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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Sixteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 267th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 15 March 1977, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. WYZNER (Poland)

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Draft treaty relating to the moon  
General exchange of views (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

DRAFT TREATY RELATING TO THE MOON (A/AC.105/171, chap. I and annex I)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of members of the Sub-Committee to the relevant sections of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee on its fifteenth session (A/AC.105/171, chap. I and annex I) and recalled that at that session the Sub-Committee had re-established Working Group I to deal with that item. The Group had decided to give priority to the question of natural resources, since many delegations felt that, if that issue were resolved, it would be easier to reach agreement on the two remaining issues, namely the scope of the treaty and the information to be furnished on missions to the moon. With regard to natural resources, the Working Group had taken as its basis the texts of articles X and X bis prepared in 1974 and had also had before it three working papers submitted by a number of delegations (PUOS/C.2 (XV)/WG.I/Working Papers 1, 2 and 3), as well as several informal working papers submitted by members of the Group.

2. He recalled that, in the course of the exchange of views, serious efforts had been made to reach a compromise solution. However, those efforts had proved unsuccessful, for no consensus had been reached. Consequently, no new text relating to the issue under consideration had been drafted. None the less, the session had helped to clarify the positions of the various delegations.

3. After considering the item at its nineteenth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had expressed the hope that at its sixteenth session the Legal Sub-Committee would do all it could to finalize the text of the draft treaty relating to the moon. Similarly, the General Assembly at its thirty-first session had unanimously adopted resolution A/RES/31/8 which recommended that the Legal Sub-Committee should, as a matter of high priority, continue to consider the draft treaty relating to the moon.

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS (continued)

4. Mrs. GALLOWAY (International Astronautical Federation), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) had submitted two reports to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (documents A/AC.105/173 and A/AC.105/189) which might be useful to members of the Legal Sub-Committee in co-ordinating scientific, technological, legal and other types of problems arising from space activities.

5. Referring to the nature of IAF and its two associated organizations, the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), she explained that 58 national societies and institutions from 37 countries were members of IAF, while the membership of the two associated organizations consisted of individuals who were elected for life in recognition of their achievements. In October 1976, the twenty-seventh Congress of IAF had been held on the theme "A new era of space transportation" and had been attended by 700 participants from 43 countries who had submitted a wide variety of

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scientific and technical papers. In the same year, IAA had held symposia on international cost-reduction in space operations, international space rescue and safety, the history of astronautics, and communication with extra-terrestrial intelligence. The IISL had held its Nineteenth Colloquium during the IAF Congress and had discussed the future of space law, space law and energy, and the relationship of air and space law.

6. The next Congress of IAF, on the theme "Using space - today and tomorrow", would be held in Prague in September 1977. In the course of that Congress, a symposium on communications satellites would be held which would discuss institutional arrangements for the organization of communications satellite systems, technical progress and future plans for operational systems, experimental systems, the technology of communications satellites and transmission techniques. Five meetings would also be devoted to the many aspects of space-based industry, including processing, bioastronautics, propulsion, fluid dynamics and scientific space craft.

7. The IAA had planned special symposia on cost-effectiveness in space operations and cost reduction, and also symposia, meetings and round-tables on various other aspects of outer space activities. During the IAF Congress in Prague, the IISL would be holding its Twentieth Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space, which would be open to non-members of the IISL and would discuss the establishment of a world international space agency, matters relating to the definition of outer space and outer space activities, ways of co-ordinating space science and technology with space law, and various other subjects such as direct broadcast satellites, the status of the treaty relating to the moon, sovereignty and the outer space treaties, solar energy and space law, use of the geostationary orbit, analysis of the concept of the common heritage of mankind, the settlement of disputes regarding activities in outer space, the impact of commercial activities on space law, environmental legal problems of space activities, telecommunications with reference to space and problems of the conflicting uses of space.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.