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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Fourth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 1 October 1965, at 4.45 p.m.

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Adoption of the report of the Sub-Committee  
Closure of the session

Mr. SINCLAIR (United Kingdom) thought that it would be better to complete the reading of the draft report and then decide whether some such addition was really necessary.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the report might end with a sentence reading approximately as follows: "The Sub-Committee wishes to note that the foregoing summary of its work is presented for information and the agreement noted is of a preliminary and provisional character only."

Sir Kenneth BAILEY (Australia) accepted the Chairman's suggestion, although he did not consider the proposed addition to be necessary; the report was naturally submitted for information and the discussion had obviously been tentative since no actual articles of an agreement had been decided upon.

Mr. TURNER (Canada) agreed with the Australian representative. It should be noted that prior to the meeting, his delegation and others had consented to the elimination of references to agreement on two points: the principle of absolute liability and the sharing of liability where two or more States were involved. If it was now to be expressly stated that any agreement reached was preliminary and provisional, it might be appropriate to restore those references. He would not press the point, however.

The Chairman's suggestion was adopted.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested that at some appropriate place the report should record a view stated by his delegation, in the following terms: "An opinion was expressed that the Legal Sub-Committee should immediately start working out an international agreement containing legal principles governing activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space."

It was so agreed.

The report was adopted with those amendments and with various minor drafting changes.

#### CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN declared the Sub-Committee's fourth session closed.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.