when perusing this report is the fact that the efforts made by the Committee on legal questions were on a completely different level from those made in the field of scientific and technological problems.

If the recommendations of the Committee on scientific and technological problems are a constructive step forward toward the development of international co-operation, unfortunately one cannot say the same concerning the activities of the Committee in the field of international law problems related to the peaceful uses of outer space. We shall come back somewhat later to this questions of the recommendations of the Committee on scientific and technological problems. At present we deem it necessary to draw attention, first of all, to the fact that the Committee was not able to submit any recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the main principles of activities of States on the investigation and use of outer space. We feel that it is mandatory to stress the importance of the elaboration of these principles for the successful carrying out of international co-operation of States in the scientific and technical field. It would be wrong to say that one could delay the solution of these problems forever; that one can pigeonhole a decision on many fundamental problems relating to the elaboration of the main principles of activities of States in the peaceful uses of outer space. I would recall what was stated in the message of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Khrushchev, of 20 March 1962, addressed to the President of the United States:

"The time has also come for our two countries, which have made more progress than other countries in the use of space, to try and find a common ground in the solution of important legal problems which life itself poses to States of the world in the space age, and I think that it is a positive fact that at the sixteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly the Soviet Union and the United States were able to agree on the first principles of space law which were unanimously adopted by all Member States of the United Nations and after that on the application of international law,



(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

including the United Nations Charter, to outer space and celestial bodies and on the fact that outer space and celestial bodies may be studied and used by all States in conformity with international law and are not subject to a monopoly. We consider that now we should go forward."

I should like to recall also what was said on this topic by President Kennedy on 25 September 1961:

"As we extend the rule of law on earth, so must we also extend it to man's new domain: outer space." (A/FV.1013, p.23)

These are the starting points which should guide the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the field of the problems of international law. But it is clear that that part of the report of the Committee depicts the impasse; in which the Committee found itself: first, the Sub-Committee which met in Geneva, and then the Committee as a whole at its fall session in New York.

Paragraph 23 of the Report of the Committee states:

"(ii) No agreement was reached on any of the proposals submitted to the Sub-Committee. Four of these proposals ... were also presented to the Committee, but after an exchange of views no agreement emerged. A fifth draft proposal was presented on 14 September by the delegation of the United Arab Republic...". (A/5181, p.14)

This is the sad description of the situation in which the United Nations found itself for the time being in the study of these problems of international law which are related to the peaceful uses of outer space. The question arises as to why all this happened. I suppose it would not be too difficult to answer this question if we referred to the records of the meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee and the records of the Committee as a whole because these documents show that certain delegations tried to avoid by all possible means the adoption of any recommendation on legal problems and also tried to evade any detailed discussion on these matters.

At present we should like, as far as the background of this problem is concerned, to limit ourselves to what we have already said. We do not wish to look backward but to look forward. We should like to avoid any mutual recriminations or accusations, something that is unavoidable when an attempt is made to explain the reasons why the discussion on any matter is in a state of impasse. We think, first of all, that our common duty now is to devote our efforts

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

to finding agreed solutions at the present session on the questions relating to problems of international law and the legal aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space, just as it was possible to do so on many questions in the scientific and technical field.

We should like to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that we may not continue to tolerate this gap which is unjustified and prevents international co-operation on a large scale in the solution of urgent international problems and the development of concrete measures in the scientific and technical aspects of international co-operation in the same field. It should be stressed that in all cases that have to do with the setting up of international co-operation in any problem, it is necessary to regulate the activities of the co-operating parties. That is an elementary rule of international activities and international co-operation. It is indubitable that it is very important to define, first of all, the main principles of this co-operation and then the concrete practical measures which would ensure success for such co-operation and which would prevent the possibility of a misunderstanding, of frictions and of actions that would be prejudicial to the legal rights of any party. That is why the Soviet delegation deems that it is important to adopt a declaration on the main principles of activities of States in the study and use of outer space.

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

The adoption of this draft declaration, and this is our deep conviction, would be an important step towards the creation of a legal basis for the activities of States in space. It would create a propitious condition for further development and consolidation of international co-operation in this field. It would also be important to conclude, as of now, an international agreement concerning rescue of cosmonauts and space ships that have to make forced landings. There is a proposal of the Soviet Union in the third section of the report of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that I would like to recall in part. The main goal of the Soviet Union, which we insist on, is the adoption of these principles: that all Member States of the United Nations, including the Soviet Union and the United States, should, as far as international co-operation in space is concerned, subscribe to some legal undertakings. These legal undertakings and obligations must be based on the United Nations Charter, on the provisions of the unanimously adopted resolution of the General Assembly, resolution 1721 (XVI), and other generally recognized principles of international law. We might be told, and we have been told, that in the resolutions of the General Assembly there are already some principles concerning the activity of States in the study of the uses of outer space but this argument, which is presented by those who oppose the adoption of such a draft declaration is in fact an argument in favour of the adoption of the principles. There is no need to prove in detail that the draft declaration we now propose to the General Assembly would be a document obliging States to adhere strictly to its provisions. There is no need to prove that the resolution of the General Assembly -- any resolution of the General Assembly according to the Charter -- is only a recommendation which has no legally compulsive character. One should add that the very scope of the question provided for and mentioned in the draft declaration proposed by the Soviet Union is much wider and more detailed than resolution 1721. The draft declaration proposed by us is based on the fact that study and uses of outer space must be for the benefit of, and in the interest of, all mankind. Who could object to having this key provision, which defines the perspectives of international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space, become a legal obligation for Member States of the United Nations?

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

On the basis of this key provision we propose that it be solemnly declared that outer space and celestial bodies, as we said in the resolution of last year, must be free for exploration and use by all States and that no State may claim sovereignty over outer space and celestial bodies.

We further propose that it be recognized that the activities of States pertaining to the conquests of outer space should be carried out in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and with other generally recognized principles of international law in the interests of developing friendly relations among nations and of maintaining international peace and security.

In full conformity with these principles we propose the adoption of a provision or provisions which would result in the cessation of anything that would make the exploration or use of outer space for peaceful uses more difficult.

We propose, in several of the provisions of this draft declaration, to prohibit any activities in outer space which would be incompatible with the noble goals of mankind in the peaceful uses of outer space. We consider that it is intolerable to use scientific and technological advances and the brilliant conquests made by the genius of mankind in a manner hostile to mankind. The mind of man has given birth to tremendous scientific and technological processes which are the pride of our time.

We also propose that co-operation and mutual assistance in the conquest of outer space should be a duty incumbent upon all States and that the implementation of any measures that might in any way hinder the exploration or use of outer space for peaceful purposes by other countries should be permitted only after prior discussion of, and agreement upon, such measures between the countries concerned.

At the autumn session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space we discussed in detail, with the delegation of the United States, the clear harmfulness of high altitude atomic explosions to exploration of outer space. We stress again that all operations of that kind which could hinder the peaceful uses of outer space should not occur. In order to ensure the true responsibility of States for the results of their activities in outer space, in order to prevent

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

the possibility of harm being caused to mankind as a result of activities in space, we propose that all activities pertaining to the exploration and use of outer space should be carried out solely and exclusively by States, and it goes without saying that the sovereign rights of States to the objects they launch into outer space should be retained by them.

An important provision of our draft declaration is that it should be recognized that States shall regard all astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space and shall render all possible assistance to space ships and their crews which may make emergency landings on the territory of a foreign State or on the high seas. It is proposed to establish that any space ships, satellites and capsules found beyond the limits of the launching State shall be returned to that State.

These are the main provisions of the draft declaration proposed by the Soviet Union to this Committee. We are, of course, prepared to examine, together with any other delegations, any remarks, amendments or proposals that may be made to the draft of our declaration. We would like to draw attention to the fact that it is also necessary to elaborate and conclude as soon as possible a special international agreement on the rescue of astronauts and space ships making emergency landings and we do so because States must be willing to do all that it is incumbent upon them to do to assist space ships that are forced to make emergency landings.

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

It is well known that there are many multilateral and bilateral international agreements concerning rescue on the seas and in the air, and it is difficult to understand the arguments of those who oppose the elaboration of such a draft international agreement with the argument that there are already in existence certain principles of international law applying to rescue on the seas and in the air. This argument is, on the contrary, an argument in favour of the drawing-up of the agreement we propose, not against it. Since such agreements exist for the seas and for the air, they should, of course, also be worked out for the rescue of astronauts engaged in carrying out the wildest dreams of mankind and conquering space for the benefit of all humanity.

In this draft agreement which we have submitted we propose many provisions which would require the contracting States to render assistance to the crews of space ships that have met with an accident, and to proceed to the rescue of astronauts making emergency landings. To this end every means must be employed by the States, and these States must treat astronauts making emergency landings in the same manner as they would treat their own astronauts in the same situation. Such astronauts of the contracting States must be returned to their homelands as soon as possible.

According to our proposals, foreign space ships, satellites and capsules found by contracting States on their territories or salvaged on the high seas, would be returned without delay to the launching States if they bear markings indicating their national origin and if the launching States have officially announced the launching of the devices involved. The only exception would be made in the case of a vehicle aboard which devices have been found for the collection of intelligence data from the territory of another States. This exception we believe is fully consonant with the general policy that should be followed in opposing the use of outer space for objectives that are incompatible with the United Nations Charter, especially those involving the violation of the sovereignty of another State. It is indubitable that espionage is such a violation, even if it is effected from space.

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

We would be prepared to limit ourselves to this, but the statement of the representative of the United States in which he attempted to justify theoretically such illegal activities compels us to say a few more words on this subject.

We cannot agree with the claim that all observation from space, including observation for the purpose of collecting intelligence data, is in conformity with international law -- a conclusion which could be drawn from the statement made this morning by the representative of the United States. Such observation is just as wrong as when intelligence data are obtained by other means, such as by photographs made from the air. The object to which such illegal surveillance is directed constitutes a secret guarded by a sovereign State, and regardless of the means by which such an operation is carried out, it is in all cases an intrusion into something guarded by a sovereign State in conformity with its sovereign prerogative. Thus such observations are in violation of the sovereignty of States, and no analogy exists here with principles applying to the open seas. If it were merely a case of observing what happens on the high seas, one could of course accept this analogy; but when it is a case of observation on the high seas for purposes of collecting intelligence information, then we are dealing with an intrusion into the sovereign rights of States, an attempt to penetrate into that which a State tries to protect on its territory. And I should add to this the further fact that, for technical reasons, one cannot find out by observation on the high seas what one can find out from outer space.

Thus this analogy used by the representative of the United States can be considered neither from the factual nor from the legal angle as valid and applying to the situation we are at present discussing. For these reasons we consider that the activities involved are incompatible with the provisions of the United Nations Charter. Such gathering of intelligence data through the use of space vehicles is in violation of the sovereign rights of States, and if outer space is to be used in peaceful co-operation, such operations cannot be regarded as legal or in conformity with international law, and hence there could be no question of the possibility of defending such a position on the basis of international law and generally recognized principles.

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

I regret that I have been compelled to make this statement, which was not originally in my plans, but I should not want my silence to be misinterpreted, and had therefore to reply to the statement of the representative of the United States. I now return to the documents presented to the Committee in the part concerning problems of international law and the regulation of the peaceful uses of outer space.

The delegation of the Soviet Union is prepared to examine also the proposal made by the United States concerning the draft resolution on assistance to space vehicles and their crews. We are also prepared to examine the draft proposal on liability for space-vehicle accidents, proposed by the delegation of the United States. My delegation is likewise prepared to examine the draft code for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, presented by the United Arab Republic. We consider that any proposals concerning the principles of the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space should be worked out as documents of a mandatory character; so far as the contracting States are concerned, from the legal point of view. We should also like to point out that certain provisions contained in the documents presented by the United Arab Republic and the United States could make useful additions to the declaration submitted by the Soviet Union on the main principles to be followed by States in the exploration and use of outer space, and also the draft international agreement on the rescue of astronauts and space ships making emergency landings.

The Soviet delegation would like to express the hope that the representatives of Member States of the United Nations will support the idea of the working-out of a declaration on the main principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, and also the idea of the conclusion of an international agreement on the rescue of astronauts and space ships making emergency landings. A decision to support these would eliminate difficulties at present existing in the elaboration of proposals on problems of international law as relating to the peaceful uses of outer space. Thus a great and important contribution would be made to the further development of international co-operation in this field. This can be seen from the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. That Committee made new and constructive contributions to international co-operation in scientific and technical problems.

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

One should not close one's eyes to the fact that such co-operation will develop fully only in a disarmed world. And in this connexion I should like to recall something that is well known to the members of this Committee from discussions on general and complete disarmament.

The position of the Soviet Union in this field is that in the first stage of general and complete disarmament, all means of delivery of atomic and hydrogen weapons must be prohibited.

Of course, when these cardinal questions have been solved -- and we hope that such a solution will be found in the interests of all mankind -- it will be easier to co-operate in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space. The United Nations Committee on Outer Space bases itself on the exchange of messages between the heads of the Governments of the USSR and the United States, and has analysed many important problems and pointed to the ways of international co-operation in the exploration of outer space for peaceful uses, and it should be noted that the Committee on Outer Space started from the premise that the main goal of true science is to serve the interests of all mankind.

It is indubitable that for success in the technical and scientific field, the Committee on Outer Space is indebted to those States which take into account legitimate interests and the need to find an agreed solution. Thanks to the fact that co-operation in scientific and technical problems concerned with the conquest of space followed this road from the very beginning, at the meetings of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in May and June of this year agreed recommendations, which have been mentioned by some speakers here, were worked out and adopted at the September session of the Committee on Outer Space as a whole.

Let us recall that these recommendations were worked out on many questions. For example, let us refer to those concerning meteorology. The present state of science and technology enables us to hope for the creation of satellites which would radically improve weather forecasting and bring nearer the day when man will be able to exert a definite influence on the weather and climate. The Committee on Outer Space, in our view, pointed to important and sound recommendations in the field of meteorology in order to create as soon as possible an operative system of the use of satellites, appealing to Member States of the United Nations to study programmes and problems, and recommending that, together with interested specialized

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

agencies, they should as of now take the necessary steps to improve the world's system of dissemination of meteorological information. The Committee drew attention to the activities of the scientific groups of CCSPAR in the exploration of polaris caps and asked that there should be further co-operation in this field.

Interesting and useful problems were worked out in the framework of the so-called International Year of the Quiet Sun, when full exploration will be possible of our planet and of outer space as a whole. The Committee on Outer Space asked all specialized agencies and Member States of the United Nations to exert every means to participate in that programme and pointed to the international organizations which would deal directly with its implementation.

The Soviet Union follows with great interest and in a positive manner the programme for the exploration of magnetic fields of the earth through international co-operation. Great prospects have opened up in the development of the improvement of international communication networks through artificial satellites. The proposals of the International Telecommunications Union were mentioned and were approved by the Committee. The Committee addressed an appeal to the Governments of Member States of United Nations and specialized agencies that they should take the necessary measures so that all States, whatever their economic and scientific development, should be able to benefit from space communications systems. We consider that all Governments should attach great importance to this appeal and should feel it their duty to develop space communications in the interests of all peoples and the progress of the whole of mankind and that, in this field, they should rise above selfish and private commercial interests.

The Soviet delegation has spoken of only some aspects of the scientific and technical part of the report of the Committee on Outer Space. It contains many other useful recommendations, for example, on the question of the exchange of information, the question of scientific and technical assistance, the training of specialists, etc. In connexion with this latter problem -- the training of specialists -- I would say that, in the opinion of my delegation, countries which until now have not launched any satellite or astronauts should and must bring an important contribution to bear in the exploration of space. The absence of technical potential in these States, if similar to that in the possession of the leading space Powers, should not discourage anyone.

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

I would recall a great scientist of our country, Mr. Tsiolkovski, who was the father of rocketry and astronautics, spent the greatest part of his scientific life in Tsarist Russia, which was a backward country from the technological and industrial point of view, but this did not prevent his mind from soaring into space.

In conclusion, I would say that, given the necessary co-operation and mutual understanding, we are convinced that it will be possible to overcome the obstacles which still prevent the elaboration of some agreed recommendations, especially concerning legal problems linked to the peaceful uses of outer space. My delegation believes that the adoption of such decisions and the development of such international co-operation in the exploration of outer space is not only highly desirable and useful, but that it would also contribute to the strengthening of lasting peace on earth.

The CHAIRMAN: There are no more speakers on the list for today. It will not be possible, therefore, to hold a meeting this afternoon. There will be two meetings tomorrow --

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Before you take a decision concerning our future meetings, Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask a question. Since a meeting was planned for this afternoon and all of us were prepared to work and organized our working day believing that there would be two meetings, and since there are no speakers for the second meeting, could we not come back to a question which has not yet been solved and on which we had a lengthy procedural discussion? We could use this afternoon's meeting -- for which we were prepared psychologically -- to examine the question of the draft resolution proposed by the Soviet delegation concerning an invitation to be sent to representatives of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to participate in the discussion of the problem of withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea.

(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

In asking this question, I think that I will not have to give many arguments. I shall only say that there are seventeen or eighteen days left before the end of the Assembly. These are days in which we will have to end the discussion of the present item on our agenda and then have a discussion on the extremely important terrestrial problem, that of the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea.

In these circumstances we must send an invitation to the representatives of both parts of Korea, the representatives of the Korean People's Democratic Republic and those of the regime in South Korea, so that they will be able to arrive in time to participate in the discussion of the matter. That is why I am now raising the question of the possibility of meeting this afternoon in order to put an end to the discussion on the matter. We could do it within one meeting, I suppose, and thus we would better organize our work and not find ourselves in a position where the problem of the invitation to be addressed to the representatives of the Korean People's Democratic Republic would take place in a hasty manner. This would serve nobody's interest, I am sure.

Mr. GORE (United States of America): The representative of the Soviet Union and I have delivered, with the grateful attention of our colleagues in this Committee, lengthy statements, each occupying about an hour, on a tremendously important but very technical subject, but nevertheless a subject which affects every nation and every people represented here. The representative of the Soviet Union now proposes a procedural proposition, one which I must respectfully oppose.

He would propose to drop, in effect, this very important subject on which both he and I have made important statements on behalf of our Governments, statements to which other nations should be entitled to give consideration and to express the views of their Governments. It would be unwise to drop this important subject and plunge instead into the question of whether Korea should be represented here, or how.

Therefore, I respectfully suggest that we proceed with the orderly discussion of the agenda item, one of tremendous importance to all mankind.



The CHAIRMAN: As the Committee will recall, when the question now raised by the representative of the Soviet Union was before the Committee last, it was decided that the Chairman would be asked to hold consultations on that matter. Much to his regret, the Chairman has not found it possible to be present here today having been detained by other pressing business, nor do I think that I am in a position to make undertakings on his behalf. Therefore, I do not think that it can be decided at this meeting to take up some other business at a meeting this afternoon. Thus, I do not see any other possibility than to call the next meeting of the Committee for tomorrow morning at 10.30.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Mr. Chairman, I understand the difficulties which you personally feel in this matter since the proposal that you mentioned was made to our actual Chairman. It is with deep regret that I am compelled not to insist on a formal vote on the proposal that I have just made or could have made. I am not making a formal proposal now in view of what you have just stated. This is out of respect to you, Mr. Chairman, and to your personal position.

But I would like to ask you and the members of the Bureau to inform the Chairman of what was said on the matter this morning and to say that we expect some information from the Chairman on this problem very soon, within the next few days, on the way in which he was able to carry out the instructions given him by the Committee. Consequently, in the free time at our disposal, the Committee will be able to examine both the invitations to be addressed to the representatives of the Korean people and take a decision in a reasonable manner, so that the invitation, when adopted, will not be considered a mockery by those whom we intend to invite and will not arrive too late and their physical presence become impossible.

Thus I would like this statement to appear in the records of the Committee and I would also like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, most respectfully, to contact the Chairman and ask him to be kind enough to inform us of the results of his consultations inasmuch as the question is a very urgent one and, unfortunately, the Committee has not taken a decision as yet.

The CHAIRMAN: I can assure the representative of the Soviet Union that the contents of the statement he has just made will be transmitted to the Chairman of the First Committee.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.