

Mr. CHAHIDNOURAI (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to state that the delegation of France is especially happy at the adoption of the draft resolution submitted by Ambassador Jankowitsch on behalf of the Outer Space Committee. We have taken special note of Mr. Jankowitsch's remarks concerning the fact that the resolution essentially comprises the substance of the resolution proposed by the Outer Space Committee and especially the passage devoted to the importance of follow-up studies on matters related to the definition of outer space.

The French delegation is also gratified to find that the original draft resolution has been very appropriately amended, especially as concerns the strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division. That Division has done a considerable amount of work under very difficult conditions and will in the future be called upon to play an even more important part, especially in assistance to developing countries. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the staff, although of course it must be left to the Secretary-General to choose the most qualified persons to do the necessary work. That is why my delegation has supported efforts aimed at this objective.

We also wish to express our sincere congratulations and appreciation for the manner in which you, Mr. Chairman, have conducted this very difficult debate.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has concluded its consideration of agenda items 32 and 33, and I wish to congratulate it and to express my appreciation. We certainly have emerged from outer space and made a successful soft landing or splashdown; I hope we can proceed similarly on the other agenda items.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.



UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



PROVISIONAL

A/C.1/PV.2052
14 October 1975

ENGLISH

Thirtieth Session

FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND AND FIFTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 14 October 1975, at 3 p.m.Chairman:Mr. von WECHMAR
(Vice-Chairman)

(Federal Republic of Germany)

Rapporteur:

Mr. ARTEAGA-ACOSTA

(Venezuela)

- International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /32/ (continued)
- Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /33/ (continued)

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75-71036/A

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 32 AND 33 (continued)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/10020)
PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/10020)

Mr. NAJAR (Israel) (interpretation from French): The First Committee begins its consideration of items 32 and 33 of its agenda concerning international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and has at its disposal remarkable work. I am referring here to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as well as the reports of the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

May we, therefore, express our gratitude to the Chairmen of the Committee and the Sub-Committee as well as to all those who have co-operated in the work thus far accomplished.

The enormous hopes and inevitable problems engendered by the conquest of outer space, thanks to man's scientific genius and audacity, cannot leave any nation indifferent. Each one of us is involved in this spectacular and dramatic enlargement of the field of action of man, an expansion that undoubtedly is the most visible and tangible expression of the interdependence of all peoples on our planet.

(Mr. Najjar, Israel)

The Apollo-Soyuz programme, which has rightly been called historic, provides food for thought. Artificial satellites circling the earth, by detecting all its aspects and measuring as never before in the past all that it has to offer and all its potential, are henceforward part of our existence, with all their political and economic implications. The capacity for direct television broadcasting by satellite, at regional and world level, is henceforward a permanent element in communications and information and opens great possibilities in the very broad realm of education.

The hesitations, reluctance and concern, understandable in the light of this eruption, in national traditional spheres deserve the greatest consideration. They cannot, however, fundamentally change new situations created by increased knowledge of outer space and its possibilities. While common sense demands that we view the world as it is, the duty incumbent on the international community is to give human content and human measure to the scientific realities which thus transform our existence, and first and foremost to give all nations the feelings that they participate in the exalting venture in outer space that is taking place before our eyes. For this, speedy dissemination of new knowledge is essential.

Each of us must be conscious that he is not alien to this new development in history. Each of us must have the confidence that gives him legitimate hopes. Each of us must be certain that he gets a fair share of the over-all advantages stemming from the enlargement of man's powers. The rapid evolution of control over outer space must also be placed within an international framework ensuring the greatest possible co-operation among States; that is to say, within a legal framework.

All of the foregoing explains the position of my delegation in favour of legislation ensuring for each State the greatest possible access to information concerning its territory obtained by means of

(Mr. Najjar, Israel)

remote sensing and remote detection of the earth; in favour of a systematic exchange of scientific and technological knowledge on outer space questions; in favour of a very flexible régime which appears to us to be the most, if not the only, realistic régime for direct television broadcasting, one of whose particular aims should be the dissemination of space knowledge and its implications vis-a-vis the evolution of civilization.

My delegation does not preclude the possibility that it might perhaps be timely in the near future to consider the possibility of convening an international conference on the definition and organization of outer space and the modalities of its exploitation and use for peaceful purposes.

However, the newness of the problems, the still unequal distribution of space knowledge and financial and technological means for action, the difficulties encountered in the elaboration of draft conventions on the moon or on direct television broadcasting by satellite, lead us to the conclusion that such a conference could only succeed after very careful and thorough preparation. A generally accepted framework, if not a basic document, must be established, and the less revolutionary experience of the Conference of the Law of the Sea has taught us the lesson that this undertaking will take a considerable time. That time must, however, be used for an intensive exchange of views.

The role of the United Nations and the competent division of its Secretariat would appear to be particularly important in these preliminary stages, which run the risk of becoming rather lengthy, as well as in respect of the possible organization of the conference.

Although my delegation is taking part for the first time in the discussions in this Committee on questions relating to the peaceful uses of outer space, it is quite obvious that there is very active interest in such problems in Israeli scientific circles. A national Committee on

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outer-space research under the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Letters, presided over by Professor David Abir, has been created in order to formulate, launch and co-ordinate national space activities.

Apart from the activities proper of the Committee, in particular, concerning the radio observatory in Haifa, there are no less than seven different departments in the Universities of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and Technion, the Technological Institute of Israel, in Haifa which deal regularly with space problems. To this must be added the work undertaken by the various Israeli aeronautical services and its meteorological services. Without repeating the contents of the communication issued by the National Committee on Space Investigation of Israel for 1973-1974, (A/AC.105/146), I wish to point out that that document indicates research programmes in eight different domains, programmes for applications in four directions in particular the earth station at Emeq Haela in contact with INTELSAT IV F2, and 31 cases of research sufficiently advanced to have been the subject of scientific publications.

Israel also has an agreement with NASA in regard to remote sensing and teledetection, and participates in the activities of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions, which decided, moreover, that its twentieth international scientific session would be held in Israel in 1977.

(Mr. Najjar, Israel)

The Society of Aeronautics and Astronautics of Israel also participates in the work of the International Federation of Astronautics, whose twenty-seventh Congress is in principle to be held in Israel in 1978. A communication from Israel at the recent meeting of Cospar concerning the year 1974-75 reports 46 research programmes which have resulted in published studies, and 24 programmes under way in regard to different fields of action.

My delegation was keenly interested in the opening statement made by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on 9 June 1975, which is to be found in document A/10020. In particular the stress laid by Mr. Jankowitsch on the prospects opening up through the use of space knowledge for broader utilization of solar energy was of particular interest to Israel, which is doing serious work in this area, not without success. Israel would like to participate in any discussions held on the subject and is generally prepared to contribute to the best of its ability to the work of the Committee. Israeli scientists could, inter alia, co-operate usefully with the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

I should like to make one last remark: my delegation is aware that the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was recently expanded. A study of the reports of the Committee and of its Sub-Committees, however, lead us to believe that the membership should be enlarged yet again, not merely to allow for more equitable representation by Members of our Organization, but also because of the growing scale of the Committee's responsibilities which will necessarily entail greater distribution and sharing out of tasks in its different spheres of action. My delegation would therefore support any suggestion that may be made along those lines.

Mr. BOATEN (Ghana): On behalf of my delegation, I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Ghorra on his election to the chairmanship of this Committee. Our congratulations also go to you, Sir, and to your fellow Vice-Chairman, Mr. Patrice Mikanagu of Burundi, and the Rapporteur of the

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Committee, Mr. Arteaga-Acosta of Venezuela. My delegation is in no doubt that with our work in such able hands, our deliberations cannot but be a fruitful contribution to the resolution of the problems which have faced this Committee at each session of the General Assembly. For our part, I wish to assure the Chairman of our full co-operation in the discharge of his duties.

When my delegation intervened on this item during the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, we expressed our appreciation of the work done in the course of the year by the Outer Space Committee. We are happy that we are again able to express our satisfaction with the work which the Committee has been able to accomplish since the last session. This is not to say that the Committee has been able to reach agreement on all the problems which faced it. My delegation's appreciation of the work of the Committee is based on our recognition of the complexities of the issues which it faces; it is against these complexities, some of them real, some of them imaginary, that we have assessed the work of the Committee. As my delegation sees it, the area of the Committee's work where there has been the greatest conflict of views is its legal aspect. I intend to make a few observations on this in my comment on the work of the two main Sub-Committees of the Committee.

If my delegation is happy with the work of the Outer Space Committee over the past 12 months, it is mainly because it has been able to give, particularly through its Sub-Committees, the right direction and focus to the study of the data which we require to be able to make the correct decisions with regard to the peaceful uses of outer space. On the recommendation of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space requested the following studies:

First, a summary of available cost effectiveness.

Second, organization and financial requirements for establishment of an international centre under United Nations auspices. This study was to cover the possible need for collection of information in certain specific fields, such as the monitoring of the global environment and the assessment of global food production. The study was also to take into account potential sources of data; it was to take into account the possible relationship between such a centre and existing or planned regional reception facilities.

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

Third, organizational and financial requirements for the establishment of one or more international data storage and dissemination centres under the United Nations auspices, and for the inclusion in such centres of reception facilities, taking into consideration the interest in such centres in Africa, Europe and South-East Asia; in particular, the possibility of UNDP financing such centres; organization and financial implications of attaching an education and training facility to the centres referred to.

All these studies have been very ably conducted by the Secretary-General, to whom we should be very grateful, have been considered by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and are now before us. They should enable us to evaluate both the present and future scope of application of outer space technology to human needs.

I should now like to turn my attention to the work of the Outer Space Committee, particularly as reflected by the reports of its two main Sub-Committees, the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

In its resolution 3234 (XXIX) the General Assembly urged the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to give priority to three principal areas in its work, namely, the draft treaty relating to the moon; elaboration of principles governing direct broadcast satellites; and implications of remote sensing of the earth by satellites.

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

My delegation has noted that in spite of serious efforts made by the Legal Sub-Committee the principal issues standing in the way of adoption of a draft moon treaty still remain. These issues relate to the legal status of the natural resources of the moon and the scope of the treaty. The efforts of the Sub-Committee in this regard resulted in the draft articles X and X bis appearing in annex I of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee. In the view of my delegation this situation does not bring the issues any nearer their resolution. If anything, they complicate them even further. It has been argued that "at the current stage of development of exploration of the moon, or would be in the near future", it did not appear that there were "sufficient material prerequisites for the detailed elaboration of provisions to govern the status of the moon's natural resources". The logical conclusion flowing from this argument would appear to be that with the present level of knowledge of moon resources it is premature to attempt to elaborate a treaty relating to them.

Without doubting the sincerity with which this case has been made, the argument, nevertheless, seems, to say the least, a little curious to my delegation. On the contrary, it seems to my delegation that the very fact on which this argument is based should make it easier for us to elaborate the legal principles which should govern whatever minerals might be found on the moon at a future date. At this stage, and with our present limited knowledge of resources on the moon, any treaty elaborated cannot go further than elaboration of principles. If we fail to elaborate these legal principles at this stage, the issues will be even more complex when our knowledge of resources on the moon has increased. The issues which we are now trying to resolve would then be complicated by fresh elements, not the least of them, national interests.

My delegation also notes that there is some resistance to extending the scope of the draft treaty to cover other celestial bodies presently known or unknown. Again, my delegation finds it difficult to appreciate the reason or reasons for the resistance at this stage, when all that the draft treaty seeks to do is to elaborate principles.

(Mr. Boateng, Ghana)

In our statement on this item during the twenty-ninth session, we pointed out that outer space activities, particularly those that involve other celestial bodies, have an inherent potential risk which all nations, whether sufficiently technologically developed to participate in those activities or not, equally share. Is it not a fair and equitable rule in community relationships that those who share liabilities in equal measure should share assets in the same measure? My delegation would like to hope that at the next session of the Outer Space Committee, delegations whose positions have so far made it difficult to arrive at an agreed draft treaty would re-appraise their positions in a direction which would make it easy for the Outer Space Committee to present a draft moon treaty to this Committee for consideration at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly. We entertain that hope in the light of the fact that whatever treaty we finally adopt will contain a provision for review when that becomes necessary in the light of future developments.

Unlike the moon treaty, the Legal Sub-Committee through its Working Group II made considerable progress in its consideration of direct television broadcasting by means of artificial earth satellites. Complete agreement was reached on State responsibility, peaceful settlement of disputes and prevention of disruption between services. A look at annex II of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, however, indicates that a substantial amount of work still remains to be done. That is reflected by the alternative formulations in respect of purposes and objectives, consent and participation, spill-over, duty and right to consult. In addition to this, there are still a number of separate brackets yet to be removed in a number of formulations. It is the hope of my delegation that the next report of the Outer Space Committee will present single formulated texts void of square brackets.

For the first time, the Legal Sub-Committee considered the implications of proposals on remote sensing of resources by earth satellites submitted by Member States. My delegation is happy with the initial progress made in identifying a number of common areas of agreement as enumerated in annex III, page 2, of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee. We note, however, that there are other issues yet to be considered. These are listed in paragraph 8 of annex III of the report.

(Mr. Boateng, Ghana)

It is the hope of my delegation that the Committee on Outer Space, through its Legal Sub-Committee, will address itself urgently to these issues at its future meetings.

In our statement on this item during the twenty-ninth General Assembly, my delegation had occasion to commend the impressive work done by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. We are happy to record once again our appreciation of the work of the Sub-Committee. The report of the Sub-Committee is a record of a fruitful year.

On the request of the Sub-Committee, the Secretary-General produced an impressive and very informative number of reports. My delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General and his staff for the prompt attention they paid to the request of the Sub-Committee and for the zeal and diligence with which the reports were produced. It is a mark of responsiveness of the Secretary-General and his staff to the objectives of the Outer Space Committee, that issues of such a technical nature should be presented in a form intelligible to the layman.

My delegation has read and studied these reports with considerable interest. While we recognize that the technology of remote sensing from space has not yet reached the level of utilization and technological perfection anticipated in its earlier years, we are satisfied that there is adequate evidence to show that the system promises a greater advance in exploration and utilization of earth resources than has ever been known to human society. That is amply demonstrated by the summary of studies on cost effectiveness in remote sensing contained in document A/AC.105/139/Add.1 produced by the Secretariat. We are also heartened to note that the cost of a system for reception, processing, dissemination and analysis is not prohibitive, as shown in the Secretariat's report on Implementation Requirements for an International Regional Data Storage and Dissemination Centre for Earth Resources Satellite and Related Data, document A/AC.105/137. The cost of providing training facilities at storage and dissemination centres as indicated in document A/AC.105/138 produced by the Secretariat is not excessive either.

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

In the view of my delegation remote sensing of earth resources by satellites offers unlimited opportunities for international co-operation within the context of the now recognized global interdependence. The Secretariat's report in summary of studies on cost effectiveness in remote sensing, cited above, which was based on a survey prepared by the United States Department of the Interior/Geological Survey, indicates the trade and balance of payments benefits to the United States which would result from the use of remote sensing information by foreign countries. The figures shown appear to be very modest in relation to the total volume of trade of the United States. It is realistic, however, to assume that these benefits will increase in quantitative terms in the future with improvement and increase in the use of remote sensing technology. The report also indicates, although speculatively, the benefits which would accrue to users of remote sensing technology.

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

It is because of this mutually beneficial nature of the use of remote sensing technology that my delegation believes that there would be much to gain in organizing its utilization on a global scale. In this regard my delegation suggests the establishment of storage systems at three levels: international, regional and national. International centres should be concerned with reception, processing and dissemination to regional centres; regional centres as a first stage should have the responsibility for analysis and dissemination to the national level; and the national level will then be responsible for utilization planning and dissemination. At all levels training facilities should be available for training in the expertise required at the various levels. High and intermediary level expertise training should be undertaken at both the international and regional levels, while the national level undertakes the training of its own supporting technicians. The number of international and regional centres would be determined by the differences in data required in such a manner that all required data on a global scale would be covered.

In our view, the financing of such a global project should not present an unsurmountable problem since the systems would be revenue-generating.

We suggest that this proposal be examined by the Outer Space Committee at its future meetings.

A review of national and co-operative international space activities indicates co-operation over a wide range of studies. We have also noted the expansion of co-operation between the Outer Space Committee, through its Sub-Committees, and various United Nations agencies as among the agencies themselves. It is the hope of my delegation that this will continue.

We have also noted with gratification that as in previous years a number of seminars and workshops were held in the course of 1974. As in the past, these seminars and workshops involved participants from developing countries. At the same time, the United Nations Expert on Space Applications to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee paid visits to a number of developing countries in Asia and the Far East. My delegation would like to express its appreciation for the efforts of the Expert to make developing countries aware of the existence and potential of outer space technology.

(Mr. Boaten, Ghana)

My delegation also notes from the report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/144) that a number of developed countries continued to make fellowships available to developing countries for training in outer space technology at various levels. We are heartened to note that, unlike the previous years when in some cases there were no applications for available fellowships, the Expert's report indicates that in some instances there were more applicants than could be accommodated by the awarding countries. This indicates the growing interest shown in developing countries in outer space technology.

My delegation endorses the programme for outer space applications proposed by the expert and recommends it for approval by this Committee.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to express its appreciation for the work which has been accomplished in the course of the year covered by the report. Outer space offers a mutually beneficial opportunity for global co-operation. It is the hope of my delegation that we shall seize this opportunity.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Ghana for the kind words he addressed to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. BISHARA (Kuwait): Activities in outer space are capturing our attention on an increasing scale. It is a cause of great satisfaction to note that some developing countries are now active in this field. Just to cite one instance, on 19 April 1975 the first Indian earth satellite was launched and carried into space. We welcome such achievements and hope that developing countries will find the necessary assistance further to develop and improve their space programmes.

The joint Soyuz-Apollo flight was a tour de force which emphasizes a new and welcome aspect in international life, namely, constructive co-operation among the two super-Powers to push forward the frontiers of knowledge and explore areas hitherto unknown in the quest for the conquest of space.

The advances in outer space impress upon us the urgency of finding an exact definition for the boundaries of outer space and its delimitations with air space.

(Mr. Bishara, Kuwait)

Mr. de Jager, speaking on behalf of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), made an attempt to formulate such a definition in his appearance before the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on 10 June 1975. In his attempt to formulate a definition, he mentioned the existence of "no-man's" space which, he said, has never been mentioned in earlier literature on this subject. We are aware that his tentative definition did not evoke a favourable response among some members of the Committee who, inter alia, objected to the division of space into three zones instead of two. No doubt, any definition and delimitation of outer space will have to take into consideration the latest findings of science and technology. One should also seek legal guidance from the works of eminent jurists on air law and space law. It may be advisable for the Secretariat to prepare a study, compiling pertinent scientific and technical data relating to the delimitation of outer space, together with the views of eminent jurists and other experts on the subject. Such a study could be of inestimable value to the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as it may initiate the process for the formulation of the legal norms which are so badly needed.

We should have liked to see a completed treaty on the moon and other celestial bodies. Serious difficulties, however, seem still to hamper agreement on a final draft text. The bone of contention still is the régime which is to govern the natural resources of the moon. My delegation would like to reiterate its earlier position that the moon treaty should clearly stipulate that the moon and other celestial bodies and their natural resources are the common heritage of mankind and that the exploitation of these resources will be carried out under the aegis of a legal régime governing all activities on the moon and other celestial bodies. The international régime should ensure an equitable distribution of the benefits that will accrue from such exploitation, taking into account the special interests and needs of the developing countries.

(Mr. Bishara, Kuwait)

The work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is becoming increasingly technical. However, we are concerned mainly with the pragmatic aspects of the Committee's work. One major consideration is the impact that space technology will have on economic and social development in the developing countries. We therefore attach particular significance to the applications of space technology.

My delegation takes the view that the United Nations should steadily expand and improve its programme for the application of space techniques and technology to meet the present and prospective needs of the developing countries. Naturally, when we speak of the United Nations we mean its family of organizations, which are called upon to respond to the present challenge by combining their resources and co-ordinating their activities in the area of the applications of space technology.

Many Governments have voiced doubts over the advisability of convening a conference on space applications in the immediate future. In our view, that conference must be the culmination of a process which may require a few years to complete. The developing countries would need a lot of information on the possibilities of space technology and the extent to which it could be utilized by them. Of particular help would be United Nations programmes to hold workshops, panel meetings, seminars and courses for education and training, and the publicizing of facilities available in the United Nations and its specialized agencies for development of national space programmes in the developing countries. Once the terrain is well surveyed and the developing countries feel that they are in a position to make full use of this new type of technology, the conference on space applications should be convened. The conference should explore all avenues for transferring space technology to the developing countries and using it as an instrument for promoting their economic and social development.

Remote sensing of the earth is a field full of promise which, at this stage, raises serious difficulties. Those who possess this space technology are at present able to engage in activities on the surface of the earth, its subsoil and the earth's atmosphere, many of which are within the exclusive jurisdiction and sovereignty of the States whose natural resources are the

(Mr. Bishara, Kuwait)

subject of investigation. This impresses upon us the urgent need to create an organizational and legal framework for remote-sensing technology which will reconcile the dictates of State sovereignty with the need to utilize this new technology to meet the needs of the developing countries. Remote sensing is the type of activity that may have the largest impact on the lives of human beings everywhere. It is a technology that can be used to alleviate the shortage of food, solve the problems of ecology and promote the conservation of nature. Moreover, it is a technology that is the exclusive preserve of a few industrially advanced countries. Our primary aim should be to enlist the co-operation of countries that possess the remote sensing technology in making its benefits available for the advancement of all people, especially those who have long been suffering from backwardness and neglect.

Mr. DAMDINDORJ (Mongolia) (interpretation from Russian): May I, on behalf of the delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic, sincerely congratulate the Chairman of our First Committee on his unanimous election to this important post, and express my conviction that under his leadership the Committee will successfully perform its tasks. My delegation would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur upon their election.

The Mongolian delegation notes with satisfaction that the process of détente is becoming ever deeper and broader and is embracing new spheres of international relations. This process is providing considerable momentum for the further expansion of mutually advantageous co-operation on an equal footing, particularly in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space.

Of particular importance is the growing co-operation between the Soviet Union and the United States in the field of space research. Striking testimony of this was the recent joint Soyuz-Apollo space flight. The development of mutually advantageous co-operation among States in space research undeniably exerts a favourable influence on the strengthening of international peace and security.

Scientific achievements in the field of space research have yielded results of great practical significance for economic and social progress. The practical importance of this research will be even greater in the future.

(Mr. Damdindorj, Mongolia)

It is precisely for this reason that almost all States have been displaying considerable interest in the development of international co-operation in this field.

However, such co-operation requires clear legal regulation in accordance with the universally acknowledged principles of international law, in the light of the specific requirements of individual States. In this regard, the United Nations is assigned a significant role in the production of universally acceptable principles of international co-operation in the conquest of space.

As we know, the United Nations General Assembly, at its eighteenth session, adopted the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for peaceful purposes.

(Mr. Damdindorj, Mongolia)

As a result of the fruitful work of the Committee and its Sub-Committees considerable success was achieved. A number of treaties were signed and conventions are now in effect governing the activities of States in this field. On this basis, international co-operation has been successfully going on in the fields of meteorology, long-distance communications, the study of the earth's resources and the study of various processes occurring both around our planet and in interplanetary space.

Our delegation has attentively studied the report submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Mr. Jankowitsch, for the consideration of our Committee. The report, in the view of our delegation, objectively reflects the work of the Committee and its Sub-Committees for the period since the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly. It should be pointed out that in spite of the complexities involved in the relatively new problems of the use of outer space, the Committee's work did make concrete progress.

The Legal Sub-Committee at its fourteenth session quite rightly decided to give priority attention to the treaty on the moon, particularly with respect to the question of the moon's natural resources. The successful solution of this problem would promote the possibility of further agreement on other outstanding questions involved in producing this draft. Articles X and X bis have been reformulated, and although they contain a number of words and proposals upon which agreement has not yet been achieved, they can serve as a basis for a compromise in resolving the problem of the moon's natural resources. In this connexion, we agree that the Legal Sub-Committee, at its next session, should continue its consideration of the draft treaty on the moon as a matter of priority.

Appreciable progress has been achieved in the formulation of principles defining direct television broadcasting. A good many square brackets have been eliminated from the text of the first five principles upon which, as early as 1974, general agreement had been achieved. The existing agreement on the question of the responsibility of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes and also the alternatives with regard to the other principles are the fruit of the businesslike co-operation of States with an interest in attaining a general consensus on this question.

(Mr. Damdindorj, Mongolia)

Our delegation notes with satisfaction the existence of certain common elements on the question of remote sensing, particularly in that such sensing should be carried out in the interests of the whole of mankind and of the right of each State to carry out such remote sensing in accordance with international law. We support the proposal for continuing the study of the question of remote sensing of the earth from space.

The Mongolian People's Republic is very much interested in co-operation in research in the use of space and participates in measures which have been taken under the programme of the INTERCOSMOS International Centre. As a participant in that organization, Mongolia is putting into effect a concrete programme on its own territory. This will have a favourable effect on the development of our national economy, on weather forecasting and on work in other fields.

In conclusion, our delegation wishes to express its conviction that the results of the discussion in our Committee of the problems of the conquest of space will serve the general interests of the successful performance of the tasks entrusted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the Mongolian People's Republic for his kind words regarding the officers of the Committee.

Mr. RESHETNIAK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): First our delegation would like to associate itself with those members who have congratulated the Chairman and the other officers of our Committee upon their election. The fruitful results of the easing of international tension, which is becoming increasingly a salient feature of contemporary international relations, are particularly evident in a sphere of international co-operation such as the conquest of space. The very character of space activities makes indispensable the broadest and most comprehensive possible uniting of the efforts of different countries in this field. Mutually advantageous co-operation in the peaceful conquest of space is one of the most important prerequisites for ensuring further success in the development of science, technology, the economy and culture of the whole of mankind.

(Mr. Reshetniak, Ukrainian SSR)

In our view, the character and forms of this co-operation are changing. At the initial stage of the space era, international co-operation in the field of space research was fundamentally limited to the exchange of information and the joint discussion of the results achieved and, at best, to the co-ordination of individual projects, while at the present time pride of place is being given to joint work in carrying out co-ordinated scientific and technological programmes and experiments, including the establishment, by the concerted efforts of different States, of space objects and their use for scientific and economic purposes.

Considerable experience has now been accumulated both of bilateral and of multilateral co-operation in the field of the conquest and peaceful uses of outer space. We note with satisfaction the considerable contribution made to this Committee by the Soviet Union. Although concrete examples have already been adduced here of such co-operation, we feel it is appropriate to point out that from 1967 onward, the joint programme of space research of the socialist countries has been going on successfully. This programme is called INTERCOSMOS. In the course of that programme, 13 satellites have already been launched, along with two geophysical rockets and a considerable number of meteorological rockets. Co-operation of the scientists of the socialist countries within this programme is becoming ever more diversified. In the field of space biology, in medicine alone more than 20 joint research projects have been undertaken.

Co-operation is successfully developing between the Soviet Union and France in the field of space physics, space meteorology, space communications, and recently in space biology and medicine.

The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR would like to take this opportunity to hail the launching of the first Indian satellite, Aryabhata, which was carried into earth orbit by a Soviet rocket.

(Mr. Reshetniak, Ukrainian SSR)

draft international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, submitted by the Soviet Union at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

It is with a feeling of satisfaction that we note the progress achieved recently in the preparation of draft principles for direct television broadcasting. The members of the Legal Sub-Committee were able to produce a single text of the draft principles for direct television broadcasting, although that text still contains a certain number of square brackets and alternative proposals. We believe that text can serve as a basis for further work by the Legal Sub-Committee, bearing in mind the ultimate goal of concluding an appropriate agreement or agreements on this question.

We also view favourably the fact that the Legal Sub-Committee was able to prepare a preliminary compromise draft text of two articles on the most complex problem of the draft treaty relating to the moon, that of its natural resources. It is to be hoped that goodwill and a constructive approach on the part of members of the Legal Sub-Committee will make it possible to overcome the present difficulties, and that at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly we shall be able to consider and approve a draft treaty relating to the moon.

Useful work was also done, in our view, by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which considered various aspects of the problem of remote sensing.

On the whole, our delegation takes a favourable view of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees.

In conclusion, the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR would like to state its support for the draft resolution on the item under consideration, contained in document A/C.1/L.712.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the Ukrainian SSR for the kind words he addressed to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. TURKMEN (Turkey) (interpretation from French): As I begin my first statement in this Committee, Sir, I would request you to convey our sincere congratulations to His Excellency Ambassador Ghorra on his unanimous election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. I am sure that with his wide experience and diplomatic talents this Committee will achieve useful results from the discussions of the problems before it. I should like also to congratulate you, Sir, and the other officers of the Committee.

I have no intention of making a long statement. Rather, I should like to sum up my delegation's views on the subjects entrusted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Before beginning my statement, however, I should like to thank Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria for his excellent report on the work of the Outer Space Committee's eighteenth session, as well as for the statement he was good enough to make to this Committee on 10 October as Chairman of the Outer Space Committee.

The year 1975 was marked, in the realm of outer space exploration, by the joint Apollo-Scyuz mission, and in that connexion my delegation offers its sincere congratulations to the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union on that successful undertaking and the example of co-operation they have given the world.

In our opinion, the rapid development of technology is a very good reason for speeding up the establishment of as comprehensive and equitable a space law as possible. Space law must not lag behind space technology when the latter is sufficiently advanced for us to perceive clearly its results and implications.

Having said that, I should like to state that my country has followed with keen interest the work on the draft treaty relating to the moon. With regard to the three outstanding points in that field -- that is, the scope of the treaty, the nature and content of the information to be furnished on missions to the moon, and the legal status to be given the natural resources of the moon -- the Turkish delegations has the following views.

First, we think that the treaty relating to the moon should apply also to other celestial bodies.

With regard to the problems of information, we believe that such information should be provided in advance.

As for the third major outstanding question, Turkey believes that the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies are the common heritage of mankind,

(Mr. Turkmen, Turkey)

although we do not lose sight of the needs of the space Powers in connexion with their research activities.

On the question of direct broadcasting by satellites, we believe that the sovereign rights of States and the principle of the free flow of information are not incompatible. The principles submitted jointly by Canada and Sweden in that respect have the merit of providing for broad co-operation between States in that sphere and for direct participation by the receiving countries in the broadcasts directed towards their territory, while taking account of the principles of sovereignty.

With regard to the question of remote sensing of natural resources by satellites, we feel that that problem deserves careful reflection, especially on the part of the developing countries, inasmuch as the data to be obtained as a result of those activities could contribute to a more effective and rational use of the resources of those countries, as well as to the discovery of new resources benefiting all countries and mankind. Sovereignty over the national resources and wealth of States should be the basis of an agreement in that field, from the point of view both of research and of the exploitation of the resources involved.

The Turkish Government is in favour of the convening of a United Nations conference on space applications in the future, since such a conference could make it possible for States, and particularly the developing States, to become more aware of the advantages to be drawn from space applications. In our opinion, the main goal of such a conference should be the search for ways and means to ensure the participation of all States, and in particular the developing countries, in space applications, as well as access to the data obtained in that field.

Since Turkey's views on the composition and functioning of the Outer Space Committee are well known, I shall confine myself to saying in that connexion that the search for the means of giving interested States the possibility of participating on a rotating basis in the Committee's work might well be the best example of the desire for co-operation within our Organization.

The PRESIDENT: I shall convey the congratulations expressed by the representative of Turkey to the Chairman of the Committee and the other officers who are not present now.

Mr. RIVAS (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of my Government, I should like to express our satisfaction to the Chairman on his election to preside over this Committee, and also to offer our sincere congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur. With such highly qualified officers, the Committee need have no doubt about the effectiveness of its work and the success of its deliberations.

The subject now before the Committee is of particular interest and importance to my country. The Colombian territory is situated in the equatorial zone, with a strip of land actually running through the equator. My country thus has, in space, an orbital segment that can be used by communication satellites, offering unlimited possibilities for technological use. That space segment which, as an orbit for geostationary satellites, passes over Colombian territory has an arc of $5^{\circ}29'07''$, which takes in equatorial points between longitude $70^{\circ}2'25''$ west and longitude $75^{\circ}31'32''$ west. Colombia has 1.52 per cent of the over-all stationary orbit. That percentage is the equivalent of about 609.5 kilometres. Satellites located at a fixed point in that orbit would cover the trajectory in exactly 24 hours, at a height of approximately 35.871 kilometres from the surface of the earth.

That equatorial band can be geodesically and geographically determined throughout its length and can be used only for launching satellites over the sector located above the continental mass.

My country considers that these orbital segments that can be used by geostationary satellites are not covered by the concept of outer space as used in the Treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, signed in January 1967 under the aegis of the United Nations. That Treaty, as is well known, accepted the principle of res communis for outer space, in order to prevent the appropriation of outer space by any State. However, by its very nature, the use of geostationary satellites entails the permanent occupancy of points along the orbital segments, and that occupancy in turn would entail claims of sovereignty that would obviously be unacceptable, particularly

Mr. FORDE (Norway): First of all I should like to take this opportunity to express my Government's appreciation to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its sub-organs for the highly valuable work that has been carried out since the last session of the General Assembly. Although Norway is not a member of the Outer Space Committee, we have followed with great interest the consideration of these questions because of their political and economic implications for mankind as a whole.

Before turning to some of the specific problems with which the Outer Space Committee has dealt during the last year, I should like to emphasize the importance the Norwegian Government attaches to the question of utilizing available resources in the best possible way. We must always bear in mind that the world's economic and technical resources are limited. The field of space activity is certainly no exception. Resources are too scarce and important to be wasted on plans and projects that can have only limited benefits. Careful consideration should therefore be given to the selection of areas of interest and to the priority of individual projects. The requirements of the developing countries and the assistance such projects may render for their further development should particularly be borne in mind.

One of the questions to which my delegation attaches particular importance is the work relating to direct television broadcasting by satellites. We have noted with appreciation that substantial progress has been achieved concerning the drafting of governing principles. It is a most encouraging development that when it met in June last the Legal Sub-Committee was for the first time able to produce a set of such draft principles reflecting a high degree of consensus among the members of the Sub-Committee. This should enable the Sub-Committee to carry out a comprehensive review of all relevant principles involved in direct broadcasting by satellite with a view to achieving complete agreement.

The Norwegian Government is of the opinion that these governing principles should reflect the interests of both the broadcasting and the receiving State, the principle of freedom of information and the integrity of each country. It goes without saying that this balance of interests is rather delicate, but an agreement must be reached to avoid unilateral action. It might be even more difficult for a small nation to preserve its cultural and linguistic identity with an increased uncontrolled flow of information. The continuing influence from

(Mr. Forde, Norway)

other countries with different cultural and linguistic backgrounds -- especially those countries with a considerable technological and economic basis -- might contribute to the eradication of national features that the receiving countries would like to preserve.

Technical limitations should also favour a certain restraint in this field. The number of frequencies at our disposal will be limited, and an eventual race for available channels might lead to some kind of monopoly for those with considerable technical and economic capacities. In our view, the legal and technical problems are closely interrelated, and a generally accepted solution of both is urgently required. The successful conclusion of the ITU Conference in 1977 will depend upon the extent to which it has been possible to clarify the legal problems involved.

It should be quite clear from what I have just said that the Norwegian Government favours some kind of international principles to govern activity in this field. The principle of freedom of information might prove illusory and lead to dominance by the few and the resourceful, if exercised without appropriate regulations. However, at the same time we must reject regulations that might be unduly cumbersome and hinder distribution of useful information. A certain balance has to be found and in our opinion that can best be secured by accepting the principle of advance approval by the receiving State. It also seems reasonable that the receiving country must be guaranteed the right to participate in the programme activity intended for areas under its jurisdiction.

Another question of particular interest to my Government is the remote sensing of earth resources, to which the latest developments in the fields of energy and natural resources have added an extra dimension. We therefore welcome the statement by the Outer Space Committee in its last report that the Legal Sub-Committee has been able to begin detailed consideration of the legal implications of activities in this field with a view to reaching agreement on draft international instruments.

It is our opinion that the major aim of this work must be to ensure, in a practical and satisfactory way, that all space-derived remote sensing data relating to territories of States must be made available to those States. In our efforts to reach some common guiding principles we must bear in mind that the existing international rules are few and incomplete. We therefore regard it as imperative

(Mr. Forde, Norway)

that internationally accepted instruments, preferably under the auspices of the United Nations, be agreed upon. The efforts so far undertaken by the Outer Space Committee and its sub-organs have generally coincided with the position of my Government.

Regarding the legal implications, the existing rules are indeed few. International law regulating space activity is in the making, and the actual practice in this field, being relatively limited, should not be considered of decisive importance for the development of new international instruments. It therefore seems appropriate to base the international legal principles governing the operation of remote sensing of earth resources on existing international law regarding natural resources. These resources are, depending on their geographical location, normally within the jurisdiction of States. Space-derived surveys of natural resources are of direct concern to the State whose territory is being surveyed, particularly if such surveys are used, or can be used, in the economic planning of that State.

(Mr. Forde, Norway)

My delegation would particularly like to mention the assistance that remote sensing of natural resources might render to developing countries. In our efforts to create a just economic world order, these countries should have at their disposal all information that might improve their economic development. Information derived from remote sensing forms no exception.

The new legal instruments must not, however, merely reflect some idealistic goals, but must be feasible and practical. In this connexion my delegation would like to emphasize that we do not consider it realistic, as a general rule, to require advance approval by the State that is being surveyed. On the other hand it seems just to impose on the State or organ that carries out the survey a firm duty to transmit all relevant information to the State that has been surveyed. This should include basic information as well as processed data, and should be applicable not only to the territories of a State, but should apply to the whole area where the State has the sovereign right to exploit the natural resources. Even if the main goal must be to enable every State to exploit its own resources, it is also our hope that such a system of information-sharing could eventually lead to closer practical co-operation between the parties concerned in this field.

In this statement we have chosen to limit our comments to a few of the items to which we attach particular interest and importance. It does not, however, imply any lack of interest in the other activities that are being carried out by the Outer Space Committee.

The work concerning the draft treaty relating to the moon is being fully supported by my Government.

I would also like to state that my Government supports the idea of a United Nations conference dedicated to space matters.

Mr. KALOSHIN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

(interpretation from Russian): Mr. Vice-Chairman, the rules of procedure do not permit me to convey my congratulations to you, to the Chairman and the other officers. Therefore, I do not wish to violate these rules.

(Mr. Kaloshin, Byelorussian SSR)

But the rules of procedure do not prohibit me, on behalf of the Byelorussian delegation, from associating myself with the congratulations and wishes for success in your work which have already been expressed in the First Committee to you and to the Chairman and other officers of the Committee, and I hereby take great satisfaction in doing just that.

Since the launching of the first artificial earth satellite in the world and the first flight of man into outer space, which were carried out by the Soviet Union, considerable progress has been made in the exploration and use of outer space and the development of space science and technology. Scientific advances which have come about as a result of the work of artificial earth satellites, unmanned spacecraft and earth orbital stations have yielded considerable fruit. They have benefited mankind and are being increasingly used in various areas of life in order to solve important economic problems.

I should like to give you the following example of what the use of space technology has already yielded in terms of solutions for important problems and tasks. If we take into account all the existing earth-based meteorological stations and multiply them by 100, they could not match the volume of information which is collected by a meteorological satellite in just one orbit around the earth. And what is important among this data, there is information about the weather over 70 per cent of the area of our planet surface where it would be very difficult to install meteorological stations. Such weather forecasts, which are compiled by the automated hydro-meteorological service of Byelorussia on the basis of information obtained from meteorological satellites, are yielding considerable savings for our national economy.

It is also well known that the work of almost two months' duration in space of the second expedition, with a crew consisting of Piotr Klimuk and Vitaly Sevostianov in the Soviet orbital station Salyut IV, has yielded more valuable scientific information than could be obtained by dozens of earth-based scientific research institutions.

(Mr. Kaloshin, Byelorussian SSR)

The second expeditionary flight of the Salyut IV orbital station has confirmed that the creation and flight of orbital scientific stations with a rotating crew is one of the most important avenues for the penetration of man into space and is a crucial means of further profound study of our own planet.

Our delegation would like to point out with considerable satisfaction that one of the members of the second crew of the Salyut IV station, Piotr Klimuk, is a Byelorussian.

Space at the present time has become the scene of broad international co-operation. The co-operation of the countries of the socialist community has assumed considerable proportions. They have combined their efforts within the framework of the INTERCOSMOS programme.

Soviet-American co-operation in various areas of space research is also successfully going on. A broad programme of joint activities in space is being conducted between the Soviet Union and France and the Soviet Union and India.

Quite recently the whole world followed with admiration the first joint flight in history of Soviet and American spacecraft, Soyuz and Apollo, the first international space expedition which marked a qualitatively new stage in the development of international co-operation in the conquest of space. The joint Soviet-American space flight is a striking example of the development of co-operation among States with different social systems on the basis of the principle of peaceful coexistence. The Soyuz-Apollo project has demonstrated that even in this extremely important and complex field, such co-operation is possible.

The development of space science and technology and its increasing use to satisfy human needs in raising ever newer international legal problems which are in need of solution. In this regard, the delegation of the Byelorussian SSR would like to highlight the importance of the Soviet initiatives in the field of the political and legal regulation of the activities of States in space, including the application of space technology.

(Mr. Kaloshin, Byelorussian SSR)

Many of them have already led to the conclusion of important international agreements which constitute a considerable step forward in the progressive development and codification of international space law. At the beginning of this year the convention on the registration of objects launched into space was opened for signature. The Byelorussian SSR has signed this Convention. At the present time the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, upon the initiative of the USSR, is working on principles to govern the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, for the purpose of concluding an international agreement or agreements. In the past year the Committee did achieve a certain amount of progress towards this end. A single text of draft principles for direct television broadcasting was produced, although it was not possible to achieve consensus on a number of its formulations.

(Mr. Kaloshin, Byelorussian SSR)

The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR considers that the Committee should continue working on the principles of direct television broadcasting as a priority item. In this connexion, we regard as unfounded assertions to the effect that the legal regulation of broadcasting from space contains, so it is alleged, some threat to freedom of information. We do not favour limitation of the freedom of information. What we do not want to see is the activities of any State in outer space being conducted arbitrarily without taking into account the interests of other countries. And we certainly do not wish to see anything detrimental to those interests.

What we are against is that on the pretext of freedom of information, direct television broadcasting should be used for broadcasting to the territory of any given State, without its express consent, information which is radically contrary to the political, moral and cultural ideals of that people, and that States which do not possess means for counteracting these broadcasts should turn out to be defenceless against such information.

We have always opposed and will continue to oppose the idea that on the pretext of so-called freedom of information, television broadcasting by means of artificial earth satellites should be used for intervention in the internal affairs of other sovereign States, thus prejudicing the security of States and their social system.

My delegation considers that the work on principles to govern broadcasting of television programmes from space and the conclusion of an appropriate agreement on this question should in no way whatsoever be allowed to limit freedom of the dissemination of information in the interests of peace, co-operation among States and the fostering and the strengthening of mutual understanding among peoples.

The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR would like once again to stress its position of principle: namely, that the producing of generally acceptable principles should serve the important and noble purpose of the cause of peace, the strengthening of international security, the development of mutual understanding, and the strengthening of trust and friendly relations among all countries and peoples on the basis of the principles of mutual

(Mr. Kaloshin, Byelorussian SSR)

respect for sovereignty, non-intervention in internal affairs, equality and the mutual advantage of all countries. The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR wishes to express the hope that the Outer Space Committee will make efforts to bring to an early conclusion its work on the principles of direct television broadcasting, with a view to the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements. With regard to the draft treaty on the moon, although the Committee has attempted to find new formulations acceptable to all States for two articles still outstanding on which there is no agreement, it was unable to produce any final texts.

It should be pointed out that the problems which impede the conclusion of a draft treaty have no direct or crucial significance in regard to the moon at this stage. In this connexion our delegation would like to give its views, as it did last year, about whether a draft treaty on the moon should be approved with the provisions which have already been agreed upon and upon which there is unanimity, taking into account the fact that it provides for the possibility of convening a conference five years after the coming into force of the treaty, to consider how the treaty is working and to make the subsequent introduction of additions and amendments to its text. Our delegation also hopes that the Committee will be able to overcome the existing difficulties with regard to the articles of the draft treaty on the moon and will be able to present a final text of the draft treaty for the consideration of the General Assembly at its next session.

The Outer Space Committee also dealt with other important matters in its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. On the whole, the delegation of the Byelorussian SSR takes a favourable view of the Committee's work and supports the draft resolution containing its programme of work for next year.

We must note the progress achieved in expanding international co-operation in research on and use of outer space has been possible thanks to the successful development of the process of détente in international affairs, and is one of the striking examples of its concrete manifestation.

(Mr. Kaloshin, Byelorussian SSR)

The improvement of the international climate in the world has created conditions for further active expansion of scientific and technological links among various States. On the other hand, increasing international co-operation in space promotes not only scientific and technological progress, but also promotes the creation of a sounder and more solid basis for the peaceful co-existence of States with different social systems, on the basis of mutual respect and mutual advantage.

The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR would like to express its conviction that decisions of this session of the General Assembly will promote the further development and expansion of international co-operation in the cause of the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the officers of the Committee, I should like to thank the representative of the Byelorussian SSR for the nice way in which he has given additional proof of the fact that courtesy and kindness carry more weight than the rules.

Mr. JIMETA (Nigeria): I would like to congratulate our Chairman and the officers of the Committee on their unanimous election. My delegation would also like to congratulate the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Mr. Jankowitsch, for his dedication, which has contributed considerably to the immensely valuable work which has already been reported to this Committee.

The Nigerian delegation is again contributing to this year's debate on the two items on the peaceful uses of outer space. We are doing so not just as a matter of routine or from sheer habit, nor are we doing so merely by virtue of our membership of the Outer Space Committee. But as a developing nation, my country realizes that the peaceful application of space technology to the problems of development are of the utmost relevance to the needs of developing countries.

(Mr. Jimeta, Nigeria)

We are witnessing an era when the United Nations is crossing new frontiers to lay the foundation of a new international economic order, establish a new law of the sea, tackle world population problems, and give unprecedented attention to the problem of world food shortage. The effort of the United Nations to harness and direct space technology for development constitutes another important dimension in the new avenues which this world Organization is exploiting for the benefit of mankind.

(Mr. Jimeta, Nigeria)

The relevance of space technology in the area of remote sensing of the earth by satellite to the problems of resource and environmental development and conservation has been sufficiently stressed. So also has its relevance in the area of direct satellite broadcasting to television and telecommunications services. Besides, we know that the task with which the Outer Space Committee is entrusted is not limited to the technical questions of gathering, analysing and disseminating data for consumption. Numerous other issues of a legal, political and socio-cultural nature are also involved. What is more, outer space technology and its applications are not exclusively confined to the capacities and interests of the technologically advanced countries or the few space Powers. These activities are, by their nature, of global concern and consequently require an increasing degree of co-operation among all States. My delegation is satisfied that the Outer Space Committee and its subsidiary bodies are actively engaged in looking into all these questions in all their ramifications.

My delegation does not intend to repeat in this forum facts which have often been repeated in the past or which are already well publicized either in the report of the Outer Space Committee or in those of its Sub-Committees. Our comments will therefore be limited to some of those issues which we consider essential.

First, the Outer Space Committee and its subsidiary bodies deserve the commendation of my delegation for their persistent effort both to bring space technology into the realm of practical application and to resolve difficulties and divergencies arising over the draft principles or treaties which should govern and regulate the applications of space technology. My delegation would prefer, however, to reserve its comments and observations on the issues involved here for the working sessions of the Committee.

My delegation is also encouraged by the level and scope of the co-operation which has been taking place within the past year in the domain of space research and applications. The Apollo-Soyuz test project, which successfully effected a rendezvous in space between the United States and the Soviet Union was a significant milestone in international co-operation. Of very great significance also, especially from the point of view of the developing

(Mr. Jimeta, Nigeria)

countries, was the successful putting into operation on 1 August this year, with the assistance and co-operation of the United States, of the Indian Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) through which educational programmes are being broadcast to thousands of Indian villages in the remotest corners of the country.

We heartily applaud these achievements.

My delegation is also encouraged by the number of seminars, workshops, training programmes and fellowships and the various other facilities offered by the United Nations programme in the field of space technology, as contained both in the report of the Outer Space Committee and in the report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications.

As an over-all appraisal of the reports that have been presented to us and of the other activities related to space exploration and applications, my delegation would like to make a few observations and suggestions of a fundamental nature.

Our first observation is on motivations and objectives. Perhaps at this stage of the work of the Outer Space Committee it is not too late to ask ourselves what are the objectives of all these technological activities in space. The significance of this question is constantly to return us to the source and remind us of our principal objective. The importance of space research cannot be over-emphasized, but we have to remember that the principal objective of this space research, and in fact of any research at all, should be to use scientific and technological developments to help mankind. This objective should not be lost sight of in the current race to launch rockets and satellites into space. Competition between the space Powers should be within the scope of this objective. Unless this objective is attained, diverting millions of dollars into space expeditions for purely competitive ends as between the super-Powers will aggravate rather than attenuate human impoverishment. Adequate studies and evaluations must therefore be continued in order to justify the participation of developing countries and ensure that they derive full benefit from this experience.

(Mr. Jimeta, Nigeria)

In this connexion, my delegation welcomes the recommendation in paragraph 32 (a) of the report of the Outer Space Committee, requesting the Secretary-General to prepare for the consideration of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee:

"An analytical report on actual and predicted costs and benefits involved in the practical application of remote sensing"

(A/10020, para. 32 (a));

and also the recommendation in paragraph 33 (b) of the same report that the Secretary-General should undertake an appropriate users survey to obtain:

"a clearer understanding of the real needs of the users and their stage of preparedness in this area of activity." (ibid, para 33 (b))

Secondly, while many developing countries are voluntarily taking an interest or are being persuaded to take an interest in the application of space technology, we should remember that these countries are at different levels of development and consequently their ability to absorb sophisticated technology differs. For instance, there are some countries in which there is no indigenous scientific community at all. There are others with indigenous scientists but no organized scientific community. Some countries have a scientific community but the role of this community in the relevant governmental decision-making process is negligible. Finally, there are some countries where this scientific community participates meaningfully in relevant governmental decision-making. From the point of view of technology, many of these countries analysed above are still basically client nations of the technologically advanced countries. And until a country changes from this basically client status it cannot participate beneficially in the applications of space technology to development. This underscores the need to encourage and assist the growth in the developing countries of an indigenous scientific community capable of adapting space technology for optimum local advantage. The link between this problem and the issues raised by the seventh special session of the General Assembly, especially with reference to the transfer of technology, is very pertinent. My delegation therefore feels very strongly that this problem should be looked into with all seriousness in order to make the United Nations programme on space applications more meaningful.

(Mr. Jimeta, Nigeria)

Thirdly, my delegation was happy to note the increasing reference made to the question of the application of space technology to development in the course of the general debate in the plenary meeting. This is a barometer of the consciousness of many countries about this important question. My delegation feels that this awareness should be promoted. In this connexion, we welcome the recommendation in paragraph 48 of the report of the Outer Space Committee that the Secretary-General should submit a report to the Committee at its nineteenth session:

"on ways and means by which the United Nations system might implement a full-scale programme of public information in the peaceful uses of outer space, particularly on those aspects of space applications which have special reference to the problems being faced by developing countries." (ibid, para. 48)

Fourthly, my delegation would like to relate this last point to the question of a possible United Nations conference on space applications. But we would like to suggest that such a conference should be held in a developing country. Our reason is this: space technology is still a remote subject for most developing countries; holding the proposed space conference in a technologically advanced country may make the whole exercise psychologically more remote for many developing countries and their peoples.

To end our contribution to this debate, my delegation would like to reiterate some of the suggestions we made last year and which have not been overtaken by events. We should like the Outer Space Committee to take into consideration the proposal which my delegation made last year that an international authority similar to the one envisaged for the projected régime of the sea should be established to promote exploration and use of the resources of the moon and other celestial bodies for the benefit of all mankind.

(Mr. Jimeta, Nigeria)

Finally, we would like to repeat, together with several other delegations, that in considering the question of the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, the concept of freedom of information should not supersede that of respect for national sovereignty. Moreover, in considering the legal implications of an earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites, caution should be exercised so as to ensure that this technique is not used as a pretext to violate the rights and sovereignty of States. In all these spheres, we count on the co-operation and good will of all States.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Nigeria for the kind words he addressed to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. MALIKYAR (Afghanistan): As this is the first time I have spoken in this Committee allow me to extend my heart-felt congratulations to our Chairman, as well as to the other officers of the Committee on their unanimous election. With such outstanding officers I am confident that the proceedings of the Committee will be carried out in the most desirable manner.

I wish to present briefly the views of my delegation on the items under consideration. The peaceful application of space technology is becoming more important and the future prospects are even more encouraging. Its significance for the developing countries needs to be taken into consideration. The United Nations recognized the need for international co-operation and regulating activities related to outer space by the establishment of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The achievements of the Committee in past years have indeed been promising. During the past year the Committee once again has been able to achieve meaningful results despite the complexities of the issues confronting it as outlined in the lucid and comprehensive report presented to the First Committee by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Ambassador Jankowitsch.

(Mr. Malikyar, Afghanistan)

As apparent from the report of the Committee, the Legal Sub-Committee continued its work on the draft treaty relating to the moon for the purpose of narrowing the existing differences of view and preparing the text of a final draft treaty. The question of the natural resources of the moon was accorded priority for the purpose of facilitating other outstanding issues in that regard.

In this respect I wish to restate on behalf of my delegation the principle that the moon and other celestial bodies are beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and therefore their natural resources should be considered as the common heritage of mankind.

This year the Committee continued its deliberations on the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements in accordance with the General Assembly decisions of last year. For many years the Outer Space Committee has been deliberating this issue, namely, international legal norms to govern direct television broadcasting by satellites. While some difficulties have been solved, other important differences still remain which are related to the substance of the rule and need to be finally adopted, the most important being the rule governing the relations between broadcasting and receiving States, as on the basis of the promising technology in this regard, individual home television sets will be able to receive broadcasts directly from satellites.

The international legal norms governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting should, in our view, be based on the principle of the sovereign rights of States as well as the free flow of information and exchange of views. The right of control by receiving States is inherent in the cardinal principle of the sovereignty of States.

We hope that in the course of future sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space it will be possible to define the basic principles regulating this field of activity, which we are confident will be of significant importance in many fields and, in particular, in the field of education for developing countries. We believe, therefore, that the elaboration of the convention in this regard is essential.

(Mr. Malikyar, Afghanistan)

Such a convention should take into consideration the need for international co-operation and the free flow of objective and educational information, while protecting the national cultures and civilizations of different countries and, in particular, the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

Since the countries in a position to provide direct television broadcasting by satellites will be limited to developed countries, in our view it is of significant importance that such broadcasting should be made available on a reasonable basis for the developing countries and should be oriented in such a way as to accommodate their needs on the basis of their political, cultural and social systems as well as their contribution for the maintenance of international peace, and social and economic co-operation.

We hope that the Legal Sub-Committee will be in a position to give high priority to consideration of this issue in its future deliberations, and then be in a position to make real progress and consequently present an agreed set of principles for direct television broadcasting to the General Assembly at the earliest possible time.

There is no doubt about the usefulness of satellites for the purpose of remote sensing of the earth's natural resources. Much remains to be achieved in this field, but we are confident of its benefits to the entire world, particularly the developing countries. We are therefore earnestly eager to see that an international régime regulating this field of activity be established in the near future. This issue is the subject of study by the Legal Sub-Committee as well as the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. However, it should be stated that any régime must take into consideration the balance between the interests of States, the access to data covering their territories and their concern for the possible abuse of such information by other States.

As stated in the past, my delegation is of the view that the United Nations should serve as and provide a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

(Mr. Idris, Indonesia)

that more substantial progress can be made by the Sub-Committee during its next session.

As regards the draft treaty relating to the moon, we hope that the final formulation of the draft would include the fundamental principle that the natural resources of the moon should be regarded as the common heritage of mankind. Thus any State or group of States would be precluded from appropriating for its own use and profit any of the resources which the moon may possess. Such a principle has found its precedent in the sea-bed resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

My delegation is also of the view that information obtained on missions to the moon should be furnished to the international community through the Secretary-General.

My delegation agrees with the suggestion of extending the provisions of the treaty to include all other celestial bodies in the solar system, with the exception of the earth. This would have the beneficial effect of clearly establishing guidelines pertaining to the exploration and use of these bodies.

Concerning the question of direct satellite broadcasting, my delegation, while recognizing the great benefits to be derived from this form of space activity, feels that it is important to emphasize the potentially harmful and disruptive effects which may result from foreign broadcast on the value systems and the cultural heritage of the recipient States. It is therefore necessary to formulate a method of dealing with such questions acceptable to all States if satellite broadcasting is to reach its full potential.

The legal questions attendant upon the protection of national sovereignty in relation to satellite broadcasting are complex and therefore deserve careful study. In the area of satellite broadcasting, Indonesia is of the opinion that the international community should not at this stage seek to devise very detailed rules far in advance of the objective conditions and technological developments to which they are intended to apply. If the guiding principles can be agreed upon now, then the development of practical applications of broadcast technology to national needs may be attempted, bearing in mind, of course, the necessity for respecting national sovereignty.

(Mr. Idris, Indonesia)

The importance of remote sensing techniques for basic and applied research and for the management of natural resources is fairly obvious. In fact, a growing number of developing countries have undertaken national programmes designed to ensure direct benefit from this new technology for their economic development. The need for such direct participation in this new technology has become all the more obvious for countries with vast territories and corresponding need for a more effective technology for surveying their resources.

Indonesia, fully realizing the potential of this new technology not only for itself but also for the neighbouring countries, is now seriously considering setting up a national ground station which could eventually also serve as a regional ground receiving station.

My delegation believes that the application of scientific and technical knowledge to promote the peaceful uses of outer space will greatly benefit the developing countries and will do much to alleviate many of the pressing problems with which the United Nations is so concerned today. In this light, it is most important that the United Nations develop and continue to maintain an extensive programme of space applications in the interest of all Member States, particularly the developing countries.

Although significant steps towards this goal have already been taken by the Organization in the past, we feel that the United Nations programme on space applications should be expanded in both its content and scope, as recommended in the report of the Outer Space Committee (A/10020). Indonesia itself has gained experience and knowledge through participation in such activities which have enabled us to augment our efforts in implementing space applications for national economic development. Participation in these activities has also facilitated planning for the application of the benefits of outer space activities to Indonesia's specific needs in such fields as resource surveys, urban planning, fishery, agriculture and communications.

(Mr. Idris, Indonesia)

It is thus clear that there is a need to expand the programme to provide for the training of more experts in response to the needs of the developing countries. Such needs cannot be met by a budget too limited to cater for the increasing needs of the developing countries. If the United Nations is to embark upon a serious and concerted effort to assist the developing nations in this regard, it is imperative that the budget realistically reflect the increased expenditure that an expanded programme will certainly require.

My delegation supports the proposal that a review of the United Nations Space applications Programme should be undertaken, with a view to making it part of an integrated technical assistance programme intended for educating analysts, developing ground facilities, utilizing satellite systems for education, and a score of other development projects. The present programme of technical assistance shows serious deficiencies, particularly for many of the developing countries, which, owing to the lack of adequately trained personnel, are frequently unable to avail themselves of opportunities which their countries could utilize to great benefit. By extending technical assistance of this kind major strides could be made in providing the benefits of the application of space technology to larger numbers of countries in the developing world.

In this context we look forward to a report from the Secretary-General on the joint experimental programme in co-operation with the specialized agencies, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), for the training of technicians and Government officials from developing countries in the better utilization of remote sensing data, especially for development, as referred to in paragraph 33 of the Outer Space Committee's report.

My delegation is of the opinion that the growing involvement of the specialized agencies in space applications work has made it imperative that there be an improvement of co-ordination of their efforts with those of the Outer Space Committee. The increasing tempo of the applications of space technology and the overlapping nature of its effects have combined to make the co-ordination of the efforts of all United Nations bodies concerned with this area an urgent matter. This becomes particularly apparent when one views the numerous applications now in course of development or already being put into effect throughout the world in such areas as education, resource surveying and

(Mr. Idris, Indonesia)

communications. The importance of these measures to hundreds of millions of people around the globe demands that the most efficient use be made of our limited resources. In the face of these conditions it would be difficult to justify the delay and inefficiency that would inevitably result from the duplication of efforts.

The Committee, at the last session, was given the assurance by the representative of the Secretary-General that efforts would be made within the framework of the existing machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to bring about more effective co-ordinating machinery in this field. It is therefore my delegation's hope that, as a result of further consultation among the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the Secretary-General will be in a position to report favourably to the forthcoming session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

Finally, in view of what I have said earlier concerning the need for the expansion of international programmes for the practical applications of space technology to development and the importance of reaching agreements in developing the rule of law in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, my delegation is happy to sponsor the draft resolution before us, as it seeks to endorse the United Nations space applications Programme and accords high priority to consideration of those legal issues which are still outstanding, with a view to identifying further common elements.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Indonesia for his kind words addressed to the officers of the Committee.

(Mr. Kato, Japan)

My delegation is now carefully considering a number of issues such as "consent and participation" and "spill-over" so as to formulate our position on these key undecided issues in a spirit of international co-operation, and taking also into account the relevant domestic laws.

Another important area of the activities of the Outer Space Committee concerns remote sensing of the earth from space. My delegation notes with satisfaction that on the issue of remote sensing, two Sub-Committees tried to ascertain some common elements of views held by the different members of the Committee, and that the Committee agreed on the mandate to be given to the Legal Sub-Committee concerning this item, which appears in paragraph 23 of the report of the Committee. Although we fully understand the concern felt by some States about the possible abuse of this technology, to the detriment of their interests, we should never underestimate the enormous benefits which its optimum utilization can bring to mankind.

My delegation, therefore, has urged that the Outer Space Committee not be over-hasty in the establishment of a rigid legal framework, which might well hamper the development and utilization of this new technology. Furthermore, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is now working on the formulation of outlines for international management in this field. It is fortunate that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is scheduled to meet before the Legal Sub-Committee next year, because the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is quite essential for the fruitful discussion of this matter by the Legal Sub-Committee. In view of the importance of the role to be played by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, my delegation endorses the request addressed to the Secretary-General by the Outer Space Committee for a number of useful studies.

The rapid advance of space technology, when it is applied for peaceful purposes, will surely bring enormous benefits to mankind in terms of enlightenment and economic and social progress. But at the same time it is giving rise to concern in some States that their legitimate interests might be compromised by this new technology. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is to find a reasonable balance between the benefits of further development and

(Mr. Kato, Japan)

utilization of space technology and the desire of States to safeguard their legitimate interests, both in the field of direct broadcast satellites and remote sensing. This is not an easy task but if we approach it from a perspective of the interests of the international community as a whole, a solution can surely be found.

My delegation would now like to touch briefly on the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the suggestion to convene a United Nations conference. My delegation favours the expansion, both in content and scope, of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The importance of the Programme has increased phenomenally in recent years with the rapidly expanding opportunities for the application of space technology to the problems of economic development. The delegation of Japan is considering the possibility of co-operating with the United Nations in this matter.

As for the suggested United Nations conference, my delegation favours holding it in the late 1970s. The establishment of the working group on this matter would be, in the view of my delegation, a positive step forward.

The First Committee has before it a draft resolution, contained in document A/C.1/L.712, which was introduced yesterday afternoon by Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria. This draft reflects the consensus reached in the Outer Space Committee on many questions. My delegation wishes to express its deep appreciation to the delegation of Austria for preparing this draft resolution. My delegation co-sponsored it because we consider it reasonable and useful. My delegation hopes that it will be adopted unanimously by the General Assembly.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the members of the Outer Space Affairs Division in the Secretariat, as well as to the expert, Mr. Murthy, for the excellent work they have done during the past year.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to thank the representative of Japan for the kind words that he addressed to the Chairman and the other officers of the Committee on their election.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.