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

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 15 October 1975, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. GHORRA (Lebanon)
Rapporteur: Mr. ARTEAGA-ACOSTA (Venezuela)

- International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [32] (concluded)
- 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] (concluded)

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A/C.1/PV.2048-2053

The meeting was called to order at 11 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/10020)
PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/10020)

Mr. YAGUIBOU (Upper Volta) (interpretation from French): We are at the end of a long debate, indeed at the end of a long march. In the last several days a number of delegations have spoken on behalf of their countries to make their contributions to the solution of a problem great enough to concern all nations large and small, space Powers and non-space Powers.

Outer space, the land, the sea, the ocean and the sea-bed, are individually and collectively the common heritage of mankind. My delegation believes that space is not the business of just a few nations; it is the business of all of us. That is why my delegation feels it is its duty to make its position known in view of the future transformations of this heritage, which from year to year has been undergoing legal, political, physical and all kinds of mutations.

Upper Volta, a country which for the time being lacks the means to explore space, but none the less an active and attentive spectator of the activities of space pioneers, would like to make a few remarks on the item under discussion.

In this regard we should like particularly to stress all the new opportunities for the practical application of space technology for the economic and social development of all countries. But before coming to that point I would, on behalf of my delegation, like to tell Ambassador Ghorra how happy and confident we are to see him presiding over this important Committee, which has on its agenda items of great political importance and delicacy.

We should also like to express our satisfaction to our old friend Ambassador Peter Jankowitsch, Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, at the remarkable work done by the brilliant team he has led with such skill and efficiency.

(Mr. Yaguibou, Upper Volta)

Listening to previous speakers in this debate, my delegation has to its great satisfaction noted that most if not all have laid particular stress on the peaceful economic and social side effects of the exploration of outer space. This should surprise no one, since for some years now the dove of peace has been, as it were, brooding over every conscience and the spirit of interdependence and co-operation among nations has been inspiring all Governments regardless of the level of their economic, political or technological development. Is there any need, in this regard, to mention that at the last two special sessions of the General Assembly serious economic problems facing our States have been highlighted, problems that are likely to jeopardize international peace and security if urgent and concrete solutions are not found? We have thus witnessed the birth of a new world economic order based upon a just and equitable distribution of the resources of mankind. It is thus under the sign of peace, a peace which depends above all on the social welfare of all States, that the Outer Space Committee should assume its tasks and responsibilities. In this regard my delegation sincerely believes that this organ should co-operate closely with other international or national bodies with the same objectives, so as to concentrate its energies and activities on the immediate practical applications of space research in the expectation that those practical applications will be popularized and made available for use by the developing countries, which need it most to make up for their technological backwardness.

The proliferation and length of studies, global, sectoral and even specific studies, are so many factors which place a curb on our technological and scientific progress. That is why my delegation welcomed with prudent and measured optimism the idea of a United Nations conference on science and technology. As will be apparent, my delegation attaches the greatest possible importance to the practical and topical aspects of space exploration. Last July we greeted with reserve the exploit of the century, the Apollo-Soyuz space rendezvous. Our hopes and sympathies lie, however, with the American ATS-6 project, an educational television project broadcast from an earth satellite. We warmly support and encourage this kind of programme, since it can bring effective remedies for illiteracy and ignorance, which, as we know, are the most serious handicaps facing third-world countries.

(Mr. Yaguibou, Upper Volta)

I should also like to express the satisfaction of my Government with the LANDSAT project, which succeeded the Earth project. As I stressed here last year, my country and other western African States that have been severely affected by drought have been following with constant interest the information provided by LANDSAT with regard to the natural resources of the earth, its climate and animal and plant life.

(Mr. Yaguibou, Upper Volta)

We are convinced that a true and complete inventory of information gathered in this way can lead to geophysical, agricultural and mining applications. That is why in 1973 the Governments of Mali, Upper Volta and Niger jointly asked the United States Government to communicate to them the information provided by satellite ERTS. The preliminary information produced has made it possible for us to intensify in the field airborne geophysical research to detect more accurately the creeping desert phenomenon in the Sahelian zone, identify geographical areas which may contain water tables and subterranean streams, follow the behaviour of our rivers and streams and to site human and animal settlements more effectively.

My delegation also notes with genuine satisfaction the progress achieved by the Outer Space Committee in the field of the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. As I have stressed, this aspect of the work of the Committee has found a sympathetic echo in developing countries, since it is a factor for educational and cultural progress. But my delegation believes that, if it is to play its role fully, direct television broadcasting must take account of the sovereignty of States, particularly small States which have no way of controlling or protecting their intellectual and cultural values.

It is at this level that we expect a great deal from the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, which alone, by means of equitable, judicious and appropriate regulation, can safeguard the national interests of all.

The time allotted to us to delve into this important question is very limited. Unfortunately we have been unable to enter into certain details which nevertheless have implications for the future of the human race. However, we wished to put before all the members of the Committee what we thought to be the urgent concern of the young nations, the economically weak nations, nations which none the less are fully aware of their responsibilities in the international community.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Upper Volta for the kind words he addressed to me and the other officers of the Committee.

Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): Both the number of speakers who have preceded me and the importance of the views they have expressed before the Committee are a clear demonstration of the growing interest of the members of the international community in co-operation activities, in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space. The progress of science and technology daily open the way for new uses of space technology which we hope will enable us to increase the welfare of our peoples.

For this reason, I believe that the attention that the United Nations pays to these activities is fully justified, as I believe that the Organization should devote its efforts primarily to the search for solutions as regards the practical aspects and the codification of an appropriate legal framework. The activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space arouse our optimistic expectations as regards the future of its work, although we deplore the fact that this year no new legal instrument has been submitted for approval.

We have followed with great interest in the Legal Sub-Committee the negotiations aiming at the preparation of a treaty relating to the moon. We are sure that an acceptable text, which takes due account of the recognition of the principle that the natural resources of the moon are the common heritage of mankind, will soon be ready.

We believe too that a treaty relating to the moon should be applicable also to the other celestial bodies in accordance with the 1967 Treaty, and that information on missions to the moon should be full and comprehensive and should be provided on a permanent basis.

Questions relating to direct broadcasting by satellite have always been of great concern to Argentina, and in fact led it in 1974 to submit a draft convention which in our view duly covers the right of the recipient State to establish the regulations it deems pertinent, this being a power inherent in international sovereignty which as we understand it in no way violates the principle of respect for human rights. Our draft also calls for the consent of the receiving State to direct radio or television broadcasting by satellites, and we regard this as one of the fundamental principles in this field.

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

During the sessions of the Committee the Argentine delegation has already pointed out that the attainment of juridical and political solutions to this question should not be delayed. The World Administrative Conference on Radio Communication convened by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which is to meet early in 1977, will no doubt make progress on the technical regulation aspects, and we must make every effort to avoid this aspect being divorced from the two other important aspects of this question. Traditionally, the Argentine Republic has urged consideration of the juridical aspects of remote sensing of the earth and its natural resources from outer space. This concern led it to submit, together with Brazil, to the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly a draft treaty on remote sensing of natural resources by means of space technology.

I am happy to inform the Committee today that the draft is now also sponsored by Chile, Mexico and Venezuela, thus becoming the only document being considered by the Committee which has support of all the Latin American members.

We hope that in the course of next year substantial progress will be achieved in this sphere. We believe that it is of vital importance to accept two fundamental principles: first, that the consent of the receiving State must be obtained before remote sensing activities begin; and, secondly, that the observer State must not provide information to third States, or to any person or entity, without the consent of the observed State.

I trust that the document that will emerge from the work of the Legal Sub-Committee will serve as an effective safeguard of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources, and that at the same time it will make possible the use of remote sensing techniques for the benefit of the whole of mankind.

The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, for its part, has devoted most of its time and efforts to the study of remote sensing of the earth, and has achieved positive results.

I must point out, however, that the study of the organizational and financial problems relating to the installation of an international centre for the collection and dissemination of data and of eventual regional centres should be considered in depth by the Legal Sub-Committee before recommendations are drawn up.

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

We view with especial interest in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee the draft United Nations programme on space applications for 1976. Once again we must express our gratitude to our Expert, Mr. Murthy, for the way he is carrying out his task, and we congratulate him on the manner in which he is developing that work, despite the meagre budget allocated for it.

In our view, the programme on space applications should be expanded, in both content and scope, and special attention should be paid to the needs and interests of the developing countries. To achieve this objective, all necessary measures should be taken to ensure optimum use of all of the means available to the Expert.

My delegation is also in favour of giving him greater financial support, in view of the importance of the work he has to do.

I support in particular the recommendation contained in operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/AC.1/L.712 on the experimental establishment of an international centre for the training of personnel from developing countries in the use of remote sensing information. We consider that the possible benefits to be derived from such a centre fully justify the strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division in order to ensure due compliance with the mandate contained in paragraph 7.

The Argentine Government believes that a conference devoted exclusively to space technology should be held, at a date which will permit adequate preparation, since in our view this field offers great possibilities for international co-operation and the subject cannot be buried in the agenda of a meeting devoted to science and technology in general.

A United Nations conference on outer space should consider, in an exclusive and integrated manner, all the implications of space activities, whether scientific, legal or political.

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

The Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Mr. Peter Jankowitsch, in addition to conducting the work of the Committee in the efficient manner to which he has accustomed us, has proposed the initiation of a study on the development of the kind of international co-operation that would be required to make available to all nations, the new sources of energy from outer space. We believe that his reference to the uses of solar energy was most pertinent, and I am pleased to announce that this subject is already under study in Argentina, which has organized the first Latin American interdisciplinary seminar on solar energy, as well as two national conferences, on whose conclusions we shall report in due course.

Before concluding, I should like to welcome the recommendation of the Committee that the United Nations should continue to sponsor the experiments carried out at the CELPA base in Mar Chiquita.

We have already planned the 1976 programme of work, which consists in activities which are strictly within the framework of training and international co-operation in the area of scientific and technological space exploration for peaceful purposes, and I hope that the Assembly will ratify that recommendation.

Mr. BOUSSE (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, permit me, first of all, to convey to you my warmest congratulations on your election to preside over our Committee. My country and I welcome this, and I would venture to express my conviction that with your long experience in United Nations problems, your talent for negotiation and the esteem in which you are held by all your colleagues you will without any difficulty lead our work to a successful conclusion.

(Mr. Bousse, Belgium)

May I also take this occasion to convey to the other officers of the Committee my sincere congratulations on their election and to assure them of my delegation's full co-operation.

Public opinion in Belgium certainly has no tendency to under-estimate the importance and value of progress in space technology. Indeed, my country follows these developments very closely, and it was precisely in the light of this attitude that it became a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

May I join the many preceding speakers who have thanked Mr. Jankowitsch for the excellent report, which he submitted to us so clearly and in such detail, on the activities of the Committee over which he presides with such authority.

Since the last session of the General Assembly a very important event has occurred: the joint Apollo-Soyuz space experiment, which stressed space co-operation for peaceful purposes between the two nations which are the leaders in the space effort. Belgium welcomes the success of that spectacular operation and hopes that it will lead to increased co-operation among nations which possess space technology and those which do not.

In another field of the peaceful uses of outer space, the INMARSAT Conference being held in London under the sponsorship of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) is trying to work out a convention establishing an international system of maritime satellites. My country sees in this a useful application of space technology, and hopes that the system which the participants wish to establish will very soon serve to facilitate commercial and private communications between ship-builders and crews and to improve, among other things, the security of ships and sailors.

The Belgian delegation has noted with great interest the report which the Outer Space Committee has submitted to this Committee. We are in a position to approve that report, as indicated in the draft resolution which we, along with many other countries, have the honour of proposing for the approval of this Committee.

(Mr. Bousse, Belgium)

My delegation expresses its sincere appreciation of the work done by the Outer Space Committee and its two subsidiary bodies, the Legal and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committees.

In order to make even clearer the attitude of my country with regard to the work done by the United Nations, I will venture to comment in further detail on some of the items in the report of the Outer Space Committee.

With regard to direct broadcasting by satellite, Belgium believes that we should devote priority attention to the working out of legal principles governing the use by States of direct broadcast satellites. Only later can we contemplate studying the texts of international agreements, of course on the understanding that their usefulness is acknowledged. Indeed, we should not forget that international agreements, to be applicable, must obtain the necessary signatures and ratifications.

Belgium is aware of the great interest for the whole world, and particularly for the developing countries, of the techniques of remote sensing of the earth by satellite, and we approve the priority given to it by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in the agenda of its forthcoming session. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should, in the view of my delegation, continue its detailed study of the economic, technical and organizational aspects of remote sensing, bearing in mind the views and conclusions it has already formulated on this subject.

From this standpoint, my delegation attaches very great importance to the study, mentioned in paragraph 32 (d) of its report, which the Committee has requested the Secretary-General to undertake and which will cover the organizational and the financial means necessary for an operational space sector.

(Mr. Bousse, Belgium)

Furthermore, my delegation believes that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue its examination of the legal aspects of remote sensing of the earth in the hope of being able to find further common elements in the views of States on this subject.

A large number of previous speakers have quite rightly stressed the interest of the developing countries in the practical application of space technology within the shortest possible time. This holds good particularly with regard to techniques of remote sensing of the earth by satellite. In this regard, we fear that very little can be done until those countries have the necessary specialists at their disposition. We therefore entirely endorse the view expressed by various other speakers to the effect that the continuous training of specialized personnel at the national or international level should be provided for, both by means of bilateral co-operation and through the United Nations programme on space applications.

At the eighteenth session of the Outer Space Committee Belgium announced its intention to offer training fellowships in remote sensing to nationals from developing countries. Those fellowships can be used in developing countries which possess a training centre for remote sensing techniques. My delegation is currently occupied in determining ways and means for the granting of those fellowships in co-operation with the United Nations Expert on space applications, Mr. Murthy.

In response to the questionnaire sent to Member countries on the subject of the possible convening of a United Nations conference on space, Belgium indicated that it favoured that proposal. It continues to approve of the idea and believes that the question should continue to be the subject of detailed consideration by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

We do not reject the idea put forward by certain members of the Committee of including on the agenda of the United Nations conference on science and technology an item relating to the applications of space technology. Indeed, any idea is worth exploring further. But we do not think that that is necessarily the best solution. On the contrary, we continue to believe that a conference devoted exclusively to the applications of space technology would offer the best guarantees of achieving the objective we seem to be seeking and

(Mr. Bousse, Belgium)

which is, in short, to arouse curiosity, where it seems necessary, to affirm the interest of Member countries in space technology and to explore further the practical possibilities offered by such technology for economic and social development.

With regard to the United Nations programme on space applications, Belgium has always favoured a more realistic budget for its execution. We note that the Committee approved the programme for 1976 without specifying the limits of its budget, which arouses the concern of my country.

Here I must stress -- because I think it needs to be stressed -- that my country was surprised by the small number of replies received by the Secretary-General to the questionnaire relating to the identification of the needs of developing countries. All Member States of the United Nations are in a position to identify their own needs and to establish their own priorities. Many regional seminars have been organized in which a great number of countries from all parts of the world participated. Space technology is no longer totally unfamiliar. Governments of all countries of the world are, we believe, in a position to convey to the Secretary-General their views and opinions as to the way in which they could best participate in international co-operation for the application of space technology for their agricultural, economic and social development. My country, therefore, would like to express the hope that many of those that have not yet done so will in the near future be submitting their replies to the questionnaire of 19 August 1974 in order as far as possible to facilitate the task of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

Still within the framework of the programme on space applications, we feel that genuine importance should be attached to the problem of solar energy. The interest of this potential source of energy is obvious, but it still remains to be examined how profitable are space techniques for the transmission to earth of solar energy. We believe that in the near future the Outer Space Committee will have to study how it should participate in the work on different types of international co-operation in this field. I should like to stress here that the Research and Development Committee of the International Energy Agency is already dealing with terrestrial techniques related to solar energy.

(Mr. Bousse, Belgium)

We do not think we should delay too long before tackling these questions and we think that the study of the problems raised by the transmission of solar energy by means of space technology should even, in the near future, constitute one of the priority tasks of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

The report of the Committee shows that, if the effective co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the field of the application of space technology is still extremely problematical, it is none the less highly desirable. We have serious doubts about the proposal to establish a separate agency for space affairs -- we really do not see the need for that. We feel rather than a solution should be sought within the framework of a proposal that we made, together with other countries, to the effect that co-ordination should be organized within the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) of the United Nations itself.

Let us consider, first of all, whether it is really necessary within the framework offered by ACC to create a standing committee on the problems of the application of space technology. If this need is felt and provided that the related budgetary implications are minimal, my country could agree to the creation of such a standing committee.

With regard to the exchange of information, Belgium congratulates the Secretariat on having made the necessary arrangements to publish a revised edition of the review of activities and resources of the United Nations, of its specialized agencies and of other competent international bodies relating to the peaceful uses of outer space.

Belgium welcomes the request of the Outer Space Committee that the Secretariat should submit to it a report on the means by which the organs of the United Nations could put into effect a full-scale programme of information on the peaceful uses of space, taking particular account of the problems faced by the developing countries.

In reading the report of the Outer Space Committee, I was struck by the large number of studies which the Assembly has asked the Secretariat to prepare; these are often highly technical and always specialized studies,

(Mr. Bousse, Belgium)

without which the work of the Committee would be appreciably more difficult. Of course it is the duty of the Secretariat to serve, in so far as it is able, the General Assembly and the committees created by it. But I have often had the impression that in spite of its competence and devotion -- and I am very happy here to be able to pay a sincere tribute to that -- the Division of the Secretariat which serves the Outer Space Committee has in its work reached the limit of its capabilities. I think that I can stress here that, in the view of my delegation, the responsible authorities should speedily attend to the strengthening of our Secretariat. Such a measure would be in the interests of all, both of the Secretariat and of the Committee and its Sub-Committees, and would also help to strengthen co-operation among all countries in the field of the peaceful use of space.

(Mr. Bousse, Belgium)

In his introductory statement at the 144th meeting of the Outer Space Committee, on 9 June 1975, the Chairman of that Committee referred to the significance for Europe of the establishment of the European Space Agency (ESA). In the few months of its existence that Agency, which took over from the European Space Vehicle Launcher Development Organization (ELDO) and the European Space Research Organization (ESRO), has established its structures and has begun to operate under the new Convention. We believe that the European Space Agency can play a very important part in the application of space technology. We very much hope that it will be able to make it possible for the developing countries to benefit from its experience in this highly technical field.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Belgium for his kind words about me and the other officers of the Committee. (continued in English)

Before I call on the next speaker, I should like to inform the Committee that the co-sponsors of the draft resolutions and amendments before us had a very fruitful meeting this morning and were able to reach a unified position. I would hope that that would make it possible for us to finish our work on this item today. It is my intention, after we have heard the next speaker, to call on the representative of Austria to give us some information about the present situation and the text that has been agreed upon.

Mr. ABDEL MEGUID (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): Since this is my first statement in this Committee, I should like to offer the Egyptian delegation's sincere congratulations to you, Sir, on your election as Chairman of the Committee. I have no doubt that all the delegations here agree with the delegation of Egypt that with your great experience and talents, we can be sure that this Committee will achieve the best possible results from its work.

(Mr. Abdel Meguid, Egypt)

I should like to congratulate also the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur and to express our best wishes to all the officers of the Committee for success in their task. We shall spare no effort in co-operating with them towards bringing our work to a fruitful conclusion.

At one time it was feared that there would always be international rivalry in regard to outer space and that the day would never come when international co-operation would replace that rivalry. There are perhaps good reasons now for feeling optimistic, when we see the great progress made because of co-operation in the exploration and utilization of outer space. We can say without exaggerating that there has been more progress in relation to outer space than in relation to other fields, where the steps of international co-operation have been halting and slow.

The joint Apollo-Soyuz mission in July 1975 was an important event in international co-operation in outer space. The visits and exchanges of information between the Soviet Union and the United States that began in May 1972, when the agreement on co-operation was signed between the two States, and culminated in this historic meeting in space represent an important landmark on the road of scientific co-operation, important both politically and in the sphere of international détente.

During the last session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space the delegation of Egypt had an opportunity to offer its congratulations to the two space countries and to extend its best wishes for continued co-operation between them.

The developing countries, while congratulating the space countries on their success in the exploration of outer space and wishing them further success, must first and foremost express the hope that the utilization of outer space will remain peaceful. They express the hope also that the practical applications of space technology will benefit mankind. What the developing countries are asking in this regard is not exaggerated. They do not deny that the space countries are allocating great resources to this effort. All of us recognize that we live in an interdependent world. The first steps towards ensuring that the developing countries may benefit from the practical and scientific applications of this modern branch of technology should be to inform

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those countries of this application, particularly those that can help them to solve the problems confronting them in regard to their development.

At this point we should like to express our great interest in the part that the United Nations can play in that field. The United Nations programme on space applications cannot, with the severe financial limitations placed on it, enable the United Nations to play the part we had hoped it could play. In the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space the delegation of Egypt, together with all the other delegations of the developing countries, stressed the need to strengthen the programme on space applications with regard both to its contents and to its dimensions, even if the door to voluntary contributions must be opened. The delegation of Egypt proposed also that a study be made in regard to expanding the programme on space applications into a technical assistance programme similar to that for the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Most of the members of the Committee agreed with that proposal, although a consensus on it was not reached.

In that connexion I should like to pay a tribute here to the great efforts being made by the United Nations Expert on space, Mr. Murthy, to ensure the success of the programme on space applications despite the meagre finances allocated to that programme.

My delegation has already had an opportunity to state its views on the subjects dealt with by the Outer Space Committee. I shall therefore confine myself here to some of those subjects.

With regard to the draft treaty relating to the moon, we still believe that any solution to the problem of the legal status of the natural resources of the moon must take into account the basic principle that the moon is outside national sovereignty and therefore is part of the common heritage of mankind. During the fourteenth session of the Legal Sub-Committee, the delegation of Egypt attempted, without success, to facilitate the reaching of a compromise solution on this matter by submitting a proposal that can be summed up as follows. First, it should be stipulated that the States parties to the treaty shall establish an international régime governing the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon, on the basis of the fact that those resources are the

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common heritage of mankind. Secondly, the States parties to the treaty should undertake to participate in an international conference to be held for that purpose at a time to be agreed upon. Thirdly, the States parties to the treaty should undertake to take into consideration the information concerning the exploration and discovery of resources that is available to the scientific community in the world and the international specialized agencies.

(Mr. Abdel Meguid, Egypt)

We have been told that the natural resources of the moon will not be available for utilization for a very long time, but that, when this happens, it will not be hidden from the rest of the world. In fact, it will be known to all. Meanwhile what information the countries exploring the moon have at the present time can be made available to scientists by virtue of bilateral agreements.

Allow me now to comment briefly on another matter, which is the remote sensing of the natural resources of the earth. We consider that this topic should have the highest priority among the items on the agenda of the work of the Outer Space Committee. My delegation had the honour of chairing the special working group that was studying the legal effects and implications of remote sensing. Though we join in expressing satisfaction at the progress achieved in the study of legal effects and implications during the past year, this is due solely to the fact that the Legal Sub-Committee for the first time began a serious study of this subject at its fourteenth session. We hope that the study will very soon result in an acceptable draft of the principles which should govern this activity that is developing at an incalculable rate.

With regard to direct broadcasting by satellites, there is also an urgent need to reach a compromise solution between the concept of freedom of information, accepted by the two parties -- the transmitting party and the receiving party -- and the principle of the sovereignty of States. This is not impossible if the necessary controls are set up to ensure the non-abuse of this branch of space technology, in a manner that would not be incompatible with the targets in view or the strengthening of understanding among peoples, or with international peace and security.

In conclusion, I should like to join those who preceded me in congratulating Mr. Peter Jankowitsch for the comprehensive exposé he made to our Committee regarding the programme of the Outer Space Committee, as well as Mr. Wyzner of Poland and Mr. Carver of Australia for their able and wise leadership of the Outer Space Committee and its two Sub-Committees.

I should also like to extend my thanks to the Director of the Outer Space Affairs Division and his assistants.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to thank the representative of Egypt for the kind words he has expressed to me and for his congratulations to me and to officers of the Committee.
(continued in English)

I shall now call on the representative of Austria to inform us of the agreement reached between the sponsors of the draft resolution and the movers of the amendments.

Mr. LENNKH (Austria): There was a meeting this morning of the sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.712 in order to consider the amendments proposed by Mauritius and the Philippines, and I am happy to inform the Committee that, after some discussion, an agreement has been reached.

First, the sponsors agreed with the representative of Mauritius on a slight modification of his amendment. This will be issued shortly as a document, but I should like to read out this modification to the Committee now. We have changed the first word of the amendment contained in document A/C.1/L.713 so that instead of "Recommends" it now reads "Requests", and we then leave the whole paragraph as it is until the penultimate line which will now read "...inter-agency co-ordination, that the Secretary-General take measures, if possible within his present resources, for the strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat". That is the Mauritius amendment as revised, and the sponsors have agreed to support it in this form.

The sponsors have also agreed to support the amendment proposed by the representative of the Philippines. Therefore, the sponsors would hope that when the amendments are put before the Committee they will be adopted by consensus. The sponsors hope also that the draft resolution as amended will be adopted by consensus.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Mauritius who wishes to make a brief announcement with regard to this.

Mr. RAMPHUL (Mauritius): I only want to confirm what the representative of Austria has just said regarding the amendment that I submitted yesterday. There has been a slight modification that is mostly cosmetic. There has been some difficulty, as we all know, regarding the financial implications of the amendment, but we have managed to get around this. And this is why we have said that the measures should be taken, if possible, within the present resources of the Secretary-General.

Now, as I made clear this morning at the meeting of the sponsors, it is not my intention to interfere in the internal affairs of the Secretariat. It is certainly not my intention to cause the Secretary-General any headaches regarding financial implications, but I understand that funds are available and that somehow the amendment can be made to work. My only purpose was to strengthen the Secretariat in the best interests of the developing countries, and I am very happy to report that I had the full, unqualified and encouraging support of all the sponsors which were present -- and they were all present with the exception of one or two for whom it was too early in the morning to attend. But there was full support for the amendment, and I am very thankful to the sponsors.

Now that the original omnibus draft resolution will include the amendment of Mauritius, we are in a position to become a sponsor of the entire draft resolution, including the amendment of the Philippines which, I hope, will be included in it.

When I spoke yesterday I mentioned the developing countries; I made my point clear to the sponsors and they agreed with my views; I will not spell it out in detail here, but I should like to point out just one thing. There are from 10 to 11 Professionals in the Outer Space Affairs Division, and five or six secretaries. All regions seem to be properly represented in that Division, but there is not a single African on the staff. So although I do not insist on the general idea of equitable geographical distribution, and certainly would not wish to insist on it to the detriment of proper standards, I would say that should there be suitable talent which could be recruited by the Secretariat, it would go a long way, I think, towards giving some effect to the spirit of the seventh special session. I have had some conversations regarding this and I understand that there are Africans who are sufficiently qualified to serve on the secretariat of the Outer Space Affairs Division.

(Mr. Ramphul, Mauritius)

I understand some of them have even made applications in the past. I would not interfere unduly in that -- that is something for the Director of the Division himself and for the Personnel Division of the United Nations to consider. I would go even further: if there is no qualified African, no talented African, one can always find an African who would be suitable and who would be willing to learn, to be trained on the job. I think that would be very useful for the developing countries. After all, let us face facts -- I mentioned it earlier and I will mention it again -- there are many members of the Secretariat, whom I could but will not name, who when they joined the Secretariat had no experience whatsoever in the posts they were going to fill; but through practical participation in the work of the Secretariat they have emerged today as experts. I see no reason why an African cannot work in the space Division and be trained by his colleagues, and be useful to the developing countries in their particular interests. I know they are supposed to work only for the international community, but it does not really work out that way.

If the Secretariat could bear this in mind, and if this statement I am making regarding an African in the Secretariat could be recorded so that the Secretary-General could take note of it and take it into consideration when the time comes to fill a post, I should be most grateful.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure the comments of the representative of Mauritius will be duly noted in the records of this Committee and brought to the attention of the Secretariat.

Mr. YANGO (Philippines): I should just like to express to all the sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.712 my delegation's deep appreciation of the favourable consideration they have given to the Philippines amendment.

Mr. AZZOUT (Algeria)(interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, it is not simply in order to comply with a tradition that the Algerian delegation wishes, before proceeding to the items under discussion, to express its great satisfaction at seeing the representative of Lebanon, Mr. Ghorra, presiding over the work of this important Political Committee.

We have been invited to examine the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, presented by its Chairman, Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria to whom we should like to convey our congratulations on the effort made by his Committee since our last session.

The accomplishments in the space field in the course of 1975 have demonstrated that the progress achieved in the mastery of space technology has made it usable for the needs of our countries and have thus opened up promising prospects for the application of space technology in various fields relating to telecommunication by satellites, meteorology, remote sensing, solar energy, direct radio broadcasting -- in a word, all problems which affect development, particularly the development of developing countries, whose technological lag is considerable.

With regard to the draft treaty relating to the moon, we note that in spite of the efforts of the Committee it was not possible to reach a consensus on the crucial question of the natural resources of the moon. In this regard, we repeat our conviction that the natural resources of the moon constitute the common heritage of mankind and that the régime to be adopted should be applicable to all other celestial bodies.

With regard to the question of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, my delegation notes the progress achieved and would remind the Committee that the primary object remains the preparation and adoption of an international convention establishing the rights and duties of all States taking due account of the fundamental principles of the sovereignty and equality of States and strict non-intervention in the affairs of other States. Direct broadcasting can promote understanding among peoples of different cultures, but it must not become a new form of colonialism. We therefore feel that the Committee should give priority

(Mr. Azzout, Algeria)

to the consideration of the major questions which have not yet been the subject of agreement, namely the prior consent of States and the content of programmes.

In spite of the efforts of the Committee, difficulties both juridical and scientific still impede the achievement of rapid progress in the field of remote sensing of the earth by satellites. The differences of view which have emerged should not make us forget the prospects of these techniques, particularly for the developing countries in the fields vital to their economic and social development, such as agriculture, hydrology, meteorology, mineral resources and so on.

It is therefore urgent for our Committee to give high priority to these problems while taking account of the fact that the advantages of remote sensing should be made available to States in accordance with the principle of the prior consent of States over whose territories remote sensing activities take place, and the right of States whose territories have been subject to remote sensing to have full and unrestricted access to all data and information obtained thereby.

However, a precondition of access to these techniques and their rational use by developing countries is a major effort in the field of training nationals of third-world countries. In this regard, we can only welcome the United Nations programme on space applications for 1976, and it is desirable to ensure an increase in the seminars, study meetings and fellowships granted by certain Member States to developing countries.

Although the idea of holding a United Nations conference on space applications can be contemplated for the future, it would seem premature to talk about it today. Indeed, questions relating to outer space are, from both the juridical and the scientific standpoint, only just beginning to be discussed and a long period of maturity is required before the holding of such an international conference in this field could prove fruitful.

(Mr. Azzout, Algeria)

The new economic order which should be established requires the use of all the technical means offered by modern science to promote the rapid development of the countries of the third world. Space technology and its practical applications constitute a major instrument in this regard which could help to reduce the gap between the developed and the developing countries. That is why it is important to take concrete and rapid measures now to settle our differences within the spirit of dialogue and co-operation which we have always advocated and which seems already to have been established within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Algeria for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. HARMON (Liberia): Mr. Chairman, because of the very close economic and friendly ties which, happily, exist between our two countries, it gives me great pleasure to join representatives who have spoken before me in congratulating you warmly on your election as Chairman of this important Committee. Your unanimous election is indeed a tribute to your country and, in particular, to the high reputation that you enjoy in international circles as an astute diplomat and one whose advice and experience have won for you the respect and esteem of your colleagues. I feel assured, therefore, that under your leadership this Committee will be able to make a mark second to none. The Liberian delegation would like to assure you and the other officers of the Committee of its full co-operation in the successful conduct of the work of this Committee.

May I also take this occasion to congratulate heartily Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, and members of his Committee on an exceptional job well done. Their report as submitted deserves the highest commendation and support. Its presentation also demonstrates the high calibre of thought, the quality of work and the time that have gone into its preparation, under the efficient leadership which Ambassador Jankowitsch has always displayed.

I should like to record my delegation's appreciation of the tasks accomplished by the two Sub-Committees under the chairmanship of Ambassador Wyzner of Poland and Mr. Carver of Australia.

It is a matter of record that Liberia is known throughout the world for its dedicated commitment to promoting world peace and the economic, social and cultural progress not only of the Liberian people but also of all the peoples of our one world. Liberia has never failed, despite its meagre means, to make its contribution when necessary. Our intervention in this debate, therefore, aims not so much to add our name to those of the other speakers in the debate on this important matter but to make our views and our interest known, being cognizant of the ultimate benefit to mankind everywhere.

Before going into the substance of my statement, let me say that we do not feel competent to go into detail or attempt to evaluate all the phases of the report of the Committee on Outer Space. Like others, we take the view that,

(Mr. Harmon, Liberia)

because of the complexity of the matter and our lack of technical experience, which we hope will in time be remedied, we should nevertheless endeavour to make known some of our concerns and interest in matters of international co-operation for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, and I shall endeavour to make some comments and/or appeals which I find vital to the success of any undertaking in the involved area of space technology.

As a developing country, Liberia is naturally interested in and deeply committed to giving whole-hearted support to any genuine efforts that would promulgate any type of research, be it space research or any other scientific or technological exercise having as its ultimate objective the exploitation of scientific areas for peaceful purposes and the furtherance of national and international growth and understanding among peoples and nations. That is where international co-operation and trust must play an ever increasing role in the development of space programmes. We must give priority to the practical applications of space technology for remote sensing of natural resources, particularly among the developing countries, and to such other scientific and technological exploration and exploitation as may make our world a happier place to live in. The use of television broadcasting, being another important advance, must also have as its prime objective the improvement of methods of education in areas of great need for human development.

We are indeed heartened and encouraged by the remarkable progress and achievements in the exploration and exploitation of outer space made since our meeting last year. There cannot be too much praise for the success of the Apollo-Soyuz joint space venture of July 1975, and the many unmanned probes of planets of the solar system undertaken by the two super-Powers. We see in those joint efforts -- not counting the cost involved -- full justification for our all resolving to break down the artificial barriers at present existing in many of our regions and working towards an emerging international system whereby peoples and nations will be able to work more effectively together under either bilateral or regional agreements which will be fully responsive to the needs of all peoples, regardless of their system.

(Mr. Harmon, Liberia)

This is a bridge which must be built -- which can be built through the space programme -- and, even though, admittedly, it may seem remote at present, I foresee the possibility of greater scientific advancement for peaceful purposes. And let me sound a note of caution: we must never fail in our legitimate support for the super-Powers and all other nations that are financially able and committed, with special emphasis on their decision to assist, not for military but for peaceful purposes, in the realization of this gigantic project. Let us ensure that our world moves towards a new approach for the practical implementation of genuine international co-operation in all areas of space technology, which, if properly pursued, will eventually eliminate the hate, mistrust and rivalry at present pervading our one world. The world community must begin now to offer such safeguards and guarantees to peoples everywhere as will ensure a better life and a determined desire to work unceasingly for peace and human dignity.

Let us together continue to make significant progress where we can and when we can in bringing about, as speedily as possible, a new order based on new methods and scientific advances, be it with regard to the moon or to any other area where it could bring about a fuller realization of the advancement that we seek.

(Mr. Harmon, Liberia)

The present time requires more and more willingness on the part of us all in the promotion of technology in its entirety for the benefit of mankind both where peoples are isolated and where illiteracy is a major problem, more especially in developing countries and in other concentrated areas within developed countries of our one world which need immediate attention. We should work for greater self-reliance and economic growth as a major priority. Happily that is President Tolbert's number-one policy for the uplifting of his people in Liberia and those of other parts of the world.

Telecommunications, upon which our world today depends very heavily, must be greatly advanced by the further development of the space transportation system, a new approach to space flight which, as Ambassador Bennett has said -- and we all commend him for having made this reference -- could eventually replace costly expendable vehicles and provide expanded opportunities for useful space activities if that area also is developed.

The successful implementation of such a programme would make travel less expensive and would give man an added and wider opportunity for exchange that would bring new areas much closer and help to educate people of varying ideologies in getting to know each other better, thereby eliminating the fear and suspicion which seem to be one of man's greatest failures towards world harmony and co-operation.

Like many of our colleagues who have spoken before me, the delegation of Liberia fully endorses the conclusions and recommendations in the Outer Space Committee's report and urges this body to take the necessary steps to propose a resolution for adoption by the General Assembly calling for the implementation of the said recommendations. The time is ripe, and we must forge ahead. It is in this spirit that we have sponsored the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.712, presented by Ambassador Jankowitsch. We should also give unqualified approval to the Legal Sub-Committee as the body responsible for the drafting of the international legal instruments embracing the structure for international co-operation in outer space.

Finally, our world body must remain the focal point for meaningful international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. The essential and leading role the Outer Space Committee has assumed as the centre of world-wide co-operation must be supported, and I strongly urge and implore all Member States

(Mr. Harmon, Liberia)

to seize the present moment to give their fullest support and co-operation to the continuing work of the Committee, thereby ensuring the successful eventual conclusion of deliberations on every facet of this involved project, which is so vital to man and his advancement.

I also call upon each Member State and its Government to give sustaining support to the mandate given to the Legal Sub-Committee regarding the two important issues in paragraph 4 (a) and (b) of the draft resolution, enabling it to further negotiate on the existing texts.

The definite and encouraged new thrust which has been evidenced and the efforts which have been undertaken through the co-operation of Member States, as observed during the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations, must give us new impetus to work more closely towards the basic acceptance of the principles of equality of States, of the free exchange of scientific information for peaceful purposes and of respect for the sovereignty of States regardless of size and limitations.

With this in mind, let us, as we leave here in December, be more resolved to work for better and greater achievements in the space programme.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Ambassador Harmon for his extremely generous remarks about me and his friendly comments on the relationship which happily exists between his country and mine.

Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, allow me first of all to tell you how happy I am to speak here under your chairmanship. Everyone is well aware of the friendship and great regard of my delegation and myself for you, and everyone knows the excellent relations which exist between our two countries. Furthermore, everyone is well acquainted with your great competence and your outstanding qualities as a diplomat. In extending our congratulations to you, I wish also to congratulate the whole of the Committee on its excellent choice. It goes without saying that my felicitations are also addressed to all the officers of the Committee.

This year we take up the question of outer space barely three months after the accomplishment of an exploit which emphasizes the significant progress achieved in this field. As a member of the special group, it was my privilege,

(Mr. Hoveyda, Iran)

at the invitation of the Government of the United States and of NASA, to attend the launching of Apollo on 15 July and on that occasion to see, on a gigantic television screen, the launching of Soyuz. My country rejoices at the success of that undertaking, and we wish to congratulate the technicians and scientists of the United States and the Soviet Union. We sincerely hope that this important achievement will go down in history as a forerunner of broader international co-operation in all aspects of outer space.

Before speaking of my country's special programme in regard to outer space, I wish to inform the Committee that on 28 May 1975 Iran became the ninth signatory of the Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Since 1969, my country has adopted a series of measures relating to communications, education, meteorology, geophysics and earth resources. I shall mention only the most important since we have given all the details in communications addressed to the Secretary-General.

The Iranian plan organization has launched a vast project concerning the use of ERTS-1 for the study of problems relating to cartography, censuses and the improvement of Iranian natural resources. That project was undertaken within the framework of a joint programme of co-operation between the Government of Iran and NASA. It should be pointed out that Iran has been associated with the ERTS programme for three years. During that period we laid stress first on the training of personnel and then on the elaboration of a basis for the utilization of the large volume of information provided by the satellites. In this connexion, my delegation wishes to express its gratitude to NASA for the interest it has shown in the training of Iranian experts and for providing us with the necessary information.

(Mr. Hoveyda, Iran)

The Iranian ground reception station will come into operation early in 1976, and a communications network, data compiling and data processing centres and centres for the digital treatment of images will come into operation long before that date.

In the field of education, the objective of the extension of satellite instructional television will be achieved shortly. The purpose of this project is to provide elementary and secondary modern education to all sectors of the community, in particular in the rural areas.

Although originally conceived for educational purposes, these satellites will also help to extend the existing communications network by facilitating the addition of a few thousand new microwave channels.

I should like to make some remarks on the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In this connexion my delegation wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Mr. Jankowitsch, under whose able chairmanship in these past few years the Committee has achieved remarkable progress. May we also extend our gratitude to the officers of the Committee and to the Chairmen of the Sub-Committees.

In taking stock of the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, we have been disappointed once again to note the lack of progress in regard to the preparation of a treaty relating to the moon. Despite the time and efforts devoted to this question, we note that the deadlock it reached in 1973 after the drafting of about 21 articles and the preamble has not yet been broken. The main question outstanding relates to the legal régime governing the moon's natural resources. In our view, the crux of the matter consists in determining whether the exploitation of the resources of the moon should begin before or after the creation of an international régime.

Regrettably, the proliferation of square brackets, the presence of alternatives in the draft articles concerning the natural resources of the moon would appear to show that there has been a rather disquieting regression. It is to be hoped that at the next session the Legal Sub-Committee will show a spirit of compromise.

(Mr. Hoveyda, Iran)

In the field of direct broadcast satellites, we note that useful and encouraging progress has been made by the Sub-Committee entrusted with the formulation of principles. We are happy to note that the Sub-Committee not only arrived at an agreement on the responsibility of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes, but also elaborated a number of further principles on which apparently it should be possible to reach consensus.

On the other hand, there was consensus -- and we welcome this -- on the concept, questioned by some, that freedom of information and the principle of the sovereignty of States were irreconcilable. Now the concept is accepted that these two ideas are not irreconcilable.

Concerning the remote sensing of earth resources, I wish to declare that my country attaches special importance to this question. We believe that this technique has a wide field of application, especially in the interests of the developing countries. It is our view that the international community should take the necessary steps to ensure that the elaboration of legal principles goes hand in hand with this process, because if we delay in providing a legal framework within which these activities can be carried out we run the risk of engendering useless tension. In view of the urgent nature of questions relating to remote sensing and direct broadcast satellites, we hope that in its future work the Sub-Committee will continue to give this question the highest priority.

Turning now to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, we are happy to note that by making recommendations, approved in the Committee's report, it has reaffirmed that a new study on financial and organizational questions will go hand in hand with the consideration of the legal aspects of remote sensing. My delegation is pleased to note that a balanced approach to this question has prevailed and that the legal aspects have not been relegated to a lower level. Moreover, we are happy to see that the Sub-Committee considered that it was important to provide sufficient installations for professional training in several aspects of remote sensing in order to derive the greatest possible advantages from this new technology.

In this connexion I wish to emphasize the importance of this new technology in helping to narrow the gap between the developed and the developing countries.

(Mr. Hoveyda, Iran)

Now, as regards the United Nations programme on space applications, once again we wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Murthy, the United Nations Expert, for the work he has done and to tell him that we support the programme he has proposed, which is submitted by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

It would appear that there was a slight controversy concerning the question of the field of application and content of the United Nations programme. My delegation still holds that the programme should be expanded in both fields. However, we feel that this discussion should no longer go on in abstract terms. It is high time for the Secretary-General to provide us with a full and much clearer picture of the kind of expansion that should be envisaged.

Lastly, with reference to the possibilities of holding a United Nations conference on outer-space problems, my Government has already set out its position in a communication addressed to the Secretary-General. In approving the idea of such a conference, I wish to reiterate that we share the view that that conference should not become a purely academic exercise. On the contrary, it should be action-oriented and should attempt to find solutions to specific problems because, at a time when science definitively rejects theories concerning the emptiness of space, it would be regrettable if the United Nations held a conference on outer space which led to a void.

In conclusion, as one of the sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.712 I express the hope that it will be adopted unanimously in order to show the will of the international community to continue its co-operation in the important field of the exploration of outer space and the application of new technologies in the interest of all, and in particular the developing countries.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Iran for his very kind and warm words to me. The ties of friendship between his country and mine are, of course, very close.

Mr. KAUFMANN (Netherlands): Mr. Chairman, I hope that you will permit me, as other speakers have done, to trespass against our rules of procedure by extending to you and to the other officers of the Committee our sincere congratulations on your election. The Netherlands is very pleased to see you, presiding over this important Committee.

I also wish, on behalf of my delegation and my Government, to thank Ambassador Jankowitsch, who has made a very lucid presentation of the work of the Outer Space Committee and has given dynamic leadership to that Committee.

Although the Netherlands is not a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, we always follow with great interest and appreciation the proceedings of that Committee. The Netherlands' interest in space matters has grown even more since 1974, when my country joined what is known as the space club. On 30 August 1974 the Netherlands scientific astronomical satellite, the ANS, was launched. The originally estimated lifetime of that satellite -- namely, half a year -- was easily surpassed: for more than a year now, the spacecraft -- the astronomical satellite -- has been engaged in scientific measurements in space. The discovery of the existence of very hot stars in the Milky Way was truly spectacular. My Government has in the meantime approved a feasibility study for a second scientific satellite, the infra-red astronomical satellite. Decision on the actual construction of this new satellite will be taken on the basis of the feasibility study I just mentioned.

On 30 May of this year the agreement establishing the European space agency was signed, and my Government is very happy that this was done. Under the auspices of the European space agency the Netherlands is involved in numerous programmes: for example, with respect to Skylab and to various activities in the field of telecommunications.

I now should like to make a few brief comments on the important work of the Outer Space Committee.

Concerning the draft treaty relating to the moon, the Netherlands hopes that a solution may soon be found on the remaining unsolved problems.

On the question of remote sensing from space, the Netherlands is fully aware of the considerable possibilities offered by these techniques, particularly in developing countries. The legal, organizational and financial problems with

respect to remote sensing are, of course, very complex. We must find solutions to maximize the benefits from these remote sensing techniques for mankind in general, and for the developing countries in particular. To do so will require new methods of international co-operation to provide for the right framework and the right incentives.

The Netherlands Government is pleased to see the progress made in the Legal Sub-Committee regarding the 14 draft principles on the use of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. Of course, we realize that many important parts of those principles are still between square brackets.

The Netherlands Government considers the free collection and dissemination of information a fundamental human right in conformity with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with the corresponding stipulations in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. As I had occasion to say in a speech I made last year in the Third Committee during the twenty-ninth session:

"... the basic element of the freedom of information must be considered the freedom of the individual to inform himself, regardless of his status, nationality, or the system of government of his country: that is to say, access to those pieces of information which he needs to make an objective and factually informed judgement on any issue in which he might be interested. There is, of course, a great variety of ways in which a person can inform himself."

In the light of this position of principle of the Netherlands, my Government cannot agree with the view that the principle of sovereignty of States implies that a Government must fully control the information reaching its territory from outside. The free flow of information is, in our view, an essential prerequisite for better mutual understanding between nations and peoples.

Of course, we realize that some regulation of direct television broadcasting from satellites is necessary. In our view, such regulation should take the form of exceptions to the basic principle of the free flow of information.

My delegation listened with great interest to the proposal made by the representative of the United States, Ambassador Bennett: namely, that States

(Mr. Kaufmann, Netherlands)

within the reception area should be notified of the intention to broadcast, and that the broadcasting States would take upon themselves the commitment to consult fully with the Governments of the States of the intended reception area if the latter so requested. As we see it, arrangements along these lines could remove fears that direct television broadcasting would be misused.

Finally, my delegation is pleased to be a sponsor of the draft resolution before the Committee, and, after the incorporation of the appropriate amendments, I think the way will be free to its unanimous adoption. We look forward to new accomplishments by the Outer Space Committee in the coming period, and, of course, by the hard-working Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Ambassador Kaufmann for his kind remarks to me.

Mr. AL-MUNTASSER (Libyan Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, since I am speaking for the first time in this Committee, I am pleased, in the name of my delegation, to congratulate you on your unanimous election to preside over the Committee. Your diplomatic experience and flexibility assure us that our Committee will reach the best results.

I have the pleasure also of congratulating the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur.

At this time I should also like to congratulate our friend, Ambassador Jankowitsch, the representative of Austria and Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, for his valuable presentation of the report of that Committee and for his continued efforts as Chairman of the Committee during the past few years.

The Libyan Arab Republic, although not a member of the Outer Space Committee, follows its work and its deliberations with great attention. On behalf of the delegation of the Libyan Arab Republic, I am pleased to express our appreciation for the efforts made by that Committee to conciliate the different viewpoints and to proceed apace in the drafting of agreements related to the topics before it for study and examination.

The world is witnessing great developments in inter-State relations, particularly in the social and economic spheres. Efforts are being exerted to set up a new international economic order based on equality and social justice.

(Mr. Al-Muntasser, Libyan Arab Republic)

On this basis, we attach considerable importance to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, particularly if Member States implement the space projects in a manner aiming at maximum co-operation and participation at the international level and above all at the transfer of technology to the developing countries.

The delegation of the Libyan Arab Republic notes with satisfaction that the Committee has achieved great progress in drafting texts of principles and new regulations concerning the use of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting, in addition to the continued examination of the texts of the five principles drafted at the 1974 session. My delegation hopes that the Committee will be able at future meetings to reach a draft agreement or agreements on the regulation of direct television broadcasting which will give due consideration to the sovereignty of States and to non-interference in their internal affairs, in compliance with General Assembly resolutions 2916 (XXVII) and 3234 (XXIX).

We follow with great interest the question of remote sensing from space of the earth's resources, which should be in the interest and for the benefit of all mankind. My delegation considers that this subject is one of the most important and critical items examined by the Committee, one that requires detailed and careful study in order to provide the necessary guarantees that remote sensing activities through space technology will be carried out only in accordance with the rules of international law and the provisions of the United Nations Charter. There must also be the prior consent of the countries in which remote sensing is carried out by space technology. In addition, the country concerned should benefit from the information obtained from those activities and that information should not be transmitted to a third party without the prior consent of the party concerned. It should undoubtedly be the right of all States to take the necessary effective measures to protect their sovereignty and to preserve their natural resources.

(Mr. Al-Muntasser, Libyan Arab Republic)

In conclusion, I should like to congratulate those members who have sponsored the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.712, which we shall support with the amendments that were submitted earlier in this meeting.

I should like also, in the name of the Libyan Arab Republic, to support the remarks made by the representative of Mauritius with regard to the Secretariat of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to thank the representative of the Libyan Arab Republic for the congratulations that he conveyed to me and to the other officers of the Committee.

Mr. ADJIBADE (Dahomey) (interpretation from French): It is a pleasant duty for the delegation of Dahomey to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, most warmly on your election. The number and importance of the questions on the First Committee's agenda confirm the particular importance of the Committee's work. We are convinced that your personal qualities, known to us all, and your extensive experience of the United Nations guarantee the success of our proceedings. We should also like to congratulate the other officers of the Committee, the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur, who share with you the heavy responsibility of directing the work of the First Committee at this session. We should like to assure all the officers of the Committee of the constructive co-operation of the delegation of Dahomey.

The fact that Dahomey is speaking on the item on the peaceful uses of outer space may be surprising. Indeed my country does not yet have any national space programme and I myself am no technical expert in this matter. But we feel it is necessary to speak because of the growing importance attaching to the question of the use of outer space, and more particularly because we should like to make clear the principles which in the view of my Government should govern the great enterprise of the use of outer space.

(Mr. Adjibade, Dahomey)

Above all, the use of outer space should be freed, today, tomorrow and forever, of all military aims and all colonialist designs, which must be banished from this field. There should not and must not be any attempts or manoeuvres to transfer to the field of outer space the egoistic practices of exploitation and appropriation by a handful of nations, thus depriving the great majority of the peoples of the world of the enjoyment of the resources, the wealth, and the varied possibilities offered by outer space.

The peaceful use of outer space should promote the economic and social development of all countries and strengthen mutual understanding among peoples with strict respect for the sovereignty of States and their individuality.

We are gratified by the almost unanimous support which seems to exist for the idea of international co-operation in the peaceful use of outer space. But for Dahomey, declarations of intent, no matter how mellifluous they may sound, are no longer enough, and we should like to make it quite clear that intentions must be translated into facts, to give those States which need it or seek it every assurance that they have nothing to fear and they will have nothing to lose by associating themselves with this common work of the peaceful use of outer space.

Some people will tell us that existing legal instruments already provide safeguards. But they must agree with us that although those legal instruments may be necessary, they are far from sufficient to defend us and to protect us from the ambitions of hegemony to which some still cling.

(Mr. Adjibade, Dahomey)

The Revolutionary Military Government of Dahomey supports in principle the great enterprise of the peaceful use of outer space. In practice, however, it feels that absolute guarantees must be produced to ensure that the benefits flowing from the application of space technology are shared by all, with respect for the sovereignty of the States Members of the world community.

Within the framework of that co-operation we should therefore define what a State can do and what it cannot do; we should establish by common agreement the rights and obligations of States in the use of outer space. The most appropriate guarantee, in my delegation's opinion, would be precisely to provide a legal framework for the peaceful use of outer space.

The inequality of resources and the disparity in the levels of knowledge make it necessary for us to be quick in providing the world community with that legal framework, if we do not wish that co-operation -- which all our Governments support -- to become an empty word, a fraud; if we want to avoid a situation in which all the possibilities and benefits of the stratosphere are confiscated by a very few; and, finally, if we do not want to recreate in space the regrettable, deplorable manifestations of imperialism that we are constantly denouncing and fighting on earth.

The legal framework which we have in mind should include binding provisions; it should not confine itself to intentions or ideals. The framework we have in mind should lay down precise and clear rules of behaviour that must be respected by all the countries participating in the peaceful use of outer space.

Turning now to the report of the Outer Space Committee before us, we should like to congratulate our colleague Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, and through him all the members of that Committee, on the efforts they have made to carry out their task.

The year 1975 has seen the joint launching of the Apollo-Soyuz flight. We applauded that scientific achievement, and we now express the hope that the intentions behind it are good ones -- that is, to strengthen friendship and co-operation for the good of mankind, rather than to come to an understanding in order the better to ensure the supremacy of these super-Powers or to place them in a better position to dominate the world. Whether we shall look with favour on such an important achievement for scientific progress or will have

(Mr. Adjibade, Dahomey)

reservations about it will depend on the conduct of those who have mastered this technique and on their sincere desire and manifest will to share with mankind the benefits of the results of their research and their experiments.

With regard to the question of the use of artificial satellites for television broadcasting, Dahomey has serious reservations. The Committee must consider and propose strict rules to prevent a situation in which the use of such satellites could serve as a pretext for intervention by certain countries in the internal affairs and social life of others, and to prevent a situation in which the use of such satellites would be only a refined way of engaging, voluntarily or involuntarily, in espionage or of putting into effect the determination of some Powers to become the policemen of the world. The use of satellites for television broadcasting, if it is to come about, must be fair and honest; the countries concerned must consent and must effectively participate; and the sovereignty of all States, large and small, must be respected.

With regard to remote sensing of the earth from space, regulation of that sphere must be based on respect for the sovereignty of States, above all those States' sovereignty over their natural resources and related information.

As for the United Nations programme on space applications, the report rightly stresses, in paragraph 37, that only a small number of replies to the questionnaire have been sent in by Member States to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. That deplorable situation is to be explained simply by the fact that the field of space is for the time being alien to many States, which have no or little familiarity with it because of their development priorities, which lie in other fields. Thus, all those who are capable of doing so -- and our community in general -- must make a particular effort to train technicians and experts in the developing countries so that they can better understand the problems connected with the peaceful use of outer space and benefit more from this undertaking, in order to contribute to the development of those countries and the well-being of their peoples. All selfish notions of co-operation must be abandoned; they must give way to a more altruistic approach based on equity and justice. Hence, we must go beyond study groups, seminars, training days, and design and implement a bolder and more serious programme of long-term training, for the particular benefit of the developing

(Mr. Adjibade, Dahomey)

countries, so as to translate into fact the many declarations of intent that outer space should be explored peacefully and for the good of mankind.

Paragraph 43 of the Outer Space Committee's report mentions a new point which could be entrusted to the Committee for study. We too believe that this question is important, but we feel that because of the pace at which the Committee is working -- and more than one delegation has stressed the slow pace of that work -- it would be more prudent and wiser not to add anything to the Committee's programme. We think that it would be better to entrust the question of solar energy as a future source of energy to another body, which could deal with the subject more quickly.

With reference to paragraph 46 of the Outer Space Committee's report, we should like to know how many reports have been received from Member States on their national space programmes. We shall not be surprised if the number is very small, because in fact many States are above all concerned with terrestrial problems, with development and well-being on earth, where we do not yet have even the minimum that is required.

(Mr. Adjibade, Dahomey)

Consequently, a number of States are not very much concerned with what is happening in the stratosphere or on the moon. Dahomey thinks that instead of engaging frenetically in the conquest of the moon we must first of all make sure that we have satisfied all the obligations and needs we have on earth; we must be sure that we have met the elementary needs of all the inhabitants of our planet, particularly those who suffer from hunger, disease and illiteracy and so forth.

The Dahomey delegation fully endorses the idea of holding an international conference on space questions aimed at laying down the purpose, the goals, and the ways and means for international co-operation in space, so as to give this undertaking the proper, the most just and the most equitable orientation and ensure that it would be in the interests of all, particularly of the most under-privileged, and not something that would allow a tiny minority to monopolize the benefits flowing from space science.

In conclusion we wish to stress that the Outer Space Committee should conceive of its work in the future, both in substance and in form, in such a way as to contribute fully to the establishment of a new international economic order.

It is in the light of the remarks we have just made that the delegation of Dahomey will determine its stand on the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.712 now before us, which we do not find entirely satisfactory.

I should like to add that my delegation entirely endorses the comments made by our brother from Mauritius with regard to the presence of African staff in the organs of the Secretariat responsible for outer space affairs.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Dahomey for his kind words of congratulation to the officers of the Committee and to me.

Mr. BARREIRO (Paraguay) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, in this, our first statement in the First Committee, the delegation of Paraguay wishes first of all to offer its congratulations to you, and through you to your great country, the legendary Lebanon, with which my country is closely

(Mr. Barreiro, Paraguay)

linked by the presence in our territory of so many hard-working Lebanese immigrants who have made a notable contribution through their industry and their identification with their new homeland.

We wish also to offer our cordial good wishes to the other officers of the Committee.

My delegation wishes to congratulate Mr. Jankowitsch for his lucid presentation of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

May we also congratulate the distinguished and illustrious leading figures on that Committee, Mr. Wyzner and Mr. Carver.

The peoples of the developing world cannot but marvel at the awe-inspiring conquests of outer space and the accompanying technology that made it possible.

The Apollo-Soyuz mission was a spectacular success, not only technologically speaking, but also in terms of the undeniable and practical possibilities it offers of arriving at agreements for such far-reaching ventures at the world level.

The highly developed and sophisticated space technology that is already in use is a sign of our times. It also shows that the future is already with us here and now. But under no circumstance can technological progress exist independently of the norms of civilized and harmonious coexistence in a world increasingly requiring greater justice, understanding, and tolerance, and where all peoples must live together in unity.

It is for this reason that it is so important to have these questions discussed in the United Nations, an organization whose primary task is to safeguard world peace and security.

We have listened with close attention to the statement of Mr. Bennett, of the United States of America.

We must state unambiguously that, like all the developing world, we are concerned about the virtually unlimited scope that direct television broadcasting by satellite could have.

While the world of broadcasting by radio is fascinating, mysterious and of astonishing scope, the projection of the moving images of television via artificial satellite offers outstanding educational advantages, but also entails great dangers for the vital interests of all peoples, especially the peoples of the developing

(Mr. Barreiro, Paraguay)

world, jealous as they are of their cultural and linguistic identity, their traditions and culture, their nationalism and their genuine freedom and individuality.

We appreciate the statement made by Mr. Kissinger, Secretary of State of the United States, to the effect that any system of direct television broadcasting by satellite should be accompanied by broad consultations among the countries concerned.

We all understand the unlimited influence of this kind of broadcasting on a country's educational system. Properly managed, it can be a marvellous instrument, provided it is not used for purposes of domination or manipulation. But it can also lead to the risk of cultural dependency, and to the loss or erosion of the individual characteristics of the culture and personality of a nation, the immutable bases of the identity of any State.

The same could be said of remote sensing of the earth's natural resources and the environment. This falls squarely within the vital and controversial field of technology connected with natural resources. In all their statements the representatives of the developing countries press for technology to be made available to all countries, rich and poor, of course within the context of the new international economic order.

It is obvious that there can be no such remote sensing without the consent of the surveyed State. The results of all research and surveys should be communicated to the observed State. Any other course would be a flagrant interference in matters within the sovereign competence of each State. The defence of their natural resources is at the very root of the developing world's existence.

My delegation, in assessing the conquests of technology, merely wishes to highlight these points, which in no way exhaust the subject but merely point to the need for the permanent involvement of the United Nations in this chapter of our agenda, so that space activities may become a vital means of co-operation among all countries, rather than an element of dependence, superiority or international tension.

(Mr. Dayrell de Lima, Brazil)

First, it is a matter of strengthening the specialized staff of the Secretariat in the light of the burdens which have been placed upon it. It is the view of my delegation that this would have been better treated if it had been the subject of an extensive debate in and a decision by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and by the Outer Space Committee itself, in the course of the discussion on the assignment of the tasks to the Secretariat.

Secondly, in the view of my delegation, the criteria that should apply to an increase in the strength of the Outer Space Affairs Division should be, first, high technical qualifications in the officials who will be responsible for tasks which, as we all know, are highly specialized and second, the equitable geographical distribution of Secretariat posts.

We listened with great interest to the last statement made by the representative of Mauritius. We entirely agree with expanding the specialized division of the Secretariat so as to satisfy legitimate interests for participation of the African regional group, provided that it is not forgotten that Latin America is also still unrepresented.

Mr. LOPEZ BASSOLS (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): We do not wish to tax the patience of the representatives at this very late hour, but we must emphasize the Mexican position concerning an amendment submitted a moment ago.

Therefore, we reiterate the views put forward by the representative of Brazil, which we fully support.

The Mexican delegation has seen with some surprise some developments here, and agrees that it would have been preferable to discuss the subject in the Outer Space Committee itself; consequently we believe that perhaps it will be easy to deal with this matter at its forthcoming session.

The Mexican delegation is not unaware of the physical limitations of the Outer Space Affairs Division, and also recognizes the excellent work it has done in the light of the very full programme that it will have to complete in the near future. However, we do wish to emphasize that of the 11 professional officials in the division, four are from the socialist countries, four from the Western European and other States, and three are from Asia; here we fully agree with the statement made by the representative of Mauritius that neither Latin America nor Africa are represented. We wish this point to be made very plain, and that is why we asked to speak.

Mr. BENNETT (United States of America): I should like briefly to explain my delegation's position on the amendment before us.

We are in full agreement with the need to strengthen the Outer Space Affairs Division, and with the idea that the Division should offer the greatest assistance feasible to developing countries, particularly in the area of using remote sensing data for their individual and common benefit. It is our hope that the Secretary-General will undertake a thorough analysis of the full range of possibilities for strengthening the Division.

It has been informally suggested by some that one of the possible measures would be to increase the number of professional staff members in the outer space division. Although we would frankly think it more appropriate for the First Committee to discuss the details of such measures as that after they are proposed by the Secretary-General, since the question has been raised I should like to make a brief comment.

It is our view that if additional personnel for the Outer Space Affairs Division are to be recommended by the Secretary-General, we believe that they should be individuals with highly developed expertise, no matter from where they come --- experts who could proceed immediately to teach others how to take advantage of the results of space exploration. To use employment in the Outer Space Affairs Division for training purposes would be to delay the sharing of the benefits which an expert could make available from the beginning of his employment --- and I say it does not matter where the expert comes from.

Finally, I should like to emphasize the United States view that the Secretary-General should make every possible effort to find ways within his present resources to undertake the strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division. We believe this should be possible and we believe strongly that it is desirable to do it that way rather than to place additional burdens on the total budget of the Organization.

With these guidelines in mind, my delegation looks forward to the significant strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division, and gives full support to this amendment.

Mr. ADJIBADE (Dahomey)(interpretation from French): We said in our statement that the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.712) as amended was not entirely satisfactory to us, particularly operative paragraphs 6 and 15. We do not wish to propose any formal amendment, but we hope the comments we made on the points relating to those paragraphs will be duly taken into account. In the light of what I have just said, to show a spirit of compromise and within the spirit of consensus prevailing in the Committee, we are ready, although we are not as satisfied as we should like to be, to accept the text as amended.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The remarks of the representative of Dahomey will be noted in the Committee's records, and I should like to thank him for his co-operation.

(continued in English)

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee is ready to adopt unanimously the draft resolution as amended.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak following the acceptance of the draft resolution. The first is the representative of Pakistan who wishes to make a brief comment on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. MAHMUD (Pakistan): In fact, Mr. Chairman, it is a comment on behalf of my own delegation. Pakistan, as the Committee knows, had the honour of being a sponsor of the draft resolution which the Committee has just approved unanimously for presentation to the General Assembly. My delegation stated its views yesterday so I shall not go into any of the points it then raised. We seek your indulgence merely to make a brief interpretative statement.

In the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution just adopted the General Assembly recalls its resolution 3234 (XXIX). We understand that that reference means that the content of that resolution is reiterated in its entirety. My delegation has in mind in particular operative paragraphs 24 and 25, which could find but partial expression in operative paragraph 14 of the present

(Mr. Mahmud, Pakistan)

draft resolution. This encapsulation, prompted by a desire for economy, does not, however, in our opinion detract from the endorsements in General Assembly resolution 1802 (XVII) and operative paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution 3234 (XXIX).

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Because the hour is late, the Soviet delegation will confine itself to a brief statement after the decision on the draft resolution.

First, I would stress that the Soviet delegation cannot fail to express its satisfaction at the businesslike, constructive nature of the discussion in the First Committee on the problems of the peaceful uses of outer space and the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution. The progress of international co-operation in space, the culmination of which was the joint space flight of Apollo and Soyuz, makes us hope that co-operation and a constructive approach to the problems of space will continue in the work of the Outer Space Committee in its consideration of the problems on its agenda.

The Soviet delegation hopes that the draft resolution just adopted by the Committee will serve as a new incentive for the Outer Space Committee in the performance of its important task.

The Soviet delegation, like other sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.712, had no objection to the amendment proposed by the representative of Mauritius with respect to the strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat, on the understanding that such strengthening would be carried out by the Secretary-General within the framework of existing resources, particularly by means of a possible redistribution of existing posts within the Secretariat and without any increase in expenditure under the regular budget.

The Soviet delegation hopes that the Secretariat as a whole and the Outer Space Affairs Division in particular will do everything in their power to carry out the important and responsible tasks entrusted to them.

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

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

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

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

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.



UNITED NATIONS
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Thirtieth Session

FIRST COMMITTEE

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

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

(Federal Republic of Germany)

Rapporteur:

Mr. ARTEAGA-ACOSTA

(Venezuela)

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

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