

(Mr. Valencia Rodriguez, Ecuador)

In connexion with satellite television broadcasting, my delegation has noted with satisfaction the progress achieved. We should, however, like to point out that this area should be regulated by norms of international law, which should include the rights of States in certain cases not to receive broadcasting directed to populations in its territory. We think it would be desirable at the appropriate time to hold a conference devoted to space matters, preceded as an essential prerequisite by the work necessary to ensure the full success of that conference. We are not opposed to the possibility of including the applications of space technology in the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology planned for the end of the seventies, particularly since to do so would pave the way for the suggested space conference.

In conclusion, having considered the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.712) so ably presented by the representative of Austria, the delegation of Ecuador has asked to become a sponsor of that draft resolution, since it contains many of the ideas I have put forward here. Of course, we believe that the draft resolution could still be improved by other delegations.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Valencia Rodriguez for the kind words addressed to me and to the Officers of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.



# UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



PROVISIONAL

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13 October 1975

ENGLISH

Thirtieth Session

FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND AND FORTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Monday, 13 October 1975, at 10.30 a.m.Chairman:

Mr. GHORRA

(Lebanon)

Rapporteur:

Mr. ARTEGA-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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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.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/10C20)  
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/10C20)

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Mr. Chairman, since the delegation of the USSR is speaking in the First Committee for the first time at this thirtieth session of the General Assembly, we should like to take this opportunity officially to congratulate you upon your election to the chairmanship of this Committee and express our best wishes to you in your important work.

We should also like to congratulate Mr. von Wechmar of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mr. Mikanagu of Burundi upon their election as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, and Mr. Arteaga Acosta, representative of Venezuela, upon his election to the post of Rapporteur of the Committee.

The Soviet delegation wishes to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of its readiness to co-operate with the officers and members of the Committee in the performance of the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

I should also like to thank you, Sir, and the representative of Sweden, Ambassador Rydbeck, for the warm words of congratulation in connexion with the successful completion of the Apollo-Soyuz flight.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

The First Committee has before it some extremely important and urgent questions of contemporary world politics. Among them a central place goes to the question of disarmament; we have the items tabled for the agenda of this session upon the initiative of the USSR, the conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of the testing of nuclear weapons and the prohibition of the development and production of new forms of weapons of mass destruction and new systems for such weapons, the convening of a world disarmament conference, a reduction of military budgets, nuclear-free zones, the prohibition of chemical weapons, the prohibition of climatic war, and other items.

Today, the First Committee is continuing its consideration of the first important item on its agenda, international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Guided by its programme of peace adopted by the twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union has always been a staunch champion of comprehensive co-operation between peoples, and views the strengthening of this as a guarantee of lasting peace on earth.

The readiness of the Soviet Union to participate, together with other States, in the conquest of outer space and in other fields is something which has been reflected in broad-scale and substantial practical application. For many years there has been successful co-operation in this field among the brother socialist countries, which have united their efforts within the framework of the INTERCOSMOS programme. Thirty automatic space probes in the INTERCOSMOS series have already been put into orbit. There has been fruitful development and co-operation with French scientists in this field. An example of this is the joint laser-Lunar location, the placement of French equipment on Soviet inter-planetary stations, and other projects, some of which have already been carried out jointly and some of which are being successfully worked out. A Soviet rocket has taken into orbit the first Indian artificial satellite.

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A qualitatively new stage in the development of international co-operation in the conquest of space and an outstanding historic event in the international exploration and conquest of space was the joint Soviet-American Soyuz-Apollo project. On 15 July this year, from different continents and from far distant launching pads, the two space ships of the USSR and the United States began their journeys. With amazing accuracy they carried out their manoeuvres as scheduled, and the docking operation and, for the first time in the history of mankind, on 17 July 1975, created, in the Soyuz-Apollo, a space complex with an international crew, the precursor of future international orbital stations. Between the Soviet and American experts and astronauts who carried out the Soyuz-Apollo programme there grew up business-like and friendly relations. An atmosphere of mutual understanding and constructive co-operation in the preparations for and the carrying out of the flight made it possible to overcome obstacles and to find acceptable solutions for technical and organizational problems.

The tremendous significance of this outstanding experiment, which opened up a new page in the history of the conquest of space, the experience gained in carrying out international flights into space, and the whole experiment became a symbol of the fruitful linking of scientific achievements made possible as a result of the pursuance in international relations of the policy of peaceful coexistence. It opens up new prospects for combined work on the part of different countries in the peaceful conquest of the limitless spaces of the universe.

The carrying out of the Soyuz-Apollo project has opened up additional prospects for the further conquest of space and has made it possible to increase the security of pilotless space craft.

Space research and experiments, including the Soyuz-Apollo programme, because of their global scale are obviously going to serve the cause of the whole of mankind. Once again, mankind has been able to realize the need -- to use the words of the great Russian explorer Tsiolkovsky -- to give it a universal view of the world.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

At the same time, the link between the idea of the joint flight, described by the President of the United States, Mr. Ford, as historic, and the policy of peaceful coexistence is quite obvious. As it was put vividly by Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, our planet -- and I quote -- "is big enough to be lived in in peace, but too small to be subjected to the threat of nuclear war".

Thus we have already accumulated valuable experience in the organization of co-operation among States in carrying out major scientific research. Of course, the development of this co-operation is conceivable only in circumstances of the easing of international tension -- détente. On the other hand, the development of scientific and technological co-operation -- and this includes co-operation in the field of space research -- encourages a general improvement of the world political climate, expands the basis for peaceful coexistence and co-operation among States with different political and social systems, and lays the foundation for international relations in the cosmic space age which is beginning.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

With regard to co-operation with all interested countries in the exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes; the Soviet Union views this as a matter of tremendous national and international significance, and we have noted with satisfaction the great success achieved in co-operation in this field recently. The Soviet Union will continue to pursue a course of expanding international co-operation in the conquest of space in the interests of the whole of mankind.

In the last year tremendous progress has been made in Soviet space science. A lengthy space expedition was carried out at the Salyut-4 orbital station. Soviet astronauts Peter Klimuk and Vitaly Sevastianov carried out for more than two months, in space, a broad programme of comprehensive exploration of the earth and its atmosphere. They studied the sun and other celestial bodies and carried out medical and biological experiments. The results of this expedition were of great interest for geology, meteorology, geography, oceanography and other fields of knowledge.

The flight of the orbital scientific stations with rotated crews was one of the most important lines along which man could penetrate into space and a decisive means of further profound study of the universe and of acquiring knowledge of our planet.

This new major success on the part of Soviet space science has made a considerable contribution towards the solution of important economic tasks facing the Soviet State. Pursuant to decisions of the Twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; provision was made for carrying out scientific work in space for the purpose of developing long distance telephone and telegraph communication links in our country, television, weather forecasting and the study of natural resources, geographical surveys and the performance of other economic tasks by means of satellites, automatic and piloted devices, and also the continuation of fundamental scientific research into the Moon and the planets of the solar system.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

For more than a year now, within the environmental precincts of the natural satellite of the earth, Lunar-22, considerable work has been going on with respect to the legendary Morning Star, the planet Venus, and the Soviet stations Venus 9 and Venus 10 are in this area, and the lightning and meteorological satellites are operating in earth orbit.

With regard to the tremendous practical significance and use of the earth satellites, we have the following comparison as evidence: for one orbit around the earth, a meteorological satellite collects 100 times more information than 10,000 earth-based meteorological earth-based stations. Communication satellite Lightning-1 has expanded the television audience by many tens of millions of people and has ensured television programme reception in localities with very poor reception where it is particularly costly to construct cable and radio relay lines.

With every year space technology is to a growing extent used to carry out various applied tasks. After the communication satellites and meteorological satellites the orbital beacons are going into operation, satellites which ensure shipping and aircraft navigation, and satellites are being created for prospecting the natural resources of the earth and for studying the world's oceans and so forth.

Within the framework of the United Nations, a great deal of work is going on in the field of international co-operation in many areas affecting human life, and this includes the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. Eloquent testimony of this is contained in the report which has been presented to us by the representative of Austria, Mr. Jankowitsch -- the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In the view of the Soviet delegation, this year the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committee has on the whole been successful. This in particular confirms the timeliness, topicality and advisability of the

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initiatives of the Soviet Union in the United Nations in the field of political and legal regulation of the activities of States in the conquest of space.

The Legal Sub-Committee, at its twenty-fourth session, was able to produce a preliminary draft of a compromise text of articles on the most complicated issue of the draft treaty on the Moon, namely the problem of its natural resources. This gives us grounds for hoping that the Legal Sub-Committee has the experience and opportunity to overcome the difficulties which have arisen in connexion with the solution of this problem. We believe that if all member countries of the Outer Space Committee display goodwill and a constructive attitude in attempting to agree on the very few outstanding issues with regard to the treaty on the Moon, the text can be submitted for the approval of the next regular session of the General Assembly.

Although work on other high priority questions on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee, namely draft principles on direct television broadcasting and legal regulation of the use of space technology for the study of the natural resources of the earth, are not making such rapid progress, nevertheless there has also been some progress on those questions. A single text of draft principles for direct television broadcasting has been prepared. Of course that text so far still contains square brackets and even alternative provisions. But at the same time it does constitute a good basis for further accelerated work on the part of the Sub-Committee, with a view to the performance of the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly, that is, the drawing up of principles for direct television broadcasting for the purpose of concluding an international agreement regulating that kind of space activity. A broad measure of agreement has also been forthcoming with regard to certain aspects of the legal regulation of the use of space technology for the study of the natural resources of the earth.

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We believe, too, that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee held a useful session. It concentrated its attention on the consideration of organizational, technical and financial aspects of remote sensing. It should be pointed out that the session was noteworthy for its very businesslike approach and its constructive attitude, by comparison with previous sessions of that Sub-Committee.

On the fundamental problem of the Sub-Committee's item that we are discussing, remote sensing, the Political Department of the United Nations Secretariat has prepared a number of research papers. Their usefulness is undeniable. Member States should make it possible for a comprehensive, detailed study of this research to be undertaken, taking into account its great volume and the complexity of the issues arising from this material.

We would like to stress the need for strengthening communication and co-ordination in the work of the two Sub-Committees of the Outer Space Committee. There is no doubt that the earliest possible agreement in the Legal Sub-Committee on the political and legal principles of remote sensing of earth's natural resources will permit the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to go to work more purposefully and decisively with a view to solving practical problems of organization of international co-operation in this most promising field.

We note with satisfaction the positive results of international co-operation in the conquest of space. The possibilities in this area are really limitless. The legendary flight of man into space marked the beginning of a new era in the history of mankind. We are confident that an increasing number of States will begin to engage actively in the study and practical conquest of space in the interests of peace, international co-operation and progress. As for the Soviet Union, our position was once again recently clearly set forth in a speech of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev, on the occasion of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR on 7 October of this year. "An inalienable part of the common struggle of our Party and State for lasting peace, for freedom and progress on earth", stressed

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Leonid Brezhnev, "is the development of international, scientific and technological links." With those words from the speech of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union permit me to conclude my statement.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Ambassador Issraelyan, on behalf of the other officers of the Committee and on my own behalf, for the very kind and friendly congratulations extended to us.

Mr. BENNETT (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, let me at the outset express compliments and best wishes to you and the other officers of the Committee. It is a matter of great satisfaction to my Government that a man of your breadth of understanding and experience at the United Nations, as well as your very warm human qualities, is presiding over our work. We can also be very pleased at our Rapporteur who, while he has not had as long an experience as you at the United Nations, is already playing a very prominent and constructive role in the deliberations of our Organization. I am sure that the two Vice-Chairmen will play their part when called upon.

The year 1975 has been an extremely active one in the work of the Outer Space Committee and in the actual exploration and use of outer space. There have been a number of developments in each which we believe are worthy of attention as the First Committee reviews the question of the peaceful uses of outer space.

During the past year the United States has continued to participate actively with other nations in the exploration of outer space. We have, for example, launched Ariel-5, the fifth in a series of scientific satellites undertaken in co-operation with Great Britain; the Intasat, an ionospheric satellite prepared by Spain; and Helios 1, the first of two solar probes built by the Federal Republic of Germany and designed to fly closer to the sun than any previous spacecraft.

(Mr. Bennett, United States)

In addition, consistent with our pledge to provide non-discriminatory reimbursable launch assistance for foreign satellite projects for peaceful purposes, we have provided four launches within the past year. These have included two French and German Symphonie communications satellites, the Telesat-3, a Canadian communications satellite, and Cos-B, a European Space Agency satellite for gamma radiation studies.

International co-operation has also played an increasing role in the development of the Space Transportation System, a new approach to space flight which will eventually replace costly expendable launch vehicles and provide expanded opportunities for useful space activities throughout the world. The European Space Agency has proceeded on schedule with the development of Spacelab, an orbiting manned laboratory which will provide seven to 30-day missions in space. International planning for the first shuttle mission is already under way. The development by Canada of the Remote Manipulator System will permit shuttle astronauts to deliver, service and retrieve payloads in space.

One of the most dramatic examples of international co-operation in space this year was, of course, the Apollo-Soyuz test project which was successfully flown last July as a joint project of the United States and the USSR. A number of us here, members of the Outer Space Committee, had the pleasure of travelling to Cape Canaveral to witness the lift-off of Apollo. My Government believes that Apollo-Soyuz was more than a technical success in space exploration. We hope that it will stand in the perspective of time as a general landmark demonstration of the feasibility of highly complex technical projects among nations when there is the will to work towards common objectives.

Finally, I wish to mention two co-operative projects which particularly illustrate the potential benefits for developing as well as developed countries from the use of outer space. One was the inauguration on 1 August of Indian educational broadcasting through the United States ATS-6 satellite directly into augmented community receivers in more than 2,000 Indian villages. An additional 3,000 villages are reached through terrestrial rebroadcast stations. We have heard very positive reports from the first few weeks of this Satellite Instructional Television Experiment, and we look forward to learning about its continued progress.

(Mr. Bennett, United States)

The second project relates to the continuation of an experiment in remote sensing of the earth's natural environment, namely, the launching last January of Landsat 2. At the present time, scientists sponsored and funded by 55 countries and five international organizations have participated in Landsat investigations. Canada, Brazil and Italy already have ground stations operating for direct reception of Landsat data, and so far in 1975 additional station agreements have been concluded with Chile, Iran and Zaire.

(Mr. Bennett, United States)

While those and other developments were occurring in outer space, extremely important related work was also taking place here at United Nations Headquarters in the deliberations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal and Scientific and Technical Subcommittees.

The two primary areas of interest before those bodies are direct television broadcasting by satellite and remote sensing of the earth's natural environment and resources. Both of these subjects entail extremely important and complex issues, and I should like to comment on the principal questions raised.

During its 1975 session the Legal Subcommittee devoted considerable time to developing the texts of 14 draft principles to guide those conducting direct television broadcasting by satellite. Even though substantial portions of those draft principles remain unagreed, development of these texts was nevertheless a substantial accomplishment, which resulted from very careful and detailed consideration of the many important issues involved. We have made significant progress; we also have considerable work before us.

The question of prior consent to broadcasting is probably the most difficult of the remaining issues under debate. Although risking the pitfalls of generalization and oversimplification, I believe it is reasonable to describe the debate as one in which one point of view is that direct television broadcasting through satellites should not be undertaken without the prior consent of the Governments of all States where those signals may be received; the other principal point of view is essentially that within the scope of reasonable voluntary guidelines developed on a co-operative basis, broadcasters should be able to air programmes without the constraint of prior programme content censorship, and that concerns about an imbalance of cultural impacts should be accommodated by encouraging a two-way flow of ideas and information rather than simply a one-way communication.

The United States has since the beginning of this debate encouraged the development and beneficial use of this new technology. We believe that increased communication among peoples reduces prejudices and misunderstandings,

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whereas inhibited and restrictive communication encourages those prejudices and misunderstandings. We believe that the potential benefits for developing and developed countries far outweigh the potential risks.

The adoption of a prior consent régime is in our view undesirable in principle; and it is probably not feasible in practice unless we wish simply to set this new technology aside and leave it unused. As a practical matter, a system in which the prior consent of every receiving State were required would be a system in which very little broadcasting would ever take place except domestically within the largest countries. Even with substantial progress in beam shaping, regional broadcasts in most areas of the world would be receivable in a considerable number of States, and I think it is a realistic if unfortunate assessment that there are few areas of the world with sufficient political compatibility that all States in a given region would give their consent. The result would be that the benefits of such communications would not be attainable, even if they were desired by a majority of States and populations in an area.

The United States continues to believe that with imagination and goodwill a formula can be found which will not deny to the world the potential benefits of direct television broadcasting and which at the same time will give reassurance to those who have legitimate concerns about the potential impact of this new communications technology.

For example, there are a number of important considerations of a technical nature which deserve our attention. Those include the incompatibility of television transmitters in some countries with the receivers in others. In addition, local Governments have the ability to regulate the sale and possession of essential signal adaptors. We have closely reviewed proposals that the agreement of States in an anticipated reception area be obtained before a direct television broadcasting satellite is launched, thereby attempting to provide for agreement to the activity without getting into programme content evaluation. That carefully developed proposal has many reasonable elements, but unfortunately in the end does not seem to solve the

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basic problem. It would still permit a single State to prohibit broadcasting over an entire region, regardless of the desires of others. In addition, there would be nothing to prevent a State from making its agreement to the launch dependent on prior censorship of programme content. Further, this proposal would not seem to offer protection from the possibility that consent might be withdrawn some time after it was initially given. If, for instance, a group of States had invested in a regional broadcasting system and then one of them suddenly withdrew its agreement, either the prior consent requirement would have to be discarded or the regional broadcasting system would have to be abandoned. A unilateral right to prohibit open communications could, in our view, be much more dangerous than a unilateral right to initiate broadcasts, which may or may not have the prior consent of every single State concerned.

We recognize that the differences among States are significant on this issue, and that divergent views, including those we have, are strongly held. The United States has been strongly advocating the principles of maximizing the free and open exchange of information and ideas, principles which we believe are in the interests of all peoples, not simply of citizens of the United States. At the same time, we recognize the concerns of others. In order to assist these deliberations, we submitted in 1974 a paper containing draft principles on direct broadcasting which reflected the approach that we felt the international community should adopt to deal with this new technology. We have continued to give serious consideration to additional ways of reconciling differences among States on this important issue.

Based on our review of the points and interests raised during the last year in the debates on direct broadcasting, we should like to propose a new approach which we believe might serve as an effective basis for reconciling many of our divergent interests.

In his August statement on international law before the American Bar Association meeting in Montreal, Canada, Secretary of State Kissinger suggested



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that any system for direct television broadcasting by satellite should be accompanied by full consultations among the countries concerned. I should like to elaborate on the meaning of this suggestion. In particular, we are proposing that before direct television broadcasting is undertaken, States within the reception area should be notified of the intention to broadcast. Those who broadcast should be prepared, on a reciprocal basis, to assume an obligation to give formal notification to States within the likely broadcast area. In addition, those who broadcast should agree to consult fully with the Governments of the States in the intended reception area, if those Governments so request, with the intention of making good-faith efforts to reconcile problems that may be raised.

(Mr. Bennett, United States)

We believe that this approach would offer protection for any State which has legitimate concerns about direct television broadcasting into its territory, without establishing an international scheme based on prior consent. We do not envisage establishment through these procedures of a right of any State to prohibit others from undertaking broadcasting. We do envisage that such notification and consultation requirements would go substantively beyond the technical consultations now provided for within the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

It is our belief that the actual process of consultation, which would cause the parties to deal expressly with problems which may arise, would go very far to reconcile differences. The very process of bona fide consultations would give the broadcaster considerable incentive to work out mutually satisfactory solutions, and would guarantee those in the reception area a full opportunity to resolve problems they may foresee. Broadcasters would clearly not wish to alienate prospective audiences, and hence would desire to reconcile differences. The natural dynamic of the dialogue would work in favour of reconciliation.

Neither the United States nor others who are attempting to ensure continued opportunities for the beneficial development of the new communications technology wish this technology itself to become a source of international discord or friction. On the contrary, it is through such developments that we would hope for the growth of better communication and understanding among peoples, and hence the gradual reduction of tensions. We have proposed this formula, not in anticipation of satisfying everyone completely -- an accomplishment which does not seem possible with such great divisions -- but in the genuine hope of accommodating at least the most essential interests of both sides of this debate. Advocates of both points of view obviously must demonstrate some flexibility if we are ever to reach agreement. It is our hope that this approach will be a helpful and constructive basis for our further discussions in the Legal Sub-Committee on this issue.

The year 1975 has also been notable, both in space and at the conference table, for remote sensing of the Earth's natural environment and resources. As I mentioned earlier in these remarks, in January of this year the United States

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launched its second experimental remote sensing satellite, Landsat 2. In the spring, at its fourteenth session, the Legal Sub-Committee for the first time devoted a significant amount of time to the question of the legal implications of remote sensing and took the first small but important step towards a thorough, detailed and constructive analysis of the issues involved. In May the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee devoted a considerable portion of its twelfth session to the technical and organizational aspects of remote sensing.

As in the case of direct television broadcasting, the Outer Space Committee is dealing with a set of issues of broad scope and considerable complexity. In February the United States representative to the Legal Sub-Committee introduced a working paper in order to express more clearly the approach which we believe the international community should take in order to ensure for all countries, regardless of their stages of economic and technological development, the maximum opportunities to share in the benefits of remote sensing.

As is reflected in the United States working paper (A/AC.105/C.2/L.103), we strongly believe that substantial benefits for all States, at every stage of economic and technical development, can be obtained from an open and shared system of earth observation from satellites such as the Landsat space platforms, with which we are now experimenting. Convincing evidence of the potential benefits already realized can be easily found in the experiments of over 50 States now participating directly in the Landsat programme.

Our total shared understanding about the natural features and resources of the Earth has been greatly expanded. That understanding will continue to grow as scientists throughout the world continue to improve their analytical techniques, and as we pool and share with one another the knowledge gained. Although our body of information will be greatly increased by periodic coverage of the world's surface, the United States has already shared, and continues to make available to all interested parties, at least one-time coverage of over 90 per cent of the Earth's land surface. The peaceful exploration and use of outer space has given us all an invigorating common cause in the interests of all countries and has provided an encouraging example that openness and sharing can be to our common benefit, rather than to our collective or individual detriment.

(Mr. Bennett, United States)

The Legal Sub-Committee also has before it two proposals which would restrict data dissemination -- proposals which we believe would reverse the beneficial pattern of international co-operation which so many of us have been attempting to build for these many years. If adopted and applied, either of these proposals would almost inevitably result in a monopoly on remote sensing data by highly industrialized States which have their own satellites.

For example, if the United States and other countries with such remote sensing satellites were to agree not to make available to third countries data of a sensed country without the latter's consent, we would in fact be able to share very little with anyone outside the United States, although it would be our intention to continue to make the data available to all interested parties here. The natural swath of the satellite sensors commonly cuts across many national boundaries. The exercise of separating the thousands of millions of data bits along the lines of political boundaries is both financially prohibitive and scientifically disadvantageous. Without such separation, in many parts of the world the consent of every country in a region might have to be obtained through a time-consuming and complicated process, which would ensure at the very least that the data released to countries without satellites would be much delayed, and probably that it would be prohibited completely. There would be little incentive to pursue such a process.

How, for example, could we or any other country continue to permit most other States to operate ground receiving stations under such a restrictive data dissemination system? Normal coverage by ground station is a circle approximately 3,000 kilometers in radius. For example, a station in the middle of South America could pick up data of at least part of every country on that continent. In other areas of the world it would be more; in some areas fewer. Under a restrictive data dissemination proposal we could not permit such a ground station to read out the data without the prior consent of all the countries in the region, because the operator of that ground station would be a third country, that is, neither the sensed nor the sensing country.

Such a system, in our view, would exacerbate the divisions between the rich and the poor, the technologically advanced and the less advanced, the

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large and the small, in ways that the vast majority of States have been calling out to reverse, not to perpetuate or increase. The United States does not believe such a policy of restriction is in the interest of the international community.

This result would be contrary to the spirit of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, which urges that such activities be undertaken in the interests and for the benefit of all countries, and would run squarely against the conclusions of the very body that we last year requested to examine the organizational aspects of this question. I refer in particular to paragraph 27 (iii) of the report of the twelfth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/150).

(Mr. Bennett, United States)

There the Sub-Committee noted with satisfaction that receiving stations in various countries were set up or planned to work with the Landsat programme and recognized the importance of these stations for obtaining coverage of most of North and South America, most of Europe and large parts of Africa and West Asia. The Sub-Committee also expressed the hope that countries in other regions would set up similar stations and that all countries planning to do so would associate with them data storage, data dissemination and training facilities that could be made available on reasonable terms to other countries in their regions. In addition, the Sub-Committee expressed the view that States should operate ground stations in such a manner as to maximize their contribution to scientific research concerning problems of a global nature.

The results of the open data dissemination provisions in the agreements establishing those ground stations are a practical, daily demonstration that open dissemination can increase benefits without harm.

The United States believes that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee adopted the proper conclusions on this issue in its report, conclusions which when followed by responsive action in the Legal Sub-Committee would ensure an equitable opportunity for all States to share in the benefits from these new technological developments. The report of the Outer Space Committee's thirtieth session (A/10020, Supplement 20), which was held just last June, contains the recommendation that the Legal Sub-Committee should, *inter alia*, take into account the discussions, views and conclusions concerning organizational, economic and technical aspects of remote sensing in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. My delegation supports that recommendation and we shall do our part to ensure that it is respected.

We look forward to the resumption in the Legal Sub-Committee of our efforts towards a thorough and detailed examination of the legal implications of remote sensing. On the basis of issues raised in that examination, we shall be looking for common elements of agreement and, when it appears that any of those common elements could be developed into general statements of principle, we, along with others, will endeavour to develop them.

In the remote sensing area, we believe that a policy of open sharing, coupled with active programmes of assistance in learning how to analyse and use

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the data, can continue to provide valuable opportunities for all States to share in the potential benefits from remote sensing. The United States has no desire to force upon any other country data from our space programmes. We would urge the international community, however, to pursue a policy in which more countries, not fewer countries, participate in such sharing, a policy in which more knowledge, not less knowledge, is made universally available in order to help us all improve the state of our common experience here on earth.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the United States for the kind remarks he addressed to me and the other officers of the Committee.

Mr. ROSE (German Democratic Republic): First of all, our delegation wishes to avail itself of this opportunity to extend its congratulations to the representatives of the Soviet Union and the United States for the successful efforts undertaken by their countries since the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and aimed at the peaceful exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. In the German Democratic Republic, special attention was paid to the preparations for and implementation of the Soyuz-Apollo flight in July this year. This flight, jointly undertaken by the two States, is not only an important event in the history of peaceful exploration and peaceful uses of outer space but also a significant contribution to world-wide détente and universal implementation of the principles of peaceful coexistence in the framework of co-operation of States having different social systems.

The delegation of the German Democratic Republic took note with great interest of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its eighteenth session. We share the opinion of the representatives of other States that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Legal Sub-Committee and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee have accomplished precious and useful work towards implementing resolution 3234 (XXIX) adopted at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

(Mr. Rose German Democratic Republic)

As a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, my delegation also joined in the efforts of the delegations of other members of this Committee to contribute in a constructive and businesslike manner to the implementation of the tasks set forth in resolution 3234 (XXIX).

In particular, we should like to thank Ambassador Jankowitsch, Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, for his great efforts and useful initiatives by which he has contributed considerably to the success obtained so far by this Committee. At the same time, we wish to thank the Chairmen of the Sub-Committees and the staff members of the Outer Space Division of the Secretariat, especially Mr. Perek, who has successfully run this division for almost a year now.

Representatives of the German Democratic Republic took part in the sessions of both Sub-Committees and of the Main Committee and presented our country's position. That is why we wish to confine ourselves here to certain questions.

We hold that, notwithstanding the progress achieved, the Legal Sub-Committee still has to solve a number of important fundamental questions concerning the completion of the treaty relating to the Moon and the elaboration of legal norms for direct television broadcasting by artificial earth satellites and for remote sensing from space of the earth by satellites.

As far as the treaty relating to the Moon is concerned, my country is in favour of completing this treaty as soon as possible. The scope of the treaty should be confined to the Moon so that negotiations will not be made more complicated. We do not underestimate the importance of the controversial question relating to the legal implications of natural Moon resources. We hold, however, that, in the light of the present technical and technological standards, nothing should be prejudiced by stipulations prematurely agreed upon. For the time being, this question need not be covered by a treaty relating to the Moon and could be submitted to a conference for further consideration or covered by a special agreement.

This would not at all impair the substance of a treaty relating to the Moon. We consider it to be important that all States are given the opportunity,

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

in terms of international law, to take part in the exploration of the Moon and also that the Moon may be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Concerning the elaboration of legal norms for direct television broadcasting by artificial earth satellites and for remote sensing from space of the earth by satellites, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic holds that the principle of respect for the sovereignty of States is of decisive importance for both issues.

This is also confirmed in the Final Act of Helsinki. The participants in that Conference expressed their intention to facilitate the improvement of the exchange and dissemination of filmed and broadcast information on the basis of the generally recognized principles of international law, for instance, the principle of the sovereignty of States and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

If this connexion is duly taken into account, direct television broadcasting by artificial earth satellites can also be a very useful means for understanding among the peoples and for developing good neighbourly relations among sovereign States. My country will always support an exchange of information and culture aiming at the above-mentioned goals.

Accordingly, the above-mentioned also applies to legal problems of remote sensing, from space, of the earth by satellites. In the interest of speedy work, we think that, first of all, legal principles of the remote sensing of natural resources of the earth by satellites should be established. Especially in this field we would like to point out that close co-ordination of the work of the Sub-Committees is necessary to overcome the present difficulties.

With regard to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, we attach high importance to the organizational requirements of reception, processing, storage and dissemination of remote sensing data, taking into account, above all, the needs of the developing countries. After having studied the documents and after the deliberations in the Sub-Committee, our delegation believes that possible regional centres or a global centre should function in any case under the auspices of the United Nations, all the more as all States have an interest in making the most effective use of it. Here again, we would like to point out that any decisions on these questions are closely connected with establishing legal provisions for the dissemination of data.

May I be permitted some remarks with respect to convening a United Nations conference on outer space. Recent and current international conferences have proven the necessity of being comprehensively and thoroughly prepared if they are to yield success.

There does not yet exist any agreement on holding a United Nations conference on space, its purposes and objects. It would be correct and effective for the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee once more to consider this problem and the necessity and usefulness of such a conference.

Let me finally state that the German Democratic Republic agrees to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and fully supports it.

Mr. HARRY (Australia): Mr. Chairman, let me begin by expressing the confidence of my delegation that under your distinguished guidance, and with the help of the excellent new officers, the Committee will continue to register progress this year in all its major agenda items: outer space, the strengthening of international security, the question of Korea, and disarmament.

This morning my delegation would like to thank Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria for his informative account of the work of the eighteenth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The year 1975 has indeed been another year of steady progress for the Outer Space Committee and for its two sub-committees. The year has also been marked by significant achievements in the exploration and exploitation, for the benefit of man, of outer space. Mention has already been made of the Apollo-Soyuz joint space venture in July, the various unmanned probes to planets of the solar system by both major space Powers, whose statements we have heard this morning, the satellite instructional television experiment over India, the continued dissemination of remote sensing receiving stations around the world, and, more generally, the growing interest on the part of many countries in the potential of space science to contribute to the solution of pressing economic and environmental problems here on earth.

Space science, from being a rather exotic and expensive plant on the periphery of the garden of science, is becoming more and more a matter of direct day-to-day concern to Governments. The development of space science and technology over the years, and the development of international co-operation in the field, fully justify the foresight of those among us who, some 17 years ago, recognized the potential importance of this subject for the United Nations and took the necessary steps to set up the Outer Space Committee.

Australia is pleased to be among the co-sponsors of the draft resolution, which will be presented by the representative of Austria. The fact that this draft resolution is rather less detailed than corresponding resolutions in previous years will, we hope, encourage delegations to refer back to the report of the Outer Space Committee (A/10020) for a fuller description of the year's activities and the programme for next year.

(Mr. Harry, Australia)

It goes without saying that Australia fully endorses the conclusions and recommendations in that report. On this occasion I wish only to highlight a few topics of particular interest this year to the Australian delegation.

One perennial issue is the question of the working relationship between the two sub-committees of the Outer Space Committee: paragraphs 23, 32, 34 and 45 of the report illustrate the issue in different ways. This is more than a purely organizational problem: it is basic to a perception of how the United Nations should be approaching its work on outer space.

There are those who would give absolute priority to the Legal Sub-Committee, as the body responsible for drafting the international legal instruments which must form the framework for international co-operation in the outer space field. According to this view, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee would be relegated essentially to the role of a scientific adviser, which could be called upon, where necessary, to supply scientific and technical definitions to the Legal Sub-Committee. The practical implementation of international co-operation in this field would have to await in any area of space technology the imprimatur of a legal instrument developed by the Legal Sub-Committee.

The opposite approach is to assume that, by an empirical process of practical co-operation between various countries, a form of international co-operation will evolve of itself and become established, on the basis of which an appropriate legal framework will subsequently suggest itself. According to this view, the Legal Sub-Committee should await international technological and organizational developments in which, presumably, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee would have meanwhile provided some co-ordination and guidance.

The Australian delegation believes that we should avoid both these extremes. The road to genuine progress in international co-operation in outer space lies in a correct appreciation of the mutual interdependence of the functions performed by the two sub-committees. We need the Legal Sub-Committee to discuss and arrive at a consensus on the legal framework of international co-operation in space, for example in the field of remote sensing, direct broadcasting, collection and distribution of solar energy, and lunar resources exploitation.

(Mr. Harry, Australia)

At the same time, we need to draw on the managerial expertise and familiarity with current technical developments that fall within the province of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. It would be all too easy for legal drafting to take place in a state of ignorance of current and foreseeable technological options and constraints. It would also be all too easy for technological developments to proceed without the guidance and direction provided by general norms and legal principles accepted by the international community. The proper solution, it seems to us, is the synthesis of the two Sub-Committees' work on a basis of genuine equality and exchange of knowledge.

(Mr. Harry, Australia)

I should like now to comment briefly on two or three major issues in the Legal Sub-Committee this year. Australia welcomes the continued progress in signatures of the Registration Convention, which my Government hopes to be in a position to sign in the near future. We also note with pleasure that further progress was made towards a Moon treaty, and we hope that the remaining difficulties may be resolved in the forthcoming session. Particularly useful progress was recorded in the elaboration of principles concerning direct television broadcasting from satellites. A complete set of principles now exists in draft form and final agreement is well within sight.

The Legal Sub-Committee was also able this year to begin detailed consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from satellites. The Australian delegation is pleased to note that certain common elements in the thinking of States were identified, including: the purposes of remote sensing; the applicability of international law; the desirability of international co-operation and participation; and the protection of the natural environment of the earth. However, many important issues, in particular protection of the sovereign rights of States, consent and protection of sensed States, and access to and dissemination and transfer of remote sensing data, remain contentious. Thus we are still some distance from an agreement, even in principle, on these issues. The dialogue will have to continue. But my delegation supports the conclusion expressed in the Outer Space Committee's report that we might now proceed to the drafting of principles where common elements in the views of States have been identified. Let us make progress where we can.

One particular point, on which perhaps consensus might be found relatively easily, concerns the scope of an international legal instrument to govern remote sensing activities. It would not seem reasonable to my delegation to confine our mandate to the sensing of the earth's resources. The mode of operation of the remote sensing technology is such that it provides a total data picture of the natural environment at the surface of the earth, which of necessity must include its resources. It seems reasonable and logical to us that we should not artificially limit our legal frame of

(Mr. Harry, Australia)

reference, but should acknowledge that we are dealing with a technology that senses the natural environment and its resources as a totality. It seems to the Australian delegation that it would simplify the work of the Legal Sub-Committee if an agreed basic understanding on this point could soon be established.

I turn now to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Australia has, of course, a particular interest in the work of this Sub-Committee, and an Australian -- Professor John Carver of Adelaide University -- has served as its Chairman for many years. Australia has shown a sustained practical interest in remote sensing, and has been actively involved in the work of the Sub-Committee on this subject. We have participated in numerous international seminars on remote sensing and have taken part in United States Landsat research programmes. My Government is currently considering the question of siting a Landsat receiving station in Australia, and we are engaged in a dialogue with our neighbours, in particular with Indonesia, on the possibilities of regional co-operation in this field.

My delegation believes that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is to be commended for the significant progress it made this year in its consideration of both the current pre-operational phase of remote sensing, and of a possible future global international operational remote sensing system or systems. A good start was made on the consideration of these complex organizational questions. The Australian delegation has advocated a maximum degree of regional and international co-operation in the setting up of remote sensing ground receiving stations, and a maximum degree of United Nations involvement. We have expressed the hope that the present emerging de facto international system of national ground stations, receiving data from the satellites of a major space Power under bilateral agreements, will in due course evolve into a truly international network of regional remote sensing ground stations, fully responsive to the needs of all regional States. We also support the creation in the longer term of an internationally organized remote sensing satellite system. We believe that internationalization of the remote sensing technology, with full and immediate access by all countries to its product, will provide the best eventual solution

(Mr. Harry, Australia)

to the complex problems of national sovereignty and control over data dissemination which the Outer Space Committee and its Sub-Committees are considering. This is a goal which should not be lost sight of, though admittedly it seems remote enough at present.

Another subject considered by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee this year was the question of a conference on space applications. My Government believes that such a conference would be useful. However, consideration should also be given to the possibilities presented by the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for heightening awareness in scientific and development planning circles, and among the general public, of the importance and value of earth-oriented space applications. We believe this subject will benefit from further discussion next year.

The Australian delegation is generally satisfied with the United Nations Space Applications Programme. We agree on the importance of ensuring effective inter-agency co-ordination in the area of space applications. We believe that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is the body best suited to supervise the Space Applications Programme and to co-ordinate the outer space activities of the various United Nations bodies with an interest in the subject. The co-ordination function of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee can and should be developed further.

We are pleased that the Outer Space Committee has recommended the proposed remote sensing practical experiment to be conducted in Italy jointly by FAO and ILO. This will be an interesting and valuable exercise. One of the criteria by which its effectiveness will be judged will be the degree to which the user orientation of the present FAO Remote Sensing Analysis Unit can be expanded to meet the user requirements of the other members of the United Nations family. Australia hopes that this challenge can and will be met.



(Mr. Harry, Australia)

The application of space technology to the collection and transmission of solar energy presents an interesting and potentially another very important area of consideration by the Outer Space Committee and its sub-committees. My delegation would like to thank the representative of Austria for his stimulating and thought-provoking remarks on the subject of solar energy in the Outer Space Committee this year.

Finally, my delegation would like to pay a tribute to the continued fine work of the members of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat, to whose expertise and dedication we all owe so much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Australia for his kind remarks to me and to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. VEJVODA (Czechoslovakia): The process of détente and the growing mutually advantageous co-operation among States with different social systems make possible also an increasing international co-operation in the conquest of outer space. A typical example was the successful joint Soviet-American Soyuz-Apollo project that we witnessed in July of this year. Let me extend also, on behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation in this forum, most cordial congratulations to the Soviet and American scientists, technicians and astronauts who participated in the joint Soyuz-Apollo feat.

For several years Czechoslovak scientists have been participating in the exploration of outer space within the INTERCOSMOS programme of socialist countries. In 1974 Czechoslovakia took part in the programme of INTERCOSMOS scientific satellites 11 and 12 and this year in the programme of INTERCOSMOS 13. Czechoslovak scientists are taking advantage of the possibilities which the Soviet Union offers selflessly to scientists and technicians from all member countries by placing at their disposal its immense scientific and technological potential for the exploration of outer space. They are expanding their participation in exploration activities as well as the scope of questions in which they specialize. To the traditional Czechoslovak scientific fields, such as research of the solar spectrum, radio-biology and bio-medicine, they have recently added their

(Mr. Vejvoda, Czechoslovakia)

participation in the remote sensing of the earth from space, concentrating on the requirements of environmental protection. Worth mentioning also is our participation in the Soviet MOLNIA II telecommunication satellite and co-operation in the designing of the second INTERCOSMOS laser radar, operating within the "Great Arc" Programme in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

More detailed information on Czechoslovakia's recent activities in the sphere of the peaceful uses of outer space is contained in document A/AC.105/146.

Speaking of the benefits of international co-operation in outer space, I cannot but give a high evaluation of the positive role played by the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, whose work is effectively secured by the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat. We appreciate the work of the Chairman of the Committee on Outer Space, the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria, Mr. Peter Jankowitsch. Gratifying for our delegation also is the fact that a Czechoslovak scientist, Dr. Lubos Perek, has been appointed Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division in the United Nations Secretariat to succeed Mr. Abdel-Ghani who was a successful Chief of the Division for many years. As can be deduced from the Committee's report for the past year, contained in document A/10020 which is also under discussion, the work of the Committee and of both of its sub-committees has been characterized by efforts for effective results.

We are of the view that a treaty relating to the Moon, a draft of which has, in substance, been prepared, could be completed and adopted in the shortest possible time. That would be an international legal document of primary significance. It would complement the existing international treaty system in the field of exploration and use of the Moon, that is, of a celestial body attracting a major part of current scientific exploration. The Czechoslovak delegation wishes to express the hope that acceptable solutions will be found speedily for the question of the legal régime governing the natural resources of the Moon as well as for the few other questions which are still outstanding. The Czechoslovak Government continues to share the view that the question relating to the

(Mr. Vejvoda, Czechoslovakia)

legal status of the natural resources of celestial bodies represents a very broad and complex legal problem the solution of which will require the preparation of a special legal document. In view of the present state of peaceful exploration of outer space, which has so far concentrated on scientific research and has not yet reached the stage of the industrial extraction of minerals, the question of the legal status of natural resources should not be an obstacle to the adoption of the treaty.

It would be desirable, furthermore, to complete, in the foreseeable future, the work related to another significant problem on the Committee's agenda, namely the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. The far-reaching significance of this task for the development of peaceful international co-operation and the urgent need for such principles are beyond any doubt. Also in the light of the results of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe the elaboration of principles governing the use of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting appears to be a highly topical task. The elaboration of those principles should be followed by the adoption of a legally binding international instrument ensuring that direct television broadcasting by means of artificial earth satellites will serve the expansion of international co-operation, and the strengthening of peace and friendship with full respect for the sovereignty of States. As to a consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing activities by means of space technology, we hold the view that this year's deliberations of the Legal Sub-Committee relating to the question of an earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites, have confirmed that the joint French-Soviet proposal contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.99 has met with a positive response.

(Mr. Vejvoda, Czechoslovakia)

Concurrently with the solution of the legal implications of remote sensing activities by means of satellites, it would be expedient, already at this stage, to consider a suitable organizational structure that would ensure, within the framework of the legal provisions to be adopted, a purposeful utilization and dissemination of the data sent by the satellites and, in particular, their maximum benefit to all Member countries, simultaneously preventing their misuse.

So far as the Czechoslovak delegation is concerned, we are fully in favour of expanding the role of the United Nations in respect of organization and co-ordination of remote sensing activities, maintaining at the same time, however, the principle of economy and of maximum utilization of the existing United Nations bodies.

The Czechoslovak delegation, furthermore, is of the view that it is necessary to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations programme on space applications by progressing gradually from the first stage of information dissemination and creation of awareness to a higher stage, that is, to systematic training and education of national technical cadres. The objective envisaged is that different countries, and particularly the developing countries, should be able to approach, independently, the solution of concrete tasks of their national economies while making use of the advantages brought through the application of space technology.

(Mr. Vejvoda, Czechoslovakia)

Czechoslovakia is one of the sponsors of the draft resolution on the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which will be presented in due course. In our view, that draft resolution would reflect on the whole correctly the activities of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the past year and would set forth realistic tasks for the Committee in the immediate future. We are convinced that the activities of United Nations bodies in the sphere of the peaceful uses of outer space and in international co-operation in this field will continue to make a valuable contribution to the strengthening of world peace, co-operation and development.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, allow me to mention how happy we are that in your person not only a very experienced diplomat but also an old friend of my country is Chairman of the main political committee of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly. We would like to extend our best wishes to you as well as to the other officers of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Czechoslovakia for the remarks he addressed to me. I certainly have been and remain a good friend of Czechoslovakia.

Mr. CHAHID-NOURAI (France) (interpretation from French): The list of speakers for this debate is concrete proof of the growing interest in the peaceful uses of outer space. The time allotted to the debate is unfortunately limited, and time is marching on inexorably, so my delegation does not wish to take up too much of the Committee's time by dwelling on points that have become a customary part of opening statements. I shall therefore not speak of the French space programme for this year, which only a month ago was completed with the launching of an astronomical observation satellite; nor shall I stress at length France's policy of co-operation in matters concerning outer space, co-operation which is increasingly diversified in terms both of the number of countries concerned and the range of activities. In addition to the long-established and valuable co-operation we maintain with the United States and the USSR, which will be renewed shortly as concerns the USSR through the journey of the President of France to that country, and in

(Mr. Chahid-Nourai, France)

addition to the joint action in Europe, which has been strengthened this year by the establishment of the European Space Agency, France is working to increase agreements and programmes of aid and exchanges with a growing number of developing countries.

This co-operation falls naturally within the framework of the Treaty on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space signed in 1967. Eight years have elapsed since then, and 18 since the first launching of a space craft. That is time enough for us to assess how far we have come, and to attempt to look ahead.

As regards the past, we can feel a moderate sense of satisfaction. There is considerable co-operation among the Members of the United Nations, thanks to the efforts of all concerned, particularly the space Powers. From the legal standpoint, important work has been accomplished: four conventions have been signed and three draft texts are being prepared. The reasons for this success are easy to determine: first, the existence of an appropriate structural framework within which effective work can be done; second, the agreement of Member States on some essential points. The former reflects a judgement of technical progress. Despite appearances, the latter has been ambivalent in its effects, and that is why the myth of a technology that is naturally exclusively and always beneficent is being progressively eroded. It is becoming clear that progress is of value only in terms of the aims assigned to it, and not to give it, and not to give it specific targets amounts to acquiescing in its benefits being eventually offset by its drawbacks. A second point of agreement is the identification of these aims in the field of space technology. In the first place we must ensure the maximum benefits for all countries without discrimination, and must also ensure that the activities undertaken do not give rise to tension or disputes among States. To attain those results, we must develop co-operation and we must draft standards of conduct that are realistic and accepted by all.

But our satisfaction at what we have accomplished and the agreement reached cannot be complete. In fact, there is a risk that the ambitious goals we have set cannot be achieved unless the necessary additional effort is made. I shall give two examples which I believe are significant. Eighteen years after the launching of the first space craft, and eight years after the Treaty on Outer Space,

(Mr. Chahid-Nourai, France)

the term "outer space" has not yet been legally defined. Is not this a potential source of tension and even of disputes among States, particularly when the number of space ships increases? Furthermore, some space techniques will shortly emerge from the experimental phase and become operational. If the legal framework is not established in time, can one be certain, for example, that direct television broadcasting by satellite and remote sensing of the earth will not become sources of conflict? Will they actually serve the common good, and can they even be developed harmoniously?

The French delegation does not believe that this ruling set of guidelines for space technology should be a narrow straitjacket to hamper progress and prevent fruitful development. We believe that only a flexible and realistic framework can make possible harmonious development. The law must not lag behind the rapid development of technology. That is why we hope no effort will be spared to arrive at this result.

If this is done, then we can look to the future with cautious optimism, at least as regards two of the questions I have mentioned. Firstly, as far as direct television broadcasting by satellite is concerned all work is proceeding satisfactorily. The essential problem posed is undoubtedly a thorny one since we must reconcile on the one hand, freedom of information as defined within its boundaries in applicable international conventions, and on the other hand, State sovereignty. The necessary give and take is thus difficult; but in the past there have been many examples of profound differences being finally smoothed out. I am thinking of the very recent example of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Signs of evolution are already perceptible, and they give grounds for hope of an eventual compromise.

Since 1970, when it was one of the first to draw attention to this question, the French delegation has believed such a compromise to be necessary and desirable.

(Mr. Chahid-Nourai, France)

Between total laissez faire, which in this specific case would mean a pernicious licence disregarding the originality of national cultures and the real needs of each country, and, on the other hand, excessively detailed regulation to be feasible, there is room for something based on the clear principles of prior consent and co-operation.

Undue pessimism would also be unjustified in the case of the remote sensing of the resources of the earth since there is no longer any need to emphasize its importance for development. Here, again, we must reconcile the necessary freedom to speed ahead with the requirements of sovereignty and the equitable sharing of the results of progress.

France has indicated its interest in the question of submitting draft declarations of principle, first of all, on its own and then jointly with the Soviet Union. These drafts, the ambitions of which are deliberately limited, attempt to be realistic. Other drafts have, however, been proposed and some have merits. Views have also been expressed which justify special attention. Parallel with this, finally, an organizational approach has been suggested.

Between these various proposals there are at times oppositions which are difficult to overcome; but the open dialogue last year in the two specialized committees also shows that there are points of agreement and definite points of complementarity. If this effort at a dialogue is continued perhaps we shall, in time, establish a satisfactory system.

I shall deal more rapidly with the two other questions, not because France underrates their importance, but quite simply because it is getting late. As regards the definition of outer space, my delegation has often regretted that it has become the neglected child of the Legal Sub-Committee. However, we recognize that this is a rebellious child which is particularly difficult to raise because of its complex personality. We furthermore agree that it would not be possible to deal with this seriously next year because of the importance of the priority items on the agenda. But we must be aware that this child, which is worthy of our interest, could well hold in store unpleasant surprises if it remains neglected too long. It is

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necessary to make an effort to think of the definition of outer space, and the report of the Committee, if we approve it, necessarily implies that effort.

As for the draft treaty on the Moon, France hopes that next year it will be completed, and we believe this is possible if the efforts at compromise are continued, and if we resolutely base our positions on the principles laid down in the 1967 Treaty on the peaceful use of outer space.

Cautious satisfaction with regard to the past and reasoned hope for the future, those are the feelings of the delegation of France.

We are most grateful to our Rapporteur, and to our Chairman: Ambassador Jankowitsch, without whom the work in the Committee of Outer Space could not have been as serious and thorough.

Mr. Wyzner of Poland, the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, also deserves our whole-hearted thanks, as does Mr. Carver, Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of France for his kind words.

Mr. DATCU (Romania)(interpretation from French): Permit me, Sir, first of all to say how much the Romanian delegation is pleased to see you presiding over the First Committee of the General Assembly, a Committee which has been allocated very important items for its consideration affecting the peace and security of all peoples. Our satisfaction is particularly easy to understand because we have as our Chairman a very highly qualified and experienced diplomat and representative of a friendly country with which Romania has excellent relations and friendship. I would like to assure you of our whole-hearted co-operation in the performance of your important tasks. And we are happy to see you flanked by such effective officers as the representatives of Burundi, the Federal Republic of Germany and Venezuela.

When we examine questions relating to international co-operation in the peaceful use of outer space, we feel that account should be taken of two essential factors which determine the scope and the content

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of the activities of our Organization. Firstly, there must be steady scientific and technological progress in the outer space field. In addition, new factors have emerged in international economic and political relations.

With regard to the first factor upon which co-operation in this field depends, there is no denying, as was so eloquently pointed out by the representative of Austria, Chairman of the Committee on Outer Space, that in the period which has elapsed since the last session, we have witnessed new exploits on the part of many countries in the development of ever more sophisticated means of exploring and using space and co-operation in this field. They have brought out new possibilities for the practical application of space technology in the social and economic development of all countries.

On this point, I would like to mention the flight of the Soyuz-Apollo craft undertaken by the United States and the USSR. For myself and other members of the Committee it was an unforgettable experience when we witnessed the launching in July of the Apollo space craft.

Within the context of international economic relations, the analysis which was made at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly brought into sharp focus the existence in the world of grave and complicated problems which await urgent and specific solutions in the interests of all States and of international peace and security. We have witnessed the emergence of a new concept of international economic and political relations based on the idea of equity and social justice and aiming at a more rational use of the resources available to mankind. Consequently, the General Assembly has laid down new objectives, has established priorities for problems, and has laid down methods and ways and means of solving problems.

With regard to the scientific and technological field to which the peaceful use of outer space relates, the debates at the two special sessions

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have once again stressed the fact that disparities in the present level of the scientific and technological capacity of different countries, and the limited resources available to the majority of States in this area, constitute an obstacle to the rational exploitation and use of the intellectual and material potential of mankind. The widening of this gap creates in the world a state of scientific and technological dependence which has serious consequences for developing countries and, indeed, for the whole world. And that is why our Organization has fixed, as the central objective in establishing a new international economic order, elimination of the phenomenon of under-development by accelerating the economic take-off of lagging countries and by facilitating, inter alia, their unrestricted access to the most recent accomplishments of science and technology.

There is no doubt that the United Nations is meant to identify problems of general interest and to take the necessary measures to assemble and conduct, through special programmes on the planetary level, the technological capacity of Member States to achieve common objectives of vital interest for the improvement of human life on earth.

(Mr. Datcu, Romania)

It is encouraging to see that for some years now the United Nations and its specialized agencies have been examining and reassessing their activities in the realm of science and technology in order to define an over-all approach in this area and to work out the best way to solve the problems they have thus identified. An important stage in the pursuit of this objective will be the proposed United Nations conference on science and technology.

We feel that the steady progress made in the scientific and technological area and the new factors which have been introduced in international economic and political relations confer on our Organization, and particularly on its Outer Space Committee urgent and new tasks and responsibilities.

In our view, this body -- and by this I mean, of course, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space -- should, by acting in concert with the specialized agencies concerned, prepare recommendations and legal instruments in order to concentrate the activities of the whole United Nations system primarily upon the practical applications of space technology, the transfer of technology to developing countries, by increasing the resources they need to improve their scientific and technological capacity. The activity of the Outer Space Committee and of the Organization itself will be assessed in the final analysis not in the light of the number of studies prepared or the length of its reports or of the resolutions adopted, but, we feel, in terms of the concrete contributions and practical and material support that it has given to the economic and social development of countries and to mutual understanding among peoples.

The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space refers to the progress achieved by its Legal Sub-Committee in the preparation of principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. As we have constantly stressed, work on this subject would be facilitated if it were conceded that the principle of consent and of participation were indispensable for the safeguarding of the sovereign rights of States whose territories would be affected by direct television broadcasts.

(Mr. Datcu, Romania)

With regard to the study of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, we note with satisfaction that the Legal Sub-Committee has begun to draft texts for inclusion in future regulations in this matter.

In the view of the Romanian delegation, any regulation of remote sensing activities should be based upon respect for the principle of the sovereignty of States, particularly the sovereignty exercised over the natural resources of their territory and over data relating thereto. The purpose of such regulations would be to encourage international co-operation and the participation of all States concerned, large and small, in order to promote the optimum exploitation of this space technology and to spread its benefits to all countries, particularly developing countries.

The practical applications of space technology in recent years have made remarkable progress. The 1960s saw the development of operational systems for the use of telecommunications and meteorological satellites. At the beginning of this decade scientific progress has made possible the use of space technology for the remote sensing of the earth's resources, the control of the environment and other applications having practical effects on the systems of the economic management of different countries.

The delegation of Romania believes that it is necessary and appropriate within the framework of an international conference, to undertake a global evaluation of the results achieved and of measures to be taken to stimulate co-operation at different levels within the field of the applications of space technology and to facilitate access for developing countries to the benefits deriving therefrom. Such an evaluation of problems relating to outer space in which all States would participate, could take place both within the framework of a special conference on space and within that of the United Nations conference on science and technology, which I have mentioned.

The Romanian delegation notes with satisfaction the desire of the Outer Space Committee to facilitate access by Member States to the advantages deriving from the applications of space technology in the economic and social fields. But in view of the financial limitations under which the United Nations Programme for the Application of Space Technology is taking place, these results will obviously be very limited.

(Mr. Datcu, Romania)

In their turn, some specialized agencies have drawn up their own programmes, albeit modest, it is true, and encouraging results have been obtained, particularly in the areas of telecommunications, meteorology and maritime navigation. However, in view of the multi-disciplinary nature of the applications of space technology and the number of agencies involved, it appears necessary to ensure, at a higher level, the co-ordination of the combined efforts of the United Nations. We believe, as we have said in the past, that the Outer Space Committee is the proper body to perform, develop and perfect these functions of co-ordination of all activities related to the application of space technology.

We still believe that the present United Nations programme for the application of space technology is not in keeping with the present needs, particularly of the developing countries. Romania believes that the United Nations should immediately turn to practical measures permitting Member States to derive full benefits from the advantages offered by space technology. That requires, in our view, the preparation of a comprehensive United Nations programme in this field which would contain specific measures of co-operation, technical assistance and training facilities. The United Nations programme could be designed in such a way as to provide assistance in sectors which are not covered by the specialized agencies or, in the case of certain disciplines, where new space applications might be promising. Such a field would, in our view, be that of the remote sensing of earth resources and of the environment, in view of its multidisciplinary character, and this because there is no international agency capable of covering all remote sensing activities.

The Outer Space Committee and its Sub-committees have certainly made progress in the performance of the tasks assigned to them by the General Assembly. However, we are obliged to note that the Committee's work rate is too slow. There are projects, like the one relating to the Moon, which have been awaiting completion for too long now. We also have the feeling that in the work of the Committee there is sometimes a tendency to lose sight of the broader interest, particularly the interests of the least privileged. We believe

(Mr. Datcu, Romania)

that all States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be more conciliatory in order to evince a new spirit in the negotiation of texts and the preparation of solutions the purpose of which should always remain that of encouraging international co-operation, with the participation of all States, within the spirit of the universality of the United Nations Charter in its deepest and most constructive sense.

My delegation is firmly convinced that the time has come and that conditions exist for the Outer Space Committee in a most practical and systematic way to tackle the high priority problems of co-operation in the field of outer space. In short, we must ensure that the activities of the Outer Space Committee should form a vital part of the actions of other bodies of the United Nations aimed at establishing a new international economic order.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Romania for the kind and friendly words he addressed to me, to my country and to the other officers of the Committee.

(continued in English)

We have had a very useful meeting this morning, and we have a long list of speakers for our meeting this afternoon, during which we shall hear the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, who is to introduce the omnibus draft resolution.

The list of speakers on this item will be closed this afternoon at 5 o'clock. It is proposed that the Committee should complete consideration of the outer space items by noon on Wednesday and take up the item on the strengthening of international security on the afternoon of that day. I should be grateful if members wishing to take part in that debate on the strengthening of international security which is to begin on Wednesday afternoon would inscribe their names.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.