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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES  
OF OUTER SPACE  
Eighteenth session

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE  
ON THE WORK OF ITS EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Addendum

I. RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

A. Report of the Legal Sub-Committee

1. The Committee took note of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its fourteenth session (A/AC.105/147), covering the results of its deliberations of the four items assigned to it by General Assembly resolution 3234 (XXIX).
2. The Committee noted that the Working Group I of the Legal Sub-Committee had pursued its work on the draft treaty relating to the moon, as referred to in paragraphs 9 to 23 of the Sub-Committee's report, giving priority to the question of natural resources of the moon, regarded by many delegations as the problem whose solution would facilitate an agreement on the two other remaining issues on the scope of the treaty and the information to be furnished on missions to the moon. The Committee noted that as a result of the debate which took place in the Working Group, the texts concerning natural resources were redrafted into articles X and X bis, although a number of words or sentences still appeared in square brackets and certain provisions were drafted in two versions, both of which were placed in square brackets.
3. The Committee noted that the Working Group II established by the Legal Sub-Committee to consider the question of elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2916 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972 and 3234 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974, was able to make further progress by drafting texts of principles on several new provisions in addition to continuing its work on the texts of five principles drafted at its 1974 session. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the texts of principles drafted by the

Working Group and reproduced in annex II of the Legal Sub-Committee's report, include formulations on which consensus had been reached, in addition to texts of principles which include words or sentences in square brackets, or alternative formulations, on matters where consensus could not be reached.

4. The Committee noted with gratification that the Legal Sub-Committee was able to give detailed consideration this year to the item relating to legal implications of earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites as requested by General Assembly resolution 3234 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974. The Committee noted that the Working Group III established by the Legal Sub-Committee to consider the questions relating to this item was able to ascertain certain common elements to be found in the three draft international instruments submitted to it for consideration as well as the views expressed by many Member States, among which were:

(a) That remote sensing activities by means of space technology should be conducted for the benefit and in the interest of all mankind; this new technology would be of particular significance to developing countries in their plans and programmes for national development;

(b) That remote sensing activities by means of space technology should be conducted in accordance with international law including the United Nations Charter and the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies;

(c) That the maximum benefits to all countries could be obtained by international co-operation at all levels, particularly on a regional basis;

(d) That States undertaking programmes for remote sensing activities by means of space technology should encourage international participation;

(e) That in remote sensing activities by means of space technology measures should be taken to promote efforts for the protection of the natural environment of the earth.

The Committee also noted that in addition to the areas of agreement referred to above, there were several other main questions which were raised and considered by the Working Group.

5. /Committee's consensus, after discussion of a working paper presented by Australia, to be inserted here./

6. The Committee, while noting that there remained areas where consensus had not yet been reached on the three items referred to above (i.e. the treaty relating to the moon, direct television broadcasting and remote sensing of the earth from space), was encouraged by the progress made and expressed the hope that more progress could be achieved in the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee.

The Committee also noted that matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities were also discussed by the Legal Sub-Committee at one of its meetings and that there was a useful and interesting exchange of views. It also noted that during the discussion the importance of this subject was stressed and hope was expressed that at its future sessions, the Sub-Committee would be able to consider the item in greater detail.

In the course of the present session, the delegation of Argentina put forth ideas and suggestions relating to the legal aspects of the formation and operation of joint international enterprises for space applications. These were noted with interest by the Committee.

The Committee having discussed the items relating to (a) the draft treaty relating to the moon; (b) the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting; (c) legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space and (d) matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, and having noted the opinion expressed by the Legal Sub-Committee in paragraph 15 of its report that at its next session it should continue to consider with the same high priority the issues covered by items (a), (b) and (c) above, called upon the Legal Sub-Committee to continue its work on this basis at its next session. The Committee also requested the Legal Sub-Committee to continue its work on item (d) above.