



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIZA-ESCALANTE (Costa Rica)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 51: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
(continued)

AGENDA ITEM 52: PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING
THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING
(continued)

Chile
France
India
Japan
Mexico
Peru

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(Mr. Canales, Chile)

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 51: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
(continued)

AGENDA ITEM 52: PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING
THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING
(continued) (A/33/20, A/33/212; A/SPC/33/L.3 and L.4)

Draft resolution A/SPC/33/L.3

1. Mr. ORTNER (Austria), introducing the draft resolution, pointed out that it focused on the work accomplished by the Committee on Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees and on their mandate for 1979. As would be seen from operative paragraphs 3 and 4, the Legal Sub-Committee would continue to give priority to the elaboration of draft principles on direct television broadcasting and remote sensing and of a treaty relating to the moon. It would also discuss the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, bearing in mind questions relating to the geostationary orbit. The inclusion of an agenda item entitled "Other matters" would provide increased flexibility in the organization of its work. The priorities of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee were outlined in operative paragraphs 5 and 6. The item on space transportation systems had been added to its agenda in view of the importance of the development of such systems, and the question of technical aspects and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in space would be included at the request of the Outer Space Committee (operative para. 8). That request as well as the Committee's request that launching States should inform States concerned in the event that a space object with nuclear power sources on board was malfunctioning with a risk of re-entry of radio-active materials to the earth (operative paragraph 9) reflected intensive consultations on both the Committee and the Sub-Committee. Finally, should the Assembly adopt the recommendations contained in paragraph 75 of the Committee's report (A/33/20), it would decide to convene a second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and endorse the preparatory arrangements (operative paragraph 10).

2. On behalf of the sponsors, he commended the draft resolution to the Special Political Committee for adoption by consensus.

General debate (continued)

3. Mr. CANALES (Chile) congratulated the space Powers on the successful space activities which they had carried out in the course of the year and applauded Italy, Japan and Indonesia for their first experiments in outer space.

4. The increase in the membership of the Committee on Outer Space reflected the growing interest of the developing countries in its work. As a member of that Committee, Chile appreciated the need for more rapid progress to keep pace with the technological achievements of the space Powers. However, every effort should be

made to reconcile the divergent views which had delayed the drafting of a body of space legislation, for it was only through sound legal instruments that future controversy among States detrimental to peace and security could be averted. The Committee on Outer Space should direct its energies towards ensuring that space exploration and use did not remain the exclusive privilege of the great Powers, which were the only States with the economic and technological resources to carry out space activities. Only effective and intensive international co-operation would enable the developing countries to derive equal benefits from those activities. It should further be borne in mind that unpredictable breakthroughs in the use of outer space for military purposes could make warfare increasingly cruel and destructive. For all those reasons, it was imperative to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to co-ordinate space activities in the interest of all its Members.

5. Reviewing the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, he observed that work on a treaty governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies had virtually come to a standstill because no agreement could be reached on a legal régime governing the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon. His delegation continued to feel that, like the resources of the sea-bed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, the resources of the moon and other celestial bodies should be declared by the General Assembly to constitute the common heritage of mankind. It would support the tentative draft treaty on the subject presented by the Austrian delegation.

6. In connexion with the Legal Sub-Committee's draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, his delegation supported the principle of prior consent in the interest of safeguarding the sovereignty of States and ensuring non-interference in their internal affairs. Since very rapid strides were being made in remote sensing from outer space, those two principles should also apply to that activity.

7. Lastly, it was imperative for the Legal Sub-Committee, if only provisionally, to establish a definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities. The question of the geostationary orbit should also continue to be the subject of careful study in the light of the data provided by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee with a view to arriving at an agreed definition of the orbit.

8. Reverting to the question of remote sensing of the earth by satellite, he emphasized the need for prior consent by the sensed State in order to safeguard sovereignty over natural resources and the data extracted by remote sensing operations; such data should not be distributed to third parties without the consent of the sensed State.

9. His delegation supported the programme on space applications adopted by the Outer Space Committee for 1979 and deeply appreciated the efforts of the States which had hosted training seminars on the subject and of the specialized agencies which had collaborated in those activities. With the technological capacity already

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(Mr. Canales, Chile)

achieved and the promise of even more rapid advances in the future, the day was not far off when a mini-industrial system might be constructed in space and when space shuttles and satellite solar power stations might come into general use.

10. His delegation shared the view that more effective safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space should be instituted. It also supported the proposal to convene a second conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. The experience acquired over the past decade in the applications of space technology should be evaluated in order to assess the effectiveness of the means available for the optimum use of that technology and the preservation of space for peaceful uses.

11. His Government was deeply concerned about the intensive use of outer space for military purposes, an issue of cardinal importance which had been discussed only indirectly by the Committee on Outer Space. Over 80 per cent of ongoing space activities had a military purpose. For example, scientific advances in space had resulted in the development of techniques for altering the environment, which might be applied in a new type of warfare. Moreover, certain types of satellites launched into space were engaged in military intelligence missions and in guiding intercontinental missiles. It was heartening to note that the General Assembly, at its special session on disarmament, had reflected the concern of the international community about those developments by stressing the need to work out new measures and initiate further international negotiations to avert an arms race in outer space.

12. Mr. CHANDERNAGOR (France) said that his Government attached great importance to the development of international co-operation in outer space. The French Space Research Centre had a budget exceeding \$220 million, 64 per cent of which was devoted to bilateral and multilateral co-operation activities. Within the framework of the European Space Agency, France had been closely associated in the O75 communications satellite programme, the launching of the METEOSAT weather satellite and the GEOS I and II and ISEE-B satellite experiments. It also contributed to the European COS communications satellite programme, the MAROTS marine communications programme, the H-SAT direct television heavy platform and the preparation of payloads for the Space Lab. It played a decisive role in the Ariane launching programme: the Ariane launcher would become operational by the end of 1980, thus ensuring European autonomy in launchers at a competitive cost. Under bilateral arrangements, France was engaged in fruitful co-operation with the Soviet Union, which had given French research scientists lunar samples from its Luna-24 probe. Moreover, five French experiments were being conducted on the Soviet biosatellite Cosmos-936 and four aboard the Prognoz. In the same spirit, France was working closely with NASA: it had participated in the Voyager I and II experimental interplanetary probes and in the ISEE-A satellite probe of the magnetosphere. In addition, the French system of data identification and collection had been used on the TIROS-B satellite and a French unit from the Toulouse Space Centre was being used in the data processing.

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(Mr. Chandernagor, France)

13. Mention should be made of the exemplary co-operation undertaken for the past 10 years with the Federal Republic of Germany in connexion with the Symphonie satellite. One such satellite had been positioned above the Indian Ocean in order to enable India to carry out experiments involving educational television and the study of a future telecommunications system.

14. It could thus be seen that France's will to co-operate was not confined to two or three countries. His delegation had already referred to the experiments conducted with the Ivory Coast, and India and within the Economic Commission for Africa. In 1977, his country had admitted 26 students and trainees to French institutions and had organized international symposia and seminars on several space techniques.

15. He recalled his Government's decision to have a national earth observation satellite (SPOT) in a circular heliosynchronous orbit at a height of 800 km and an inclination of 98.7° above the Equator. The satellite would have a life of two years and a payload consisting of two sets of identical "high visible resolution" equipment, although the final degree of resolution remained to be decided.

16. His Government had presented at the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament a proposal to establish an international agency for monitoring satellites. It was not unaware of the complexity of such a project, but it was convinced that the latter's implementation would increase knowledge of the level of armaments and thus help the Organization to discharge its task in the field of disarmament. His delegation intended to submit to the General Assembly at its current session a draft resolution on the question.

17. With regard to the main items on the agenda, he observed that the question of the delimitation of outer space was quite complicated since it was necessary to determine the boundary between air law, based on the concept of national sovereignty, and space law, whose principles, laid down in the 1967 Treaty on Outer Space, related to freedom and non-appropriation. The problem was compounded by the progress of space technology, and the Committee should continue to study it carefully. Several delegations had expressed their concern at the question of the geostationary orbit. His delegation wished to reaffirm its belief in the need for regulations governing the use of the orbit, if only to avoid the latter's indirect appropriation. Such regulations should take the greatest possible account of the special situation of the equatorial countries.

18. With regard to the remote sensing of the earth, the Committee had made little progress. That did not mean that it should slacken its efforts, however, it should pursue the method of work followed so far which consisted in selecting areas in which convergence of views was possible and in drafting principles on that basis.

19. In his delegation's opinion, training and assistance should be given priority attention in the co-ordination role to be entrusted to the United Nations. He had

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(Mr. Chandernagor, France)

doubts, however, regarding the advisability of establishing a panel of experts appointed by the Committee to perform a number of functions involving co-ordination and recommendations. He thought that the question should be examined carefully since excessive standardization might create more problems than it solved.

20. The question of direct television broadcasting by satellite was a very delicate one, but his delegation continued to favour a general compromise based on an equitable balance between the interests of the transmitting countries and protection of the rights of the receiving countries. The free dissemination of information was a pitfall if it led to the unilateral right of some countries to transmit, without a quid pro quo, direct television broadcasts to other countries wishing to preserve their cultural identity and legitimate ideals.

21. With regard to the draft treaty on the moon, his delegation noted that the Committee, referring to the divergence of views on that point in the Legal Sub-Committee, confirmed the need to give priority consideration to the question. He stressed that respect for the principles laid down in the 1967 Treaty on Outer Space continued to be the basic element in any future agreement on the moon. An equitable sharing of the benefits resulting from the exploitation of the moon should take account not only of the role played by the States contributing to its exploration and of the interests of the developing countries but also of the interests of countries which belonged to neither of those categories.

22. His delegation continued to favour examination by the Committee of the question of the use of nuclear-powered satellites and the establishment within the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of a group of experts which would be open to all its members and would be instructed to report to it on scientific aspects and necessary safety measures. His delegation also thought that the legal implications of the question should be studied in the Legal Sub-Committee.

23. With regard to the convening of a United Nations conference on outer space, his delegation stressed once again the need to set a ceiling on the expenditure that would be incurred. Any final decision on that point should be taken by the General Assembly only after the Secretariat had carried out the necessary studies on the costs of such a conference.

24. The question of the participation of a larger number of Member States had been re-examined within the Committee on Outer Space. It had been observed in particular that, in accordance with existing procedures in the United Nations, every Member State could present its views in any committee and that it would therefore be preferable, before undertaking a further enlargement of the Committee, to observe the results of the recent increase in its membership. His delegation shared that point of view.

25. Referring to the question of the organization of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he stressed the need to establish an agenda presented in analytical form in order to make it easier for the Committee to consider problems directly in the light of the reports of the two Sub-Committees instead of merely examining those reports. That suggestion had been included in the present report of the Committee. Another suggestion favoured by his delegation was

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(Mr. Chandernagor, France)

not in the report. In his delegation's opinion, the sessions of the two Sub-Committees and of the plenary Committee should be held simultaneously in accordance with the usual practice of United Nations bodies. In addition to the rationalization of working methods, that approach would ensure improved co-ordination of the discussions of the subsidiary bodies as well as substantial savings in time and resources. It should therefore be adopted without further delay.

26. Baron von WECHMAR (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees had been engaged during the past year in a thorough and fruitful debate resulting in the clarification of a number of points relating to the draft treaties under discussion. Throughout its history of more than 20 years, it could safely be said that the Committee on Outer Space had been an active centre of international discussion and co-operation on outer space issues and had played a major role in helping the international community to envisage and solve problems created by rapid technical advances. The Committee had also become an important forum for exchanges between countries with their own space programmes and those which had begun to develop activities in that field. The enlargement of the Committee decided upon by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session had contributed to that dialogue.

27. Further progress in technology and co-operation had been achieved during the past year when a Soyuz spacecraft had for the first time carried cosmonauts from Poland, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic into outer space.

28. With regard to his own country, he wished to draw attention to a number of developments. In view of the technical complexity of space tasks, his Government's space programme concentrated on activities within the framework of the European Space Agency and on bilateral co-operation with its European partners as well as with NASA.

29. Steady progress could be reported with respect to the SPACELAB development programme, which was the European contribution to the reusable space transportation system known as Space Shuttle. SPACELAB continued to be the most important space project for the Federal Republic of Germany, and four European scientists had been selected to supervise the experiments to be completed during the first mission in 1980.

30. Special attention had been given by his Government to METEOSAT, an application-oriented programme which represented his country's major contribution to the Global Atmospheric Research Programme and was designed to collect, process and disseminate meteorological data by means of a geostationary satellite and associated ground facilities. METEOSAT-1 had been successfully launched in November 1977 and had been operating normally since then.

31. Within the European Communications Satellite Programme TELECOM, the orbital test satellite OTS had been placed in a geostationary orbit in May 1978. With regard to his Government's bilateral space programme, he noted that the two Franco-German Symphonie satellites continued to be operated in close co-operation

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(Baron von Wechmar, Federal Republic of Germany)

involving telecommunications and educational television experiments. After contributing to experiments under the Indian STEP programme, Symphonie-1 was now being utilized for broadcasting experiments with the People's Republic of China.

32. In the study of solar-terrestrial relationships, two Helios solar probes had already considerably exceeded the measuring phase initially planned for them and continued to provide valuable scientific data. Correlation measurements were being carried out using NASA's Viking and Voyager probes.

33. With regard to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, his delegation had noted with satisfaction the progress achieved on a number of questions. The treaty relating to the moon and other celestial bodies was a matter of high priority, and his delegation welcomed the Austrian draft, which reflected the extensive and fruitful deliberations within the Legal Sub-Committee. It hoped that efforts to finalize that important international instrument would continue in the Sub-Committee.

34. Little progress had been made with regard to the elaboration of draft principles for direct television broadcasting by satellite. His delegation considered that further efforts should be made to achieve agreement on a text based on the principle of free information as laid down in numerous international instruments, the most recent of which was the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

35. Remote sensing of the earth from outer space constituted one of the most impressive examples of the useful application of space technology, especially for developing countries. His delegation therefore believed that due consideration should be given to the proposal to strengthen the role of the remote sensing centre.

36. While the discussions in the Legal Sub-Committee on the formulation of draft principles governing remote sensing had not yet led to a compromise, some progress had been achieved in giving every country timely and non-discriminatory access to the vital information obtained through remote sensing. His delegation welcomed the recommendation of the Committee on Outer Space that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue to give priority consideration to the legal implications of that technique.

37. The Cosmos-954 incident in January 1978 had concentrated international attention on the use of nuclear power sources in space. As the discussion in the Outer Space Committee had demonstrated, there was no question of accusing anyone. However, the international community had to set standards of safety in accordance with the latest technical developments and to ensure international co-operation in order to limit the risks created by the unavoidable use of such power sources in satellites.

38. The General Assembly would have to decide, at its thirty-third session, on the convening of a second United Nations conference on outer space. His delegation was certain that the conference would help to make available to all countries the benefits derived from space technology. Thorough preparation was necessary to ensure its success, and his delegation hoped that the Outer Space Committee would pay special attention to that important project.

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39. Mr. RAI (India) said that space science and space technology had immense potential for the solution of problems related to socio-economic development. The objective of his country's space programme was to initiate, develop and master that technology in a selective manner for the benefit of its people.

40. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was responsible for the execution of the space programme and for research and development in that field. It was engaged in the development of different types of sounding rockets for meteorological and upper atmospheric investigations, satellite launch vehicles and satellites for various scientific programmes. So far about 1,000 sounding rockets had been launched at the ISRO Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station for the purpose of collecting meteorological data and for aeronomic studies. Scientists from France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and the USSR had participated in many of those studies in collaboration with Indian scientists. ISRO was also developing expertise in instrumentation in different areas of space application, such as satellite telecommunications, satellite television broadcasting, remote sensing of natural resources and satellite and rocket meteorology.

41. About two years ago, ISRO had successfully conducted a satellite-based television broadcasting experiment with the help of the United States and a NASA-launched ATS-6. It had been essentially a rural development-oriented experiment; many viewers of the programme had not been exposed to other information media before.

42. ISRO was currently engaged in the operation of the Satellite Telecommunications Experiment Project (STEP), which was primarily concerned with the latest innovations in the field of satellite telecommunications in order to establish reliable voice links with remote areas.

43. In the field of remote sensing of natural resources the Indian Space Research Organization had primary responsibility for research and development activities while the National Remote Sensing Agency of the Department of Science and Technology was responsible for carrying out operations. India had already planned an experimental earth observation satellite system to conduct scientific and technological experiments, and it was scheduled to be launched from the Soviet Union.

44. His Government was engaged in similar co-operation with a number of other countries. Under a memorandum of understanding signed between India and France, his country's scientists had been utilizing the Franco-German satellite Symphonie for the Satellite Telecommunications Experiment Project. Indian and French scientists had been developing a liquid propellant rocket engine, and a number of Indian scientists were also receiving training in various French space research establishments. ISRO was also manufacturing and supplying certain items needed for the French space programme.

45. His country had received generous assistance and co-operation from the Institute of the West German Aerospace Research Agency. The European Space Agency had offered fellowships to Indian scientists for study in the field of data processing and satellite mission operations and had signed an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organization for the launching of the Indian experimental

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(Mr. Rai, India)

geostationary satellite in 1980. His country had continued to conduct training seminars and courses, particularly for the benefit of developing countries.

46. Referring to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he observed that the last meeting of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had considered some important subjects, such as remote sensing of the earth by satellites, the convening of a United Nations conference on outer space, and questions relating to the use of nuclear power sources in space and the geostationary orbit. His delegation was happy to note that some progress had been made with regard to those as well as other items on the agenda.

47. With regard to remote sensing of the earth, he said that while his delegation had always felt that some global data, such as those obtained from meteorological satellites, should be freely available to all countries, it reiterated its view that dissemination of the primary data of a given country should not be undertaken without the consent of the country concerned. The Secretariat study on the subject provided an excellent basis for determining the technical parameters, and his delegation hoped that further studies would enable members to reach a consensus.

48. Since the last United Nations Conference on Outer Space in 1968, rapid developments had taken place in technology and space exploration. Those developments should be reviewed and the likely issues for the next decade discussed in detail. His delegation therefore fully endorsed the proposal to hold a second United Nations conference before 1983. The conference should not be a mere forum for the display of achievements in space but should be broad-based and include an examination of the social and economic aspects of space activities. His delegation supported the views and recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the subject and the recommendations made by the Committee on Outer Space to the General Assembly.

49. Noting the importance of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, he observed that while it might be possible to find alternative power sources for some satellites, the use of nuclear power continued to be necessary in the case of many others. It was therefore necessary to take proper precautions in order to provide adequate safeguards. His delegation accordingly supported the proposal that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should devote an extra week of its sixteenth session to the consideration of all technical aspects and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

50. His delegation regretted that it had not been possible for the Legal Sub-Committee to make further progress on the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. Considerable progress had been achieved on the subject in the past, but some important issues, such as unlawful and inadmissible broadcasts, programme content, and consultations and agreements between States, continued to be unresolved owing to a lack of consensus.

51. His delegation shared the view that the question of the natural resources of the moon was the key issue whose solution could facilitate agreement on other

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(Mr. Rai, India)

unresolved issues. The moon and other celestial bodies were the common heritage of mankind, and their commercial exploitation should be undertaken only in accordance with a universally recognized international régime.

52. His delegation welcomed the efficient manner in which the United Nations programme on space applications had been implemented. However, the programme continued to be inadequate and might need to be expanded both in scope and in content.

53. It was now well established that space technology could greatly stimulate economic and social progress. Moreover, space exploration held out enormous promise as a means of bringing all nations of the world closer together. His delegation hoped that, as further advances were made in the field, there would be increasing international co-operation that would bring the benefits of space exploration to all nations.

54. Mr. KASINA (Kenya) said that his delegation noted with satisfaction the work done by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees. With regard to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, his delegation regretted the lack of consensus on the draft principles governing the flow of information and hoped that consultations would be held on the matter so as to enable the Sub-Committee to arrive at a generally acceptable wording. An agreement should take into account the fact that, although freedom of information was a fundamental right of the individual, that right, if exercised in isolation, could have effects which might prove injurious to other parties pursuing other freedoms and to the maintenance of public order, peace and security in States.

55. His delegation commended the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee for the important and useful work which it had been doing, particularly with regard to the question of remote sensing of the earth by satellites. It noted with pleasure that many countries, including his own were already using data gathered by countries possessing that technology. It wished to stress, however, the need to provide training facilities to developing countries, particularly for the interpretation of data obtained by satellites. He was sure that many developing countries, including his own, would be prepared to take advantage of such facilities by arrangement either bilaterally with countries possessing the requisite technology or multilaterally through the United Nations and related agencies.

56. In September 1978, his country had acted as host to the United Nations Regional Training Seminar on Remote Sensing Application. The seminar, co-sponsored by Sweden and the United Nations Environment Programme, had provided a useful exchange of information on remote sensing for the African region. Similar seminars should be organized more frequently for the benefit of developing countries. In that regard, his delegation felt that the budget for the United Nations programme on space applications was not adequate for the organization of such seminars in developing countries. He wished to thank the Swedish Government for financing the seminar on remote sensing held in Nairobi and the United Nations Environment Programme for organizing the seminar.

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(Mr. Masina, Kenya)

57. His delegation recognized the usefulness of data obtained by remote sensing for the benefit of mankind. It held the view, however, that the dissemination of such data should be made available freely to the sensed State as an expression of respect for its sovereignty and should not be distributed to third parties without its consent.

58. Like many others, the Kenyan delegation welcomed the recommendation to convene a second United Nations conference on outer space. It was prepared to participate actively in the preparation of the proposed conference, which it hoped would consider a wide range of space-related matters of interest and benefit to both developed and developing countries.

59. His delegation felt that there was a need for a definition of outer space. The 1967 Outer Space Treaty did not deal properly with that matter. While his delegation did not offer any specific definition, it felt that a generally acceptable one should be based on an agreed altitude above sea-level.

60. Mr. de PINIES (Spain) said that the conquest of outer space had fired man's imagination and it was of special importance that humanity should benefit from the potential opened up by the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. The growing realization of the interdependence of countries must lead to international co-operation in outer space. The dangers inherent in a breakdown in that co-operation, a recent example of which had been the Cosmos-954 incident in northern Canada, showed the importance of making every effort to intensify it. Dangers other than purely physical could also arise if the development of internationally agreed standards for the use of outer space was further delayed.

61. Spain had always been conscious of the central role which the United Nations could play in that respect, particularly in working out clear legal principles to govern the use of outer space, the principal aim of which would be to prevent the latter from becoming yet another means of great Power domination. From that point of view, the slow progress made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies during 1978 was disappointing, despite the good work they had done.

62. It was regrettable that agreement had not been reached in the Legal Sub-Committee regarding the draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, a matter of special interest to his Government, which was convinced of the long-term usefulness of anything that contributed to the free circulation of ideas and information. However, the validity of many of the arguments put forward, especially by the developing countries, in favour of limiting free broadcasting must be admitted. It was to be hoped that the efforts made during the year to reach a consensus on the draft treaty relating to the moon and other celestial bodies on the basis of the draft agreement submitted by the Austrian delegation would lead to agreement at the Sub-Committee's next session.

63. The difficulties encountered by the Legal Sub-Committee with respect to the three draft agreements and the problems under discussion in the Scientific and

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(Mr. de Pinies, Spain)

Technical Sub-Committee, particularly regarding the definition of outer space, remote sensing and the geostationary orbit, made it necessary for the Outer Space Committee to increase its efforts to reconcile the different interests.

64. His delegation reiterated its support for the convening of a second United Nations conference on outer space, which would make it possible to exchange views on the progress made in the past 10 years. Such a conference would also enable States not members of the Outer Space Committee to learn about its work.

65. Spain was co-operating actively with the Committee, especially in submitting the reports on its space activities called for by General Assembly resolution 2223 (XXI), both those at the national level and those undertaken in co-operation with other countries. It was a member of the European Space Agency and participated in the latter's programmes as well as in various bilateral programmes. It also hoped to become a member of the Outer Space Committee in 1981 under the rotation system agreed upon in 1977 among the southern European countries as a result of the expansion of the Committee's membership. That regional rotation system might be of interest to States in other regions.

66. Mr. BAGHLI (Algeria), referring to the treaty on the moon and other celestial bodies, said that it should be based on the principle that the moon and its natural resources were the common heritage of mankind, which precluded any claim to sovereignty by a country or group of countries.

67. Remote sensing of the natural resources of the earth from outer space was the most important of the applications of space science. It was of particular interest to the developing countries, especially in helping them to discover their own natural resources but should not be allowed to challenge the fundamental principle of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources. His delegation believed that the data collected should not be communicated to third parties without the consent of the sensed country and must not be used to increase the dependence of the developing countries on other countries.

68. Direct television broadcasting by satellite was a new process which would enable all peoples to exchange experience, make known their own cultural heritage and learn about that of others. It should not, however, be imposed unilaterally by the broadcasting State merely because the latter was more technologically advanced. The consent of the State to which the broadcast was beamed must first be obtained. Otherwise, such broadcasts would become intolerable acts of interference in the internal affairs of States.

69. The space achievements recorded during 1978 seemed to herald the dawn of a new era of mutually profitable co-operation in outer space. His country hoped that the joint experiments and combined flights by cosmonauts from different countries would be extended to the largest possible number of countries and to all aspects of space science. Outer space should be a field in which man's genius, freed from national considerations of prestige, would be placed at the service of all mankind. It was to be hoped that problems would be tackled on the basis of experience accumulated in other fields and that equality between States would not be a meaningless word.

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70. Mr. MASSAN (Sudan) expressed appreciation of the important work done by the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. His delegation felt that the draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting should be based on the premise that there must be agreement with the Government concerned. That was essential in order to safeguard the sovereignty of Member States.

71. In a vast country like the Sudan, remote sensing of the earth from space was of particular importance. It was to be hoped that it would help in the development of natural resources, particularly agricultural and mining resources. His country's interest in that subject had been demonstrated by its participation in the seminar on the application of space technology. However, despite the many benefits which could be obtained from that new technology, there could also be dangers in its use if it was not governed by legally agreed principles stating that the sensed State had the right to receive data from sensing without charge and that the data should not be communicated to third parties without its consent.

72. His delegation supported the efforts being made to draft a treaty on the moon, which must take into account the fact that the moon was the common heritage of mankind and that no State or group of States had the right to appropriate its resources. The draft principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting might be of use in drafting the treaty on the moon.

73. His delegation supported the proposal that a second United Nations conference on outer space should be convened and it agreed that careful preparatory work was necessary.

74. The use of nuclear power sources in outer space was a matter for great concern. It was to be hoped that States using that form of energy would make the necessary safety arrangements, ensure international co-operation and report to all other States any malfunctioning on board a nuclear-powered satellite. His delegation therefore supported the recommendation that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should create a working group of experts to consider the technological aspects and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

75. He congratulated the cosmonauts from Czechoslovakia, Poland and the German Democratic Republic who had worked with cosmonauts from the Soviet Union in the Intercosmos programme. Their achievements were a living example of the importance of and the need for international co-operation to ensure that outer space was used for the good of all mankind.

76. His delegation had already expressed its support for the draft resolution (A/SPC/33/L.3) which he hoped would be adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.