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Chairman: Mr. BORCH (Denmark)
Rapporteur: Mr. de SOTO (Peru)

- International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space:
report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /30/ (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 /31/ (continued)
- Programme of work

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AGENDA ITEMS 30 AND 31 (continued)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/9020)
 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/9020)

Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The conquest of space should serve the cause of peace and progress and the development of fruitful co-operation among States. That is the approach of the Soviet Union to the problem of space research and use and also to the question of the role of the United Nations in that area. The progress achieved in the conquest of space over the last year has expanded the sphere of the peaceful use of space and is an important step towards the fulfilment of the bold dream of humanity: harnessing space in the service of mankind and making it an arena of broad and constructive co-operation in the interests of all the people on our planet.

For Soviet space science the last year has been marked by a number of outstanding achievements in the further research into the far reaches of outer space and the use of sophisticated space technology for human needs. The Soviet Union has been consistently pursuing its programme of the conquest of outer space in the vicinity of the earth, including the moon and other celestial bodies.

An important step in this direction in the last year was the launching of the automatic Lunar 20 station which carried out a soft landing on the mountainous continent in the region of the moon and brought back to earth samples of lunar rock. Lunar 21 brought to the surface of the natural satellite of the earth the automatic self-propelled machine Lunokhod 2, along with the equipment installed on it. On 19 April this year, in accordance with the programme of co-operation among socialist countries in research into and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, the Soviet Union launched the artificial earth satellite Intercosmos-Copernicus 500, the ninth Sputnik in the Intercosmos series. This cosmic space experiment, prepared jointly by Polish and Soviet specialists, commemorates the 500th anniversary of the birth of the great Polish scientist

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

Nikolaus Copernicus. The scientific research apparatus on board the Copernicus 500 was designed to study the radiation of the sun. By means of a special telemetric transmitter, prepared in Czechoslovakia, on board the Intercosmos-Copernicus 500, scientific information is also being received by earth stations in the Czechoslovakian Socialist Republic.

This year there were a number of meetings between Soviet and American astronauts, scientists and specialists, where questions were discussed which were connected with the joint flight of the spaceship Apollo-Soyuz, a joint project planned for 1975. The results of the forthcoming joint flight of the spaceship Apollo-Soyuz will be viewed as an extremely important event for future possible rescue operations in space and also the carrying out of joint scientific research and experimental expeditions.

On board the four Soviet interplanetary stations, Mars 4, Mars 5 and Mars 7, there are four sets of French scientific equipment, Gemeaux and Stereo 5, and also hydrogen and other photo-elements. Placing French components on the equipment of the automatic stations which are carrying out the flight to Mars constitutes a new stage in Franco-Soviet space co-operation.

A new phenomenon which is extending international co-operation in the field of the conquest of outer space is the Soviet-Indian agreement, recently signed, during the visit to India of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Under that agreement the Soviet Union's rocket carrier will carry into space a Sputnik prepared by specialists from India.

Those are not all the examples of the developing, fruitful, useful and promising co-operation in the conquest of outer space.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

Space is being used ever more widely for the needs of the earth and for solving important practical problems. From outer space, research is being carried out into the natural resources of the earth and the state of our immediate environment. Through outer space speedy and effective communication is being established between continents and the most remote and distant parts of the world. A striking example of the fruitful use of outer space for television transmission, which promotes the strengthening of peace and friendship among peoples, was the creation between the United States and Eurasia of the outer space telebridge for the transmission of news regarding the visit of Comrade Brezhnev to the United States.

In the last year United Nations organs dealing with space questions have done a great deal of work. The results of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in July 1973, demonstrate that this work on the whole warrants a positive assessment. As we can see from the reports of the Legal and Scientific and Technical Sub-Committees of the Outer Space Committee, discussions took place on interesting and important problems. An extremely important problem was dealt with by the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites and the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites.

In its work the Legal Sub-Committee of course focused its principal attention on the draft treaty relating to the moon and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. We should like to express our regret that neither of those drafts has been completed by the Legal Sub-Committee, and this is precisely where we see the major shortcoming of the results of the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee, which had in its possession all necessary and adequate material to conclude an agreement on the two drafts but was unable to complete that task.

The preparation of a treaty relating to the moon is among the most important tasks of the Outer Space Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee and is a worthy reflection in international terms of the outstanding achievements of space science and technology. We should like to emphasize the active and sedulous work done on the formulation of individual provisions of the draft treaty relating to the moon by the delegations of Italy, Bulgaria and a number of other countries, which brought out some compromise proposals on the most complicated issues.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

With regard to the Soviet delegation, in the course of agreeing on formulations for the draft treaty relating to the moon we attempted to adhere to constructive positions and repeatedly expressed and demonstrated our readiness to take into account the views and possibilities of other members of the Committee and to complete preparations for the draft treaty on the basis of a universally acceptable and sensible compromise. Unfortunately we have to note that not all members of the Committee displayed the desire necessary to achieve such a sensible compromise. We none the less consider that the draft treaty relating to the moon has been prepared to an extremely high degree and that the conclusion of work on it will now depend on the readiness of certain members of the Committee to take just one step towards compromise which we hope will be approved by means of a consensus, as was agreed in the Committee.

As for the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space, although the Soviet Union is entirely satisfied with the existing system of registration, the Soviet delegation accommodated the wishes for the preparation of a special convention on this question, actively co-operated with the co-sponsors of this draft convention and made its own substantial contribution to the discussion of it. In this case, unfortunately, we have to note that only the hard line taken by certain members of the Sub-Committee -- and subsequently in the Committee itself -- in practice on one or two questions associated with the draft made it impossible to conclude agreement upon it and to transmit it to this session of the General Assembly for consideration.

The Soviet delegation views with favour the results of the work of the session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which focused its major attention on the problems of the practical application of space technology and in particular on questions of remote sensing of the earth by satellites. We note with satisfaction that at the session of the Sub-Committee, and subsequently in the Committee itself, ways and means were discussed of improving and rationalizing the work of the Sub-Committee. We are sure that the exchange of views designed to improve the work of the Sub-Committee will bear fruit.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

We should also like to mention the recommendation of the Sub-Committee with regard to the appropriations for the programme for the promotion of the practical application of space technology, carried out by the United Nations Expert. This recommendation of the Sub-Committee was as is well known, approved by the Committee, too. The Soviet delegation supported this recommendation because it understands the growing importance of the problems of the conquest of space in the work of the United Nations. But we should like to stress that in circumstances where the United Nations has very serious financial difficulties, this measure in our view is quite exceptional and the appropriations should be spent in the most rational way possible.

Regarding the results of the work of the second session of the Working Group on Remote Sensing, the Soviet delegation believes that the Group was established to perform a concrete and strictly defined task as an auxiliary body of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and therefore, there should be no duplication in the work of those two bodies. We would point out once again that, apart from purely technical problems, remote sensing of the earth's resources -- and also direct television broadcasting, incidentally -- raises a large range of problems of a political, legal and economic character, problems which arise from the undoubted and exclusive right of States to be masters of their own natural resources and information about them. This fact was pointed out by the representatives of many States. It is quite clear that the only firm foundation for international co-operation in the application and use of artificial earth satellites for remote sensing of the earth's resources is international legal regulation of the activities of States in that area. We support the view that it is necessary to consider the political and legal aspects of remote sensing.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

At the second session of the Working Group, the Soviet Union put forward more or less the same draft principles concerning the use by States of space technology for research into the natural resources of the earth. We came forward with a model draft on the subject. We consider the draft principles can form the basis for working out norms of international law which would regulate this very important area of the application of space technology.

In conclusion, we wish to pay particular attention to some data on the use of artificial earth satellites for television transmission, particularly for the most effective and promising form thereof -- that is, direct television broadcasting.

The Soviet Union attaches great importance to the development of this new form of space activity. As is well known, our country was one of the first to use artificial satellites for the transmission of television broadcasts over long distances. From the very moment when the theoretical possibility of transmitting television programmes through space arose, the Soviet Union favoured the development of the broadest possible international co-operation in the use of this most advanced means of space technology. It was and remains our belief that such a powerful technology of information as direct television broadcasting can bring about unprecedented progress in exchanges in the areas of culture, education and dissemination of the most advanced achievements of science and technology.

But in varying degrees, that of course affects the interests of all States and peoples inhabiting our planet, and therefore it is necessary for this purpose to meet one necessary condition: direct television broadcasting by means of satellites should serve exclusively the cause of peace and the bringing of nations closer together, the strengthening of mutual understanding among States and, of course, the reduction of international tension.

The basis of direct television broadcasting should be the total equality of States -- equality for both those using this medium of communication for transmitting television programmes and those receiving such programmes on their territory; there must be total equality on both sides.

Satellite television broadcasting is by no means just a question of scientific and technological progress. Direct television broadcasting is a relatively new means of mass information not comparable with anything in its

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

power to influence vast masses of the population. That is precisely the international character of direct television broadcasting, which above all determines the political content of the question of how and in accordance with which rules such broadcasting is going to be carried out.

The rate of scientific and technological progress in the conquest of space obviously shows that the introduction of direct television broadcasting is a question for the next few years. That is also demonstrated by the experience already accumulated by States in the use of artificial earth satellites for television broadcasting.

With regard to statements to the effect that it is premature to prepare a legal régime to govern direct television broadcasting, we should like to remind the Committee that mankind has more than once in the past witnessed how the uncontrolled use of the latest advances in science and technology has had the most pernicious consequences for many countries and for vast regions. Therefore, in discussing the problem of direct television broadcasting, we must realize that now that direct television broadcasting has become an everyday reality the political climate of our planet is largely determined by the effectiveness of our efforts to ensure the necessary conditions for the use of direct television broadcasting solely for the benefit of peace and progress, and also efforts to exclude the possibility of the use of this latest advance in the field of mass information for purposes of instigating hostility and hatred among peoples, war propaganda, violence and intervention in the internal affairs of other States.

It was precisely in the light of those considerations that the Soviet Union proposed inclusion on the agenda of the last session of the General Assembly of the question of direct television broadcasting and submitted a draft convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. The timeliness of that proposal was noted in General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII). That resolution proposed that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should as soon as possible undertake the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

Over the last year, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has done some work in accordance with those instructions of the General Assembly. In June, the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites held a session at which a number of States submitted proposals with regard to the legal régime to govern direct television broadcasting. We studied with great attention the documents submitted at the fourth session of the Working Group. We consider them interesting and useful. We reacted favourably to everything that was said, and we noted in what was said a desire to prepare the legal foundations for the use by States of direct television broadcasting. We believe that at the Group's session, and also at the session of the Outer Space Committee, a useful discussion was held on questions relating to direct television broadcasting. However, to our great regret, we are forced to note that the instructions of the General Assembly I have mentioned remain unfulfilled. The Outer Space Committee unfortunately has not in the course of the last year undertaken preparation of the legal principles governing direct television broadcasting. That is one of the major shortcomings in its work.

We wholeheartedly support the decision of the Outer Space Committee that the most appropriate organ for preparing principles governing direct television broadcasting is the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee. That organ has a great deal of experience in the preparation of extremely important documents governing international space law and meets all the conditions necessary for carrying out successful work on the legal principles governing direct television broadcasting.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

We should like to stress particularly that successful work on complying with the instructions of the General Assembly depends largely on how fruitful the regular session of the Working Group will be, and this, in its turn, will be determined by the desire of all the members of the Outer Space Committee, constructively and with proper understanding of their responsibilities, to undertake to solve the important political and juridical problems connected with direct television broadcasting. Attempts to delay the preparation of a legal régime to govern direct television broadcasting reflect, in our view, a desire on the part of certain countries to preserve a sort of legal vacuum in this extremely important area of space activities, and in that way to ensure enjoyment on their part of uncontrolled use of direct television broadcasting. To this the Soviet Union cannot agree.

Recently there have been discussions on the form that will be taken by the principles governing direct television broadcasting. For us, this matter is quite clear. Operative paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII), adopted at the twenty-seventh session, states clearly and unambiguously that the principles governing direct television broadcasting shall be worked out "with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements". Thus the ultimate purpose of all work on the draft principles is the preparation of an appropriate draft international agreement. The proposals of the Soviet Union on this score are well known. At the same time, we believe that at this stage our major attention should be focused on preparing and reaching agreement upon the substance of the legal principles governing activities in the field of direct television broadcasting and determining the concrete content of those rules with which States will have to comply in their direct television broadcasting activities.

We believe it advisable for the General Assembly, at its present session, to express support for acceleration of the work on the draft documents on direct television broadcasting and to assign the highest priority to this question in the future work of the Committee and its organs.

Mr. PLAJA (Italy): I should like to start by expressing my delegation's appreciation and admiration to all the scientists, technicians, astronauts and cosmonauts who have contributed to the space successes of 1973.

My delegation has been impressed in particular by the results of the Skylab mission which, among its many achievements, has demonstrated how a modern three-bedroom house, with three very active occupants, can be powered exclusively by solar energy for an indefinite period of time. In the present situation of energy crisis, such an indication is highly significant for the future of space technology and its applications.

We wish, furthermore, to congratulate our American colleagues for the success of their current Pioneer 10 mission. For the first time in the history of mankind, a man-made vehicle is manoeuvring and transmitting priceless pictures and data at a distance of more than 800 million kilometres from the earth, that is, from the orbit of Jupiter, the largest and most mysterious planet of the solar system. And from there it will proceed to visit the stars.

We wish also to compliment the Soviet cosmonauts of the Voskhod space laboratory on their achievement, and the Soviet scientists who have been guiding automatic space-ships towards historic appointments with Mars and Venus, and who operated the automatic lunar station which brought back to earth samples of the lunar surface.

And last, but not least, we express our satisfaction and our sense of expectation concerning the news we keep receiving about successful co-operation between the two great space Powers in carrying on their joint Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, the first example of a major joint space enterprise and one of great importance for the future of international co-operation in space.

It is perhaps significant that this Committee has reached the discussion of the space item on its agenda towards the end of its session, at the beginning of the holiday season with its traditional atmosphere of goodwill and friendly co-operation. In the world of today, where peace is not easily found and maintained and where, in many areas, people are struggling to stay alive -- let alone to celebrate holidays -- there should always be hope for a brighter future. We are convinced that the hopes for such happy days reflect the goal of the orderly and peaceful development of the exploration and uses of outer space, in the spirit of resolution 1348 (XIII), adopted by the General Assembly 15 years ago.

(Mr. Plaja, Italy)

Indeed, today, after 16 years of progress in space, the wisdom of that call is more and more apparent. It is already evident to all States that we are living in a finite world -- the "space-ship Earth" -- and that the increase of the earth's population, combined with the surge of the developing countries towards better and more equitable standards of living, will tax the resources of our planet beyond its capabilities to meet the requirements of such accelerated growth. It is not simply a matter of balancing growth against availability of resources, but one of enlarging the ecosphere of man in order to supply the human race with the additional resources needed for it to proceed in its march towards eternity.

But, aside from exploiting jointly the bottoms of the oceans and putting to full use the few undeveloped areas of the world, the only way to enlarge man's ecosphere is to find ways and means of opening up the "benign environment" of outer space to the service of mankind.

This is why my delegation has always played a very active role in the debates on space in the General Assembly, in this Committee, in the Outer Space Committee and in its subsidiary bodies; and in this spirit, we attach very great importance to this debate, which summarizes the work of, and the proposals submitted by, the experts of the United Nations space entities I have just mentioned.

To begin with, my delegation agrees with the thought expressed by other colleagues on various occasions that the time has now come to reconsider the membership of the Outer Space Committee and its subordinate bodies in the light of the changes in the composition of the General Assembly that have taken place between 1960, when the last change was made, and today.

As may be recalled, the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, in resolution 1348 (XIII), decided to form an Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, composed of 18 members, to study the questions of international co-operation in the orderly development of space activities. The Ad Hoc Committee reported its findings to the fourteenth session of the General Assembly, and the Assembly, in resolution 1472 (XIV), decided to transform the Ad Hoc Committee into a permanent Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, with two Sub-Committees, one to deal with legal matters and the other with scientific and technical ones.

(Mr. Plaja, Italy)

The membership at that time was fixed at 24 Member States out of a total United Nations membership of about 80, and it quickly became apparent that with the rapidly growing number of States and the need for well-balanced and effective participation, the number had to be proportionally adjusted. This was accomplished in 1960, when the membership was increased to 28 -- the number at which it remains today -- out of a total of 100 United Nations Members.

(Mr. Plaja, Italy)

These precedents seem to indicate a pattern of enlargement of the Space Committee consistent with a ratio of about 25 to 28 per cent of the total membership of the United Nations.

In the 14 years which have elapsed since the 1960 enlargement of the Space Committee, membership in the United Nations has increased from 100 to 135, and for that reason my delegation is in favour of a further enlargement of the Space Committee, which, in line with the already established pattern, would allow participation in its work by other United Nations Members that have expressed a keen interest in space activities. One such Member State that we know of through direct association in space work is the Republic of Kenya, whose candidacy we would warmly endorse.

While my delegation supports the enlargement of the Space Committee, as envisaged in the draft resolution which the Italian delegation has co-sponsored and which will be circulated, it also firmly advocates the principle that such an enlargement should be contained within the established pattern in order to keep the Committee rather small and to avoid the risk of jeopardizing the capability of the Committee and of its subsidiary bodies of acting promptly and competently in an area of activity such as space, where technological progress is extremely rapid and some decisions must be taken with a minimum of delay.

I now wish to present some remarks on the annual report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, whose recommendations and conclusions my delegation supports. I wish, first of all, to take this opportunity to praise the leadership and ability of its Chairman, Ambassador Jankowitsch. I would add that his comprehensive and clear introduction of the report yesterday will certainly facilitate our debate.

The report, *inter alia*, summarizes the findings and recommendations of the Legal Sub-Committee, of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, and of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites.

Commenting first on the legal aspects of the report, my delegation wishes to submit the general remark that the legal aspects of space activities are fundamentally inherent to all the subjects discussed by all the specialized bodies reporting to the Space Committee, and it is no wonder that a Working Group

(Mr. Plaja, Italy)

on a space subject is confronted with questions which have important legal implications. In fact, there is a stage in any initial debate on space matters when it is quite impossible -- and it would not be profitable -- to separate technical questions from legal ones.

The important thing is to be sure that whenever a specific matter has been fully debated in all its complexity by a Working Group or Sub-Committee and a preliminary identification has been made of the legal implications of the matter, such legal topics are handed over to the Legal Sub-Committee, which is better equipped than any other United Nations space body to handle such specific problems.

Of course there will always be some difference of opinion among Members about when such legal matters are ripe for transfer from a specialized group to the Legal Sub-Committee, but the past history of debates of this kind shows that a satisfactory solution has always been found, and it will certainly be found in pending and future cases.

In the opinion of my delegation, the best policy on this subject would be to let the Legal Sub-Committee itself choose its own priorities and maintain a close liaison with the existing Working Groups in order to be ready to assume the responsibility for legal matters of prime concern at the proper time.

We have great respect for the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, Ambassador Wyzner, and we feel that he and his colleagues combine such high legal skill with such extensive diplomatic experience as to be able to handle in the most effective manner all present and future legal matters of the highest priority on the treaty relating to the moon and other celestial bodies and on the convention on registration of bodies launched into outer space, as specified in the draft resolution that I mentioned, and subsequently on the principles to be observed by States in the use of broadcast satellites and on the question of dissemination of data obtained by remote sensing of the earth by satellites.

It is obvious that each one of those subjects, and many others under the competence of the Legal Sub-Committee, requires lengthy consideration and careful, detailed discussion of all aspects of very complex problems. There should therefore be neither impatience nor haste in debating them, and as far as my delegation is concerned our legal representatives, who have already contributed

(Mr. Plaja, Italy)

to the formulation of the treaty relating to the moon and of the registration convention, are ready to co-operate fully with Chairman Wyzner in as many meetings as he will be allowed to call and in line with the priorities and recommendations contained in our draft resolution.

In considering the scientific and technological aspects of the report on which we are commenting, my delegation has noticed that the emphasis of the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is today on space applications -- and rightly so.

Of course, while it was rather easy in the past to reach agreements on scientific international endeavours such as the International Geophysical Year programme, the World Weather Watch and the like, which did not have any apparent economic or commercial implications, it is not as easy to reach agreement and to achieve unified positions on international programmes related to space applications such as point-to-point communications, space broadcasting, and remote sensing of natural resources, which bear upon the national interests and economic welfare of individual States -- sometimes in conflict with similar interests of other States.

Such increasing difficulties, which were to be expected, and the consequent seeming slowness of the debate on some of the space application issues have led some members of the Committee to express their disappointment with the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and to propose a change in its mandate, varying from the extreme of cancelling it to that of establishing its agenda of work well in advance of each of its sessions.

My delegation believes that the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is indispensable in identifying areas with regard to the scientific and technical aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space and of the application of space technology which might be of special interest to the Members of the United Nations, in order that these areas might be given more detailed consideration.

Thus my delegation subscribes entirely to the outline of the Sub-Committee's work and functions, in accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraphs 57 and 58 of the Space Committee's report, and takes this opportunity to express its appreciation of the leadership and skill of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Mr. Carver.

(Mr. Plaja, Italy)

On the specific items of a scientific and technical character, my delegation, as this Committee knows, has a particular interest in the activity of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, and while it obviously supports the work performed by that Group wishes to reiterate here its appreciation to all the members of the Group for the friendly and effective co-operation given by them to their Italian Chairman in the carrying out of his mandate.

We wish to support the excellent work performed by Mr. Murthy, the United Nations Expert on Space Applications, in his efforts to bring the know-how of space technology applicable to human needs closer to the developing countries with the aim of helping them in the solution of their urgent problems. Indeed, my delegation hopes that greater support will be given to him in future than the \$87,000 provided by this year's programme, granted that in his work he should always make full use of the facilities available to the Secretariat and avail himself to the maximum extent possible of the co-operation of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

(Mr. Plaja, Italy)

My delegation supports also the continuation of the United Nations sponsorship of the Indian Thumba range and the Argentinian Mar del Plata sounding rocket station. Both are performing excellent work and are enhancing the United Nations goal of international co-operation in space.

Finally, I wish to express the appreciation of my delegation to the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat, which, under the able leadership of its Chief, Mr. Abdel-Ghani, has very efficiently carried the heavy workload entrusted to it by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

My delegation recognizes that it is the privilege of the Secretary-General to decide upon the size and composition of the organs of the Secretariat, in order to allow them to carry out their work in the most cost-effective way, and expresses its support for his recent decision to provide additional staff for the Outer Space Affairs Division in order to further enhance its effectiveness; we hope that that decision can be implemented at a very early date.

Many of the space activities we have discussed here in the past sixteen years, initially with wonder and perplexity, are today accepted by all of us and by the public as a matter of course. We dial the telephone number for the weather forecast and we decide whether to put our coat on or to leave our umbrella at home on the basis of data obtained from meteorological satellites. We call our homes thousands of miles away, accepting without any excitement the fact that our voices travel home in most cases through a satellite link. Tomorrow we shall be able to know which crop to plant, how to avoid pollution and how to manage our resources better by means of earth sensing satellites. And day after tomorrow we might be able to draw some of our energy from space, exploiting the inexhaustible power of the sun.

From all that it is clear that space activities have become and will increasingly be an important element for the conduct of our lives and for the welfare of the world. We fervently hope that our deliberations in the next few days will be consistent with those responsibilities and that this Committee will make another important contribution to the "orderly development of space activities for the benefit of mankind".

Mr. RYDBECK (Sweden): The Swedish delegation noted in last year's debate that outer space activities, after the exuberance of the first decade and its almost incredible achievements, were now in a stage of transition. The spectacular and pioneering elements -- although far from having disappeared -- are partly ceding their place to the practical application of certain space techniques to terrestrial problems. This may appear less exhilarating, but there is little doubt that outer space is thereby gaining greater purpose and usefulness for all those States which constitute the United Nations. We are all duly impressed by direct television transmissions from the surface of the moon -- certainly an experience to which it is hard to find a parallel either earlier or later -- but there is little reason not to be equally impressed by the fascinating views of our own planet received from ERTS and Skylab, and their direct utility is beyond doubt. It is fitting and encouraging that, while the Outer Space Committee may well have on its agenda the question of a draft agreement on the moon, it is giving increased attention to the use and regulation of such applications as remote sensing and direct broadcasting, problems of much more immediate and direct concern to all of us than the far-away riches of the moon, not to speak of even more distant celestial bodies. We believe that this new direction of United Nations outer space activities will also lead to a welcome increase in interest in the work of the Outer Space Committee by the Member States.

The advent of remote sensing from space has probably given much impetus to this increased interest. Not only are the economic and environmental benefits to be reaped therefrom likely to be far reaching, but the legal and political problems relating to its use are of a kind and scope likely to attract the attention of all governments. For those reasons it is to be welcomed that the Working Group on Remote Sensing is now slowly but methodically working its way through the technological maze towards meaningful recommendations in the regulatory fields, that is, towards a proper regulation of the remote sensing activity as such, so far primarily of the distribution and use of remotely sensed information.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

ERTS-1 has been remarkably successful. In many cases its achievements have even surpassed the hopes pinned on it by scientists and practical applicators. There is thus certainly no further need to demonstrate its utility: we know it is useful. The real question now will pertain to proper international organization and related legal problems. Although ERTS-B is not scheduled to be launched until 1976, there is no time to lose in establishing this organizational framework. We therefore welcome the intention of the Working Group to study, through a special task force, some of the most vital elements of a remote sensing system, namely, those relating to the distribution of data through international channels.

We further welcome the decision of the Working Group to send out a new questionnaire regarding the state of remote sensing and future plans in all United Nations Member States. A number of the questions deal with organizational and legal matters. The questionnaire represents a great step forward compared to the earlier one and is in itself a good sign of the progress achieved over the past two years. My own Government has just transmitted a fairly detailed reply to this questionnaire and we have devoted particular attention to those aspects which are of greatest international concern, that is, those relating to the regulation of reception and distribution of space-derived data. It is our firm hope that the Working Group will be able to come up with meaningful proposals in this field which is of direct interest to virtually all countries.

The discussion of the Space Expert's programme has led to some searching questions. We believe that if the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's recommendations are carried out scrupulously there is scope for continued improved performance in the programme, in spite of the extremely limited resources put at its disposal. We renew our own request that an evaluation of the programme be achieved through closer co-ordination with the United Nations Development Programme and also with some of the specialized agencies, the representatives of which have promised increased co-operation. We trust that these promises will lead to substantive results.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

Some progress was achieved in the past year with regard to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's own work programme and working methods. We are, however, still not convinced that it can be safely assumed that the Sub-Committee will have enough study items for fruitful annual meetings and that therefore its automatic continuation will always be warranted. Since, however, next year seems to be fully covered, there will be time to revert to this matter. Meanwhile, the procedural decisions taken, aimed at greater concentration and purposefulness, may help the Sub-Committee to assert its authority.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

My delegation in the Outer Space Committee touched upon the question of maritime satellites presently debated in the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization. This question has important technical, legal and organizational aspects and should not pass without notice in the United Nations itself. It is with increasing dissatisfaction that we find that, despite repeated requests from the Outer Space Committee, IMCO has not yet provided the United Nations with information on its present activities. We must insist that the Outer Space Committee, as the focal point for all space activities of the United Nations system, is given full co-operation by IMCO.

The report of the Legal Sub-Committee shows that, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 2915 (XXVII), the Sub-Committee has given priority to the two items of a draft treaty concerning the moon and a draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space. Against the background of past achievements of the Legal Sub-Committee, which has drawn up three international legal instruments dealing with outer space instruments that are all now in force, we must give voice to some disappointment over the fact that the Sub-Committee, during this year's session, has not been able fully to live up to the expectations voiced by a great many delegations.

Last year the Legal Sub-Committee adopted for presentation to its parent Committee and to the General Assembly a draft treaty concerning the moon, consisting of a preamble and 21 articles. However, there remained some unresolved issues which had been put within brackets. On the surface it would thus seem as if no progress at all had been made since then. Such a conclusion is, however, perhaps not altogether warranted. A close examination of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee reveals, in the eyes of my delegation, that consensus was reached on several difficult points and that a very thorough examination of the other remaining problems was also undertaken in the Sub-Committee and in its two working groups. The discussion showed the very complex nature of these questions, but it also helped to narrow the gap between the positions of the various delegations. It should not now be too difficult to reach agreement on the two draft conventions, particularly on the one pertaining to registration.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

My delegation bases this optimism on the constant atmosphere of goodwill and co-operation that reigns in the Legal Sub-Committee and, above all, on the skillful and untiring efforts of its able Chairman, Mr. Wyzner. This optimism is also underscored by the hope that the promising atmosphere of increasing co-operation between the two main space Powers as regards the practical application of space technology and research will be extended to the two items here referred to.

With particular regard to the draft treaty concerning the moon, my delegation feels obliged to reiterate its view that the treaty should cover all celestial bodies within the solar system. We note that the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 speaks in all contexts of "the Moon and other celestial bodies". In our opinion, the fundamental issues tackled in the draft treaty appear to be the same for all these celestial bodies, and we cannot discern any reason that would justify an approach to the planets and their natural satellites that is basically different from the one applicable to our own moon.

The central issue before the Sub-Committee appears to be the question of the natural resources of the celestial bodies dealt with in article X. My delegation welcomes the fact that the concept of "the common heritage of mankind" seems to have a good chance of being accepted by the Sub-Committee with regard to these resources. We must realize that only the two principal space Powers will in the foreseeable future have the financial and technical possibilities to land on the moon and, *a fortiori*, to send space vehicles to other planets and to extract and bring back to earth valuable natural resources. Therefore, when assessing the possible economic benefits to be derived from these space ventures, one cannot, and should not, in all fairness disregard the enormous efforts and investments that discovery and exploitation will require. Thus, it cannot be denied that the space Powers may have a legitimate interest in recovering some of these costs. But this said, it should also be recognized that this is only part of the more important question of the general distribution of the riches that could one day be reaped from the moon and other celestial bodies. It is therefore a source of great satisfaction that all delegations, and above all those of the United States and the Soviet Union, appear to be ready to accept the thought that an international conference

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

should be convened at a time when the exploitation of these natural resources becomes feasible, with a view to establishing an international régime governing their exploitation, and that the conference should proceed from the basis of the principle that these resources are the common heritage of mankind. A logical consequence of this concept, once adopted, is the creation of a proper international administration for their future exploitation under the auspices of the United Nations.

With regard to the draft convention on registration of space objects, the deliberations in the Legal Sub-Committee made considerable progress towards a complete draft. The convention can be characterized as a complement to the three previous international instruments on the use and exploration of outer space. Articles II and III have given substance to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII) and of those of the Outer Space Treaty relating to a national registry as a basis of control. The articles just mentioned do not in themselves specify the effects of registration. Jurisdiction and control is guaranteed to the State of registry by the Outer Space Treaty, but it is probable that more detailed and precise rules on the full effects of this nationality concept will have to be worked out for a time when space shuttles and manned space stations of a durable nature become frequent, and particularly so if the crews on board are recruited from different countries. Agreement is also secured for the transformation of the international registry, at present maintained by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI), into a comprehensive mandatory registry available to the general public. As pointed out earlier, only registration as now envisaged will enable the international community to exercise its right of surveillance of how States are discharging their international obligations in respect of the use and exploration of outer space.

The only divergence of views which still seems to persist with regard to the draft convention on registration relates to marking of space objects. The text on which agreement was almost reached in the Outer Space Committee could probably be further improved, and my delegation would favour making the proposed rules for marking somewhat more stringent, of course within the bounds of what is economically and technically feasible.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

The Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites has just concluded its fourth session. We feel that it constituted a further step forward in the process of creating full international understanding of the potential and of the problems inherent in the direct broadcasting technology. Canada and Sweden have continued their co-operation in this field, a co-operation which for my country has been a most rewarding one. We have thus, in another joint background paper, tried to clarify further some of the issues involved. Particular emphasis was laid on analysing the meaning and impact of the International Telecommunications Union regulations of 1971. Building on those, Canada and Sweden have elaborated a draft declaration containing suggestions for 10 principles to govern direct satellite television broadcasting. It is our hope that this proposal will make it easier for the Working Group to find its way towards the difficult balance of interests which must be achieved in this field. We welcome and support the recommendation of the Working Group that it be convened again in 1974

"... to give its primary attention to relevant legal and political problems, while continuing to study new developments in satellite broadcasting technology and relevant economic factors". (A/AC.105/117, para. 77)

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

This mandate will now allow the Working Group to carry further the task of reaching general agreement on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII), with a view to making specific recommendations for the work of the Legal Sub-Committee in this field.

The direct broadcasting item is sometimes portrayed as a battle for or against the principle of freedom of information. My delegation is convinced that no satisfactory solution will ever be found if the question is thus expressed in absolute terms. Generally speaking, there is of course no doubt that Sweden is a defender of freedom of information and the free flow of information. Our performance and our record in the United Nations and elsewhere speak for themselves. But whereas we will always defend the principle of freedom of information, we must ask ourselves what is the meaning of the notion of freedom of information in the case of broadcasting satellites. Within the foreseeable future they will remain within the economic and technological grasp of the space Powers only, or, perhaps, in the long run, of a group of countries like Europe. They alone will be in a position to broadcast television programmes to others, programmes which may be entirely out of step with the national political aims and needs of the recipient countries. I am here thinking mainly and particularly of developing countries. It seems to us misleading to employ the expression "freedom of communication" in such an extraordinarily unbalanced situation, where the few, the very few, may be able to broadcast and the many will have no choice but to receive, and certainly not to broadcast back. This concept of freedom of information will not be understood by many countries.

Canada and Sweden have thus together drafted principles which we think might govern the use of direct broadcast satellites. Whereas these do provide for some protection to individual countries, they do not intend to go into detailed regulation of programmes, which, for one thing, would not work in practice. They are directed towards co-ordination and approval of broadcasting systems and, as such, are closely modelled on existing ITU regulations. We commend them to United Nations Members in the hope and conviction that they may represent a middle ground between more extreme viewpoints, none of which is, in our opinion, likely to carry the day, at least judging from past United Nations experience in related areas.

Mr. KUSUMASMORO (Indonesia): As the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space makes clear, recent advances in space technology have been of a magnitude which affects the lives of every person on the planet. As the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee indicated in paragraph 14 of its report (A/AC.105/116), the development of remote sensing devices alone holds out almost limitless possibilities for the improvement of harvests, flood control measures and the utilization of natural resources throughout the globe.

It is indeed in the context of that background of the rapid development of the potential for the application of space technology that the present report of the Committee on Outer Space should be viewed. Although they are clearly for all countries to share, the benefits of the practical uses of the new advances are of special importance to developing countries. Enumerated in the report are methods of investigation and analysis which will be of particular use to nations whose economies are not yet fully developed and which will be applicable to the planning and monitoring of economic achievements essential to development.

For countries with large areas not yet fully explored or mapped for their mineral resources, as is the case, for example, in much of my country, many of the most basic needs, from communication and exploration to mapping itself, can be accomplished most efficiently through the use of satellites which possess the proper type of instrumentation. Such studies as may be most easily carried out through remote sensing devices will greatly help with the compilation of that information necessary to coherent government planning, information that is frequently unobtainable by any other means.

Recognizing the importance of the application of space technology to the problems of development, many of the third world nations have made substantial efforts to participate in the activities of the new field, especially through the United Nations programme on space applications. As the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee noted in his statement at the 120th meeting of the Committee, in February 1973 India launched a Centaur two-stage rocket to study atmospheric radiation. This first major successful operation by a developing country was carried out from the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station, which was the first launching station to be granted United Nations sponsorship. Thus, in part with United Nations help, the developing nations have begun to realize some of the potential of applied space technology.

(Mr. Kusumasmoro, Indonesia)

In the light of these advances, it is regrettable to note in the report, in paragraph 36, that the appropriations approved by the Sub-Committee for the funding of the programme are only \$87,000, or approximately 70 per cent of the \$130,000 originally recommended by the Expert on Space Applications for carrying out the suggested activities of the United Nations programme on space applications. This substantial reduction in the funds allocated for the development of new programmes and the maintenance of on-going projects is especially to be regretted when one recalls the importance of the over-all programme to the well-being of the developing countries and to their peoples. The space applications programme offers the United Nations an important opportunity to contribute in a most concrete and effective manner to the furtherance of the welfare of a majority of the world's people, and it would be most unfortunate if the programme's funds were to prove insufficient to enable it to fulfil its duties as efficiently and completely as possible.

As one of the developing countries most concerned with the application of space technology to problems of national development, Indonesia has engaged in extensive work preparatory to full participation in a developed space programme. My country already possesses the knowledge necessary for the proper application of these new techniques. We have sent personnel for training in these fields to Argentina, India and other States. Extensive surveys have been conducted by my Government through the use of aerial photography. The results of these surveys have been applied to the production of topographic maps, the determination of the location of roads and railroads, and the layout of water and gas supplies and of drainage systems. On a broader scale, such problems as the development of agriculture and of forestry, river investigation, port planning, and similar questions have been dealt with through the use of the techniques of aerial photography, which are very similar to those involved in satellite surveys, though, of course, much narrower in the scope of their operation. In addition, Indonesia has always been willing to permit the establishment of space ground facilities on its territory and will be pleased to offer its national facilities for use as a training centre in such projects. Under the Second Five-Year Plan, beginning in 1974, a considerable amount in local currency has been appropriated to promote

(Mr. Kusumasmoro, Indonesia)

space research, including training of specialists, purchase of instruments and construction of buildings. Its main tasks are, among others, to elaborate space research and application programmes in the background of modernization of national economic and social development and to encourage the application of space-derived technology in these endeavours.

(Mr. Kusumasmoro, Indonesia)

In this connexion, Indonesia has proposed that, in co-operation with the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), further development of the existing rocket launching station at Pameungpeuk in West Java be undertaken. As a co-operative project, it is hoped that it will facilitate joint experiments and the exchange of information among interested countries within the framework of a non-governmental scientific organization.

An essential aspect of any attempt to provide for the greater participation by the developing countries in space programmes concerns their admission to membership in the Committee on Outer Space, a subject discussed in paragraph 67 of the report.

In a body as important to the progress of the globe as the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, one might reasonably expect that the membership would adequately reflect the diversity and interests of the entire United Nations. Certainly this has been the case with other organs of the United Nations. Unfortunately, however, the present composition of the Committee does not conform with these expectations. When the membership of the Committee was last enlarged, in 1961, from 24 to 28, that step was taken in recognition of the fact that the total membership of the Organization had increased in the period from 1959 to 1961 from 82 to 104 Members. Now, 13 years later, there are 135 independent nations which are Member States, but the size of the Committee remains the same as it was in 1961. This situation is hardly consonant with the principle of adequate representation which has governed the number of seats on most United Nations committees in the more than a quarter of a century since the Organization was founded.

Equally distressing is the geographical imbalance which is evident in the membership of the present Committee. Although the States of Eastern and Western Europe together comprise approximately one quarter of the total membership of the United Nations, they occupy nearly two-thirds of the seats on the Committee, with the remaining third assigned to those nations of Africa, Latin America and Asia which together make up nearly 75 per cent of the membership of the Organization.

(Mr. Kusumasmoro, Indonesia)

Clearly these facts alone are grounds for expanding the Committee in order that more adequate geographical representation may be secured. Equally important, however, is the fact that the interests of the Committee would best be served by including an appropriate representation from the developing countries among its membership. While it is unquestionably necessary that participation of all the space Powers be assured, it is also essential that the needs of the non-space Powers be met through their active and complete participation in the planning of work in outer space.

I cannot conclude without expressing the thanks of my delegation to the Committee on Outer Space and to its Chairman, Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, for the report they have presented to us. This has done much to clarify the problems which we face in our attempts to devise the most equitable and efficient use of those resources which are available to us through the application of space technology, and people throughout the world are grateful for the advances in international co-operation achieved in this vital field.

In this context, I should like also to express our thanks to Mr. Abdel-Ghani, Chief of the Outer Space Division of the United Nations, for providing us with information on space application.

Mr. IMAM (Kuwait): My delegation is gratified to note that the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is steadily growing in importance. In a sense, this reflects the ever-expanding activities in outer space, some of which augur well for improving our knowledge of the universe and harnessing the resources of modern science and technology for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate all countries which are making major contributions to the exploration of outer space and are actively engaged in various aspects of space activity. It is heartening to note that some developing countries, like India, have found it possible to enter the space club which was formerly the exclusive preserve of the advanced countries.

(Mr. Imam, Kuwait)

My delegation would like to reiterate its earlier position that the treaty concerning the moon 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 shall 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.

The Sea-Bed Committee had already shown us the way by declaring the sea-bed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction the common heritage of mankind. We cannot accept the argument that the moon and other celestial bodies should be treated differently from the sea-bed area. It is true that the moon and other celestial bodies are only accessible to countries which are very advanced in science and technology. This, however, should not allow these countries to monopolize the resources of the moon and other celestial bodies. Operators naturally will be adequately remunerated for their investment and risk-taking. The concept of the common heritage of mankind should, however, be preserved as it has become an essential part of the progressive development of international law in all areas which lie beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

The Legal Sub-Committee has made some progress in its work on the draft convention on the registration of space objects. We would like to associate ourselves with the point of view expressed by many delegations that an additional article should be formulated on marking. This should require States to mark in a practical manner every space object which, after being launched, is subject to re-entry into the atmosphere. Identification of those objects would facilitate establishing liability for damage caused to countries other than the owner of the object.

My delegation also has sympathy with the arguments advanced in favour of inserting a revision clause in the convention to make sure that the rapid advances in science and technology will not render many of the provisions of the projected convention obsolete.

(Mr. Imam, Kuwait)

My delegation is on the whole sympathetic to the proposal for enlarging the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. An expanded composition will reflect the growing interest among developing countries in the work of the Committee and the eagerness of some to make a contribution to its work.

In my statement last year, I laid special stress on the importance of remote sensing from space. The report of the Committee shows that it has given due recognition to the role of new technology and the impact it will have on progress in both developed and developing countries. The United Nations should pay special attention to the practical applications of space technology for the benefit of the developing countries. The United Nations, however, cannot act without the material assistance and the active support of the advanced countries that at the moment exercise a critical monopoly over space technology. Remote sensing can be an effective tool in resource exploitation, development and conservation. Many of the developing countries have virgin resources which can benefit from the utilization of such a potent weapon. They are awaiting specific recommendations on remote sensing which will place the resources of this new field of knowledge within their reach. We look forward to adopting a programme of action in the field of remote sensing which will bring the benefits of remote sensing not only to every country but also to every farm and home. This is the real challenge of the future: how the benefits of science and technology can be effectively utilized to eradicate the remnants of poverty and backwardness all over the world.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: Our programme of work for this afternoon's meeting will be as follows. First, the draft resolution on agenda items 30 and 31 will be introduced. We shall then hear two representatives who wish to speak on those items. After that, a draft resolution on agenda item 39, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", will be introduced. Any members who wish to speak on that draft resolution may then do so. If the discussion of that text is not concluded this afternoon, we shall continue it at a later meeting, when we shall also proceed to vote.

The meeting tomorrow morning will be devoted to statements on agenda items 30 and 31.

The plenary Assembly will be considering seven disarmament items at the beginning of its meeting tomorrow afternoon. We shall continue our consideration of agenda items 30 and 31 after the Assembly concludes its action on those disarmament items. I would suggest that we fix the time of our meeting at 4 p.m.

On Friday morning we shall continue our consideration of agenda items 30 and 31. I would propose that at the afternoon meeting we should try to conclude the debate on those items and vote on the draft resolution. If that does not take up the whole meeting we could revert to the draft resolution on agenda item 39 and possibly vote on it.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.