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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE  
VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 12 July 1974, at 4 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. JANKOWITSCH

(Austria)

- Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
- Closure of the session

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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/AC.105/L.79/Rev.1)

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee's report on the work of its seventeenth session has been the object of informal meetings of this Committee over the past few days. Before we take up consideration of the report in this formal meeting I should like to pay a tribute to our Rapporteur for the drafting work he has done and to all delegations which in a spirit of untiring compromise and accommodation have participated in these meetings which have enabled us to achieve the draft now before us in ditto form (A/AC.105/L.79/Rev.1).

For technical reasons, only the English draft is available at this time -- and I wish to offer apologies to those delegations who ordinarily use the other language versions. This is an exceptional situation, and I hope the Committee will understand.

I would suggest that the Committee go through the report chapter by chapter, as the time left for its consideration and adoption is strictly limited. At the commencement of our consideration of each chapter the Rapporteur will be free to offer comments if he wishes to do so. I shall then ask representatives to make their comments.

I ask members to turn first to chapter I, "Introduction", containing paragraphs 1 to 15. Does the Rapporteur wish to comment on that chapter?

Mr. de SEIXAS-CORREA (Brazil) (Rapporteur): I believe no explanations are called for at this stage. The introduction now incorporates all the modifications to the previous text that were agreed upon informally. I should only like to mention that, of course, the Secretariat and I will, following the meeting, take a very close look at the drafting of the report, and minor editorial or stylistic points could be left until then, if there is any problem.

Mr. VELLODI (India): I wish to suggest some very minor modifications in regard to paragraphs 12, 13 and 14.

First, we feel that for chronological reasons it might be useful to place paragraphs 13 and 14 before paragraph 12.

(Mr. Vello di, India)

Secondly towards the end of the present paragraph 12 there is reference to the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) having made statements at the 148th meeting. Again this is not very important, but to be correct, as you, Mr. Chairman, have indicated, since those statements were made not in the course of the general debate but more in the course of consideration of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and, in particular, the report of the Working Group on Remote Sensing, I would suggest that we make the sentence concerning the representatives of FAO and WHO a new paragraph, after the present paragraph 32 -- that is, at the end of the section on remote sensing of the earth by satellite.

I have one small additional observation. Following the sentence concerning the statements of the representatives of FAO and WHO, we should like reference to be made to the presentation of slides by the representative of the FAO. I think that many of us who saw them would like to express our appreciation. I would suggest a sentence along the following lines:

"Later in the session, the Committee viewed a presentation of slides on agricultural remote sensing applications presented by the FAO representative, who also gave an accompanying oral description of the FAO's viewing service to developing countries."

I think that is a factual statement and that reference should be made to the presentation.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the Committee agree to the changes suggested by the representative of India?

Mr. MAJORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): First of all, I should like to say that the Soviet delegation agrees with your proposal, Mr. Chairman, that we proceed to the final approval of our report on the basis of the English text only. In so agreeing, the Soviet delegation would like to stress that we do so by way of an exception, taking into account the state of affairs that has developed in the Committee and also the fact that our work on the draft report was very seriously delayed. At the same time, we

(Mr. Majorski, USSR)

regard this situation as not being altogether normal, and we proceed and shall continue to proceed from the assumption that for final approval the draft report will have to be made available in all working languages. In saying that, I do not mean in any way to reproach the Secretariat, which I know has done everything in its power to see to it that we get documents in time. We regard the situation as an exceptional one that has come about as a result of the turn of events that occurred in the final stages of our work. Nevertheless we do find it necessary to apply the principle that work should be carried out and documents be prepared in all the working languages. We wish to emphasize that principle.

Regarding the proposal of the representative of India, we doubt the appropriateness of making reference in the report to the fact that the representative of FAO showed us some slides. The showing of those slides, as I understand it, was not part of the Committee's work. It took place in an intermission between meetings on an unofficial basis. We were grateful for the show, but there was not any actual direct connexion with the work of our Committee. In fact, we had to make comments to our Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee concerning the more effective use of its time, and there was a reference to the showing of slides, films and the giving of lectures. Therefore, if it does not give rise to any very serious problems for the representative of India, I would request that he not press his last proposal.

Mr. ABDUDJALIL (Indonesia): My delegation does not share the opinion just expressed by the representative of the Soviet Union. In my opinion the proposal just made by India is very useful and I think the presentation by FAO yesterday was also very useful for the Committee. I suggest that there should be further presentation of the same kind in future years.

The CHAIRMAN: If the representatives wish to make additions, we shall have to consider this under "(b) Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee", as was previously suggested. The question now before us is chapter I. Introduction, paragraphs 1 to 15, with a few rearrangements as suggested by India.

Mr. BLACK (United States of America): Our delegation would support the rearrangement of paragraphs in the first section proposed by the representative of India, with one minor additional modification. It strikes us that probably it would be preferable to incorporate the reference to the statements of the specialized agencies -- ESRO and COSPAR -- as a separate paragraph in the first section. Therefore, we would propose that the order of paragraphs be 11, 13, 14, 12, with a new paragraph simply incorporating the last part of the present paragraph 12.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further comments on chapter I? If there are none, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to chapter I with the amendments proposed by India and the United States.

Chapter I, as amended, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We now come to the consideration of chapter II, Recommendations and Decision, which we shall take by sections beginning with section (A) Report of the Legal Sub-Committee, which comprises paragraphs 16 to 25. I invite delegations to offer their comments, if any, on those paragraphs.

Mr. VELLODI (India): With all due respect to members, we have the same difficulty that we expressed in the informal group in regard to the second sentence in paragraph 20. The difficulty is very simple. It is that we treat General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII) as referring to the Legal Sub-Committee's work during 1974, because the operative paragraph of that resolution on the draft treaty on the moon asks the Legal Sub-Committee to try and complete it at its next session -- that is its 1974 session. It would not be correct to say that the Legal Sub-Committee considered it necessary to continue work on the draft treaty relating to the moon in 1975 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII). It is a factual mistake. I would not mind, for example, if it said not specifically "in accordance with the General Assembly resolution", but something such as "in accordance with the spirit of the General Assembly resolution". But General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII) refers only to the 1974 meeting of the Legal Sub-Committee. That is why we had suggested that the reference to the General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII) should come in the first sentence, as follows:

"The Committee noted that Working Group I of the Legal Sub-Committee had, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII), pursued its work on the draft treaty relating to the moon."  
It is just a question of fact. I think we should be correct in what we are saying here. We have no hesitation in supporting this and we will do so in the General Assembly, unlike some others. In fact, there have been expressions in the informal group from some delegations -- not mine -- that the draft treaty relating to the moon should not have a high priority. There was that extreme view. I do not share it, but it is for the General Assembly to indicate what should be done in 1975. Therefore, I am raising this as a serious sort of

(Mr. Velloidi, India)

doubt whether we are doing the right thing in putting that phrase in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII) in the second sentence. I realize that this point was discussed in the informal group, but I must also confess that the decision was taken very suddenly and some of us did feel that we would be able to raise it at a second meeting.

Mr. DAYRELL de LIIO (Brazil) (interpretation from French): I was going to make a similar comment that paragraph 20 should be in keeping with the contents of paragraph 25 of the report submitted to us this afternoon. I will not go into the details, but I should like to support the statement just made by the representative of India.

Mr. LOPEZ-BASSOLS (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): In connexion with the statement by the representatives of India and Brazil, I believe that Mexico was one of the countries that pointed out that we should not present the draft treaty relating to the moon as a priority question. Therefore, we support the statement that has been made.

Mr. MAJORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): First of all, I should like to thank previous speakers for their great understanding of this problem. My delegation welcomes the close attention that has been given to this important question and we are prepared to give similar close attention to it ourselves. In the original drafting it was proposed to indicate that at the time when the Legal Sub-Committee recommended that the question of drafting a treaty on the moon be given priority in its further work, it was guided by General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII). I think this is beyond dispute. Therefore, in the original drafting this paragraph stated that the Committee also noted that the Sub-Committee, in accordance with resolution 3182 (XXVIII), considered it necessary to continue work on the draft treaty relating to the moon as a matter of priority.

(Mr. Majorski, USSR)

I do not claim to be absolutely accurate word-for-word in this quotation, but it was roughly along those lines. That sentence was rather a difficult one for some delegations. And then, by way of a compromise, the reference to General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII) was transferred to the end of the sentence, and we did not object to that. What is now proposed by way of a compromise is to rule out that reference altogether. But what if the Legal Sub-Committee really was guided by General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII) in its approach to this question?

(Mr. Majorski, USSR)

I do not altogether understand what it is proposed that we do. My delegation would be very happy to have this sentence read as it did in the original draft --- but I am afraid that that too will not meet with sufficient understanding on the part of my colleagues.

Mr. BLACK (United States of America): Perhaps this could serve as a compromise of the compromise: "The Committee also noted that, having in mind General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII), the Sub-Committee had considered it necessary ...".

The CHAIRMAN: Would the proposal just made by the representative of the United States satisfy the representatives of India, Brazil, Mexico and the USSR?

Mr. VELLODI (India): I cannot, of course, speak for other delegations which might hold strong views, but my delegation is prepared to go along with the proposal just made by the United States representative.

The CHAIRMAN: If the Committee agrees, we can adopt paragraph 20 with the amendment just presented by the representative of the United States?

Are there any other comments pertaining to paragraphs 16 to 25?

Mr. MAJORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It seems to us that in the penultimate line of paragraph 21 some reference should be made to two General Assembly resolutions: resolution 2916 (XXVII) and resolution 3182 (XXVIII) --- the latter resolution is in fact already referred to in that text. The phrase would then read something like this:

(spoke in English)

"in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2916 (XXVII) and 3182 (XXVIII) ...".

The CHAIRMAN: Since there are no other comments, I take it that the amendment just proposed by the representative of the Soviet Union is acceptable to the Committee.

If no other representatives have any observations on paragraphs 16 to 25, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to adopt section A of chapter II, "Report of the Legal Sub-Committee".

Section A of chapter II, as amended, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We come now to section B of chapter II, "Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee". This section is comprised of paragraphs 26 through 32.

For reasons of clarity we shall first take up paragraph 26 and subsection 1, entitled "Remote sensing of the earth by satellites", which ends with paragraph 32. Are there any comments?

Mr. VELLODI (India): I should like to revert to the suggestion I made earlier regarding the presentation of slides by the representative of FAO.

Mr. de SEIXAS-CORREA (Brazil), Rapporteur: As I understand it, when we were approving chapter I, the suggestion was made that we include the reference to the statements of the representatives of FAO and WHO as the last sentence of that chapter.

Mr. MAJORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It seems to us that in the sixth line of paragraph 30 there is a typographical error: the word "and" has been omitted between the words "field" and "precede". I am sure the representative of Brazil will correct me if I am mistaken since this part reflects, I believe, his proposal with some additions proposed by the Soviet delegation. Obviously a conjunction is missing.

Mr. de SEIXAS-CORREA (Brazil), Rapporteur: With reference to the remark made by the representative of the Soviet Union, I will take care of the matter he has raised.

There is another point concerning paragraph 30 to which I should like to draw the Committee's attention. With reference to the fourth line of that paragraph, some delegations pointed out to me before the meeting that it might perhaps not be appropriate to say "Those delegations reaffirmed their firm conviction..." in view of the repetition entailed by the use of the two words "reaffirmed" and "firm". It might therefore be advisable to delete the word "firm".

The CHAIRMAN: If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to that deletion -- bearing in mind, nevertheless, that it is a firm conviction.

The only problem we have then is whether or not to include a reference to the presentation of slides by the representative of FAO. We have not yet agreed on the proposal by the representative of India.

Does the representative of the Soviet Union maintain his objection or does he agree?

Mr. MAJORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I agree.

The CHAIRMAN: I would suggest that we authorize the representative of India, together with the Rapporteur, to draft a brief reference in this regard, to be added at the end of paragraph 32. Since it appears that there is no objection to that procedure, I now ask if the Committee agrees to adopt the first paragraph and subsection 1 of section B of chapter II - that is, paragraphs 26 through 32.

The first paragraph (para. 26) and subsection 1 of section B of chapter II, as amended, were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to subsection B2, entitled "United Nations Programme on space applications", is comprised of paragraphs 33 through 39.

I call on the Rapporteur, who wishes to make a short statement.

Mr. SEIXAS-CORREA (Brazil), Rapporteur: I wish to draw members' attention to the last line of paragraph 39. The last three words, "of its financing", of the last sentence of that paragraph should be deleted.

Mr. CHRISTIANI (Austria): On behalf of the eleven delegations which put forward a proposal concerning the matter which now is to be found in paragraph 39, I just want to state very briefly for the record that these delegations have agreed, in a spirit of compromise, that a reference he made to paragraph 29 of the Sub-Committee's report. I might state that the reference here "having due regard to the discussion... and the views expressed" does not, in our opinion, constitute an endorsement of this paragraph by the main Committee. The question of the amount is therefore left to the General Assembly, which, among other things, will also have before it the original financial estimate by the Expert.

Mr. EL-ZOEBY (Egypt): I simply wish to support the remarks just made by the representative of Austria. As a matter of fact, we have had the chance many times before to put on record our deep regret at not being able to reach a consensus on the formula presented by Australia, Austria, Sweden, India, Kenya, Pakistan, Egypt, Sudan, Mexico and Indonesia.

Mr. MAJORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The statements by my colleagues who have spoken immediately before me oblige me to say that in the approach to paragraph 29 our delegation took a rather different view, and that we regard this text as a taking into account by the Committee of the views which were expressed on this question by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and which are reflected in paragraph 29 of its report.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no further comments on subsection B2 of chapter II, comprising paragraphs 33 to 39, I shall consider it as adopted.

Subsection B2 of chapter II was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider subsection B3 of chapter II, entitled "Future planning for the United Nations programme on space applications and comprising paragraphs 40 to 43.

If there are no comments on this subsection I shall consider it as adopted.  
Subsection B3 of chapter II was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We now come to section B4 of chapter II, entitled "Exchange of Information and comprising paragraphs 44 and 45.

If there are no comments on this subsection, I shall consider it as adopted.  
Subsection B4 of chapter II was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We now come to subsection B5 of chapter II, entitled "International sounding rocket launching facilities and comprising paragraph 46.

If there are no comments on this subsection, I shall consider it as adopted.  
Subsection B5 of chapter II was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Subsection B6 of chapter II is entitled, "Future work of the Sub-Committee" and comprises paragraph 47. Are there any comments on this paragraph?

Mr. MAJORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Perhaps my knowledge of English is not sufficient, but quite frankly, I cannot imagine at all how this will come out in Russian. I have in mind the third item of the future programme of work of the Sub-Committee in its present drafting. Perhaps it needs to be rephrased to read "Possibility of convening ... such a conference.

The CHAIRMAN: The proposal is to redraft the third item in paragraph 47 to read: "Possibility of convening a United Nations conference on space applications". I call on the Rapporteur who wishes to make a comment.

Mr. SEIXAS-CORREA (Brazil), Rapporteur: Perhaps this problem has already been solved because this sub-item 3 in paragraph 47 is an exact reproduction of point 3 in paragraph 61 of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's report, which, I assume, has been translated into Russian. So I do not think there is really a problem there now.

Mr. VELLODI (India): With due respect to our Rapporteur, I am inclined to agree with the representative of the Soviet Union that point 3, even though it has been approved in that form in the Sub-Committee, could be improved, and I very much like the formulation you read out Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: The formulation I read out was: "Possibility of convening a United Nations conference on space applications".

Mr. BLACK (United States of America): I think that that formulation does indeed improve the phraseology. Like the Rapporteur, we had considered ourselves governed by the statement of the topics as contained in paragraph 61 of the Sub-Committee's report.

If we are going to modify these topics here, we would suggest, then, that topic one be changed to read: "Questions relating to remote sensing of the earth from space", in accordance with the change that was made elsewhere in the text.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that the Committee is at liberty to change the wording if we consider it more appropriate and linguistically proper.

Mr. FIORIO (Italy): I do not wish to question the formulation read out by the representative of the United States. I wish to refer to the one on the United Nations conference on space applications. I think that instead of using the word "Possibility" -- it is always possible to hold a conference -- we should say "Opportunity of convening ...".

Mr. BLACK (United States of America): With regret, Mr. Chairman, we feel that that prejudices the question. Perhaps the way out, as suggested by my colleague to my left -- the representative of the United Kingdom -- is to say "Proposed United Nations conference on space applications" or "Question of a second United Nations conference on space applications".



The CHAIRMAN: What is the preference of the Committee?

Mr. CHRISTIANI (Austria): My delegation would propose that the item read: "Question of convening a United Nations conference on space applications". I think that that is the most neutral formulation we could find.

The CHAIRMAN: If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Committee is in agreement with that proposal.

Accordingly, the first item would be redrafted to read: Questions relating to remote sensing of the earth from space"; the wording of the second item would remain unchanged; the third one would read: "Question of convening a United Nations conference on space applications"; and the wording of the fourth item would remain unchanged.

Mr. VELLODI (India): I do not want to make things more difficult, but did we not have some doubt in the informal meetings of the Committee about whether that conference should be restricted to space applications? I think the question was raised whether it should not be termed "United Nations space conference", or something like that.

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of India has a point. Paragraph 42 which we have just adopted refers to the "convening of a United Nations conference to be held on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of space activities"; so this fourth item in paragraph 47 could perhaps read: "Question of convening a United Nations space conference".

Mr. MAJORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I think we might agree with the Austrian proposal, adding the words "possibility of". If we formulate it as "Question of convening", that implies that the question has, in principle, already been decided. But if we say "Possibility of convening", then I think we will be quite precise.

Mr. BLACK (United States of America): Our delegation recalls that the proposal that was made was for a conference on space applications. We quite agree that as the process of considering the proposal goes on, the consensus may emerge that some other form of United Nations conference would be more suitable. But as a matter of simple historical accuracy, the present proposal is for a conference on space applications, and I believe it very important that we hold to that formulation at this time.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps we could meet all the views of delegations by having this item read: "Possibility of convening a United Nations conference on space applications". If that is agreeable to the Committee I shall take it that the Committee is now prepared to adopt subsection B6.

Subsection B6 of chapter II, as amended, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We come now to section C of chapter II, entitled "Report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites". This is not yet included in the report, but is contained in a separate paper which has just been distributed to delegations under the title "Revised draft for inclusion in the draft report".

This section C comprises paragraphs 48 to 53. Are there any comments on those paragraphs?

Mr. VELLODI (India): My delegation supports the draft regarding section C of our report. I should like, Mr. Chairman, with your permission, to make a brief statement with regard to the future work relating to direct broadcast satellites.

My delegation, like other delegations in this Committee, feels very strongly that we should have an opportunity of doing some preparatory work on some of the principles which were dealt with by the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites last March but on which there was not sufficient consensus for the Legal Sub-Committee to make any progress. In fact, the Legal Sub-Committee did not deal with any of those draft principles, and I refer specifically to the principles relating to prior consent and participation, programme content, illegality of broadcasts, and so on.

(Mr. Vellodi, India)

It was our hope that some way would be found in the Committee, through consensus, for holding such preparatory discussions before the session of the Legal Sub-Committee, which, we all realize and accent, is the forum where the final drafting of the principles is to take place. Several efforts were made in the Committee, as reflected in the new paragraph 53, subparagraphs (a) to (e).

May I also place on record a suggestion that my delegation made in the informal working group; we made it at the very last moment and for that reason delegations did not have adequate time to consider it in detail. The suggestion was that we might consider the possibility of convening a joint drafting group of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites and the Legal Sub-Committee, in consultation with the Chairmen of those two bodies, and of giving that joint drafting group a chance to meet in advance of the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee.

As I said, it was not possible to discuss that proposal in any detail, but I wanted to repeat our suggestion for the record and for any use that Governments or Member States might wish to make of it at an appropriate time.

Mr. KANGWANA (Kenya): My delegation would like to record its support for the statement that has been made by the representative of India.

Mr. LOPEZ BASSOLS (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): In keeping with the discussion that took place with reference to paragraph 53 (c), we wish to stress the need for respecting the order of the principles that are to govern direct television broadcasting. As was stated by one delegation, we should use the same order here as that found on page 10 and subsequent pages of document A/AC.105/127 -- that is, the phrase in parenthesis should read as follows: "such as, inter alia, ... rights and benefits of States, international co-operation, prior consent and participation ...".

(Mr. Lopez Bassols, Mexico)

To sum up, the contents of the phrase in parenthesis should be revised in order to preserve the order used in the report of the Working Group.

Mr. MAJORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I apologize: perhaps I did not altogether understand the representative of Mexico. If he was talking about the words included in brackets in sub-paragraph (c) on page 2 I can hardly agree with his proposal, because sub-paragraph (c) literally and accurately reflects the proposal submitted in writing, in the course of our informal meetings, by three delegations.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the representative of the Soviet Union has a point. That was indeed the wording of the proposal, so I am afraid we cannot change the wording. It reflects a proposal made formally by three delegations.

If there are no further comments on section C of chapter II, I shall consider it as adopted.

Section C of chapter II was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider chapter III, 'Other matters', comprising paragraphs 54 to 56.

If there are no comments on this chapter, I shall consider it adopted.

Chapter III was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider the last part of the report, chapter IV, 'Programme of work of the Committee and its Subsidiary Bodies'. Section 1, 'Schedule of meetings for 1975', comprises paragraphs 57 and 58.

If there are no comments on paragraphs 57 and 58, I shall consider the section adopted.

Section 1 of chapter IV was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Section 2 of chapter IV is entitled 'Other matters'. I call upon the Rapporteur, who wishes to make a statement.

Mr. de SELXAS CORREA (Brazil) (Rapporteur): I wish very briefly to indicate that paragraph 59 was drafted on the basis of a suggestion made in the informal consultations by the delegation of the Soviet Union and that there is a drafting mistake on line 4. The word 'so' should follow the word 'Secretariat', so that the text would read, "... by the Secretariat so that it might be provided ...".

Mr. BLACK (United States of America): Should there not be a word added also in the second line of paragraph 59 -- the word "additional", so that the text would read "... for meetings in 1975 without additional financial implications"?

The CHAIRMAN: That is correct.

Mr. PEREK (Czechoslovakia): My delegation wishes to propose the addition of the following words at the end of paragraph 59:

"Furthermore, the Committee, having been informed of the very heavy schedule of meetings of General Assembly organs and other organs of the United Nations system during 1976 and the years thereafter, requested the Secretariat to make every effort to schedule the meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as follows: Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, March or April; Legal Sub-Committee, April or May; Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, June or September."

Mr. FIORIO (Italy): My delegation supports the proposal just made by the representative of Czechoslovakia.

Mr. CHRISTIANI (Austria): My delegation supports the proposal made by the representative of Czechoslovakia, with one exception. The main Committee should meet in June, and we should not indicate the possibility of September. September is a very inconvenient time for most delegations because preparations for the General Assembly are going on. Therefore I would agree to his proposal with that one exception.

Mr. VELLODI (India): Our preference also would be to have the main Committee meet in June and not in September.

My other point is this. I did not take down the sentence read out by our friend from Czechoslovakia, but I thought I heard him say that the Committee would ask the Secretariat to schedule those meetings. It is really for the main Committee next year to fix the schedule for 1976. It is difficult for us to fix it at this point. Therefore, while I entirely

(Mr. Vellodi, India)

agree with the substance of his suggestion, I am wondering whether it would be appropriate for us at this time to ask the Secretariat to schedule the meetings for 1976, or whether we could do it in some other form by which the Committee could express a view regarding the scheduling.

Mr. CHRISTIANI (Austria): I think the point raised by the representative of India is well taken. I think it could be easily changed by asking the Secretariat not to do the scheduling but, rather, to provide the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with the possibility of holding the meetings at such-and-such a time, or something along those lines.

Mr. COCCA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): We simply wish to support the idea advanced by the representative of Czechoslovakia and supported by the delegations of Italy, India and Austria. It is in keeping with our own statement at this morning's informal meeting that in order to avoid greater expenditures for those delegations that have to come to the United Nations we could make the dates as close as possible to each other. Thus we are interested in the meetings of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee being as close to each other as possible.

With regard to meetings of the main Committee, this morning there seemed to be general agreement to the effect that the date 9-20 June was the best. We do indeed believe it to be the best date.

Mr. MAJORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Our delegation would of course prefer to leave open the possibility of two dates for the session in 1976 -- that is, either June or September. It seems to us there would be no great harm in leaving both possibilities open. At the same time, we should like to ask our colleagues whether there should not be a separate paragraph in this same recommendation asking the Secretariat to study -- in accordance with the new procedure for the planning of United Nations activities, and in the framework of the study that was carried out by the Joint Inspection Unit pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2960 (XXVII) -- the possibility of holding the session of our Committee in 1977 not in New York but in Geneva.

(Mr. Majorski, USSR)

The reason for this proposal is, among other things, that obviously if we plan to have our 1977 session in Geneva, we shall have a wider range of choice for the time of that session than we would if we held it in New York. All other things being equal, for example, we could easily plan our session in Geneva in, say, July 1977. In any case, it seems to us that if the Secretariat were to do some preparatory work of this kind by way of background it would be very useful.

Mr. GORITZA (Romania) (interpretation from French): I should like to make a comment with regard to the drafting. In the report we have chapter III entitled "Other matters". At the same time in chapter IV we have section 2 which also is entitled "Other matters". In order to avoid any confusion, I propose that we simply eliminate the two section headings from chapter IV. The title of the chapter itself is clear enough.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that suggestion acceptable to the Committee?

Mr. VELLODI (India): I have no difficulty with the suggestion of the representative of Romania. Perhaps then, instead of the heading "Schedule of meetings for 1975", we could say "Schedule of future meetings" -- because paragraph 59 relates not to 1975 but to 1976 and beyond. Could we just say "Schedule of meetings"?

The CHAIRMAN: Another possibility would be to change the heading of section 2 to "Related matters" instead of "Other matters", so that we would not then have "Other matters" twice in the report. As I hear no objection the heading of section 2 of chapter IV will be so amended.

We come back now to paragraph 59 and the proposal of the representative of Czechoslovakia, which I believe is widely supported in its amended form. I think there is agreement also, with some reluctance perhaps on the part of some delegations, to have just the June date for the main Committee. As far as the suggestions made by the representative of the Soviet Union are concerned, I believe that the wording of paragraph 59 allows for the Secretariat to provide the Committee with the widest possible choice, shall we say, of possibilities on the basis of which appropriate decisions of the Committee can be made.

Mr. VELLODI (India): My delegation would have no difficulty in accepting the proposal of the delegation of the Soviet Union to put both "June" and "September", because in any case it is for the Committee to take a decision next year. We would not object. We expressed our preference for June, but we agree with him that there is no harm in leaving it open.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall we then retain both dates and also change the wording as proposed by the representative of Austria? If I hear no objection I shall take it that it is so decided.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further comments on section 2, paragraphs 59 to 62?

Mr. HAFLEY (Canada): I should like to propose adding the following sentence to the end of paragraph 60: "However, this suggestion was not discussed by the Committee." And I would again propose, as I did this morning, the deletion of the last sentence of paragraph 61.

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of Canada proposes the addition of a sentence to paragraph 60, reading: "However, this suggestion was not discussed by the Committee." If I hear no objection I shall take it that this is acceptable to the Committee?

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The Canadian representative's second suggestion is that the last sentence of paragraph 61 should be deleted.

Mr. MAJORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We are prepared to accept some drafting changes in this last sentence of paragraph 61 so as not to overburden the Legal Sub-Committee -- if that is what our colleagues fear. But it does seem to us that if information of this kind is to be prepared then it is the Legal Sub-Committee which should be given it.

(Mr. Majorski, USSR)

It would be rather strange if we were to take a decision without being given some indication as to the view of the Legal Sub-Committee on this; it would be strange and even discourteous. So the authors of this paragraph, when they were preparing the draft, concluded that the Legal Sub-Committee should be kept up to date and that the Legal Sub-Committee, if it thought it necessary, could express a view on this. And if this language bothers certain delegations, we could perhaps try to replace it with something else. But I think the paragraph should be left in.

Mr. CHRISTIANI (Austria): I think the question of the venue of the subsidiary bodies was amply discussed here and there seemed to my delegation to be wide agreement that this was a matter to be considered mainly -- or even, I would say, exclusively -- by the main Committee. So I would support the suggestion made by the representative of Canada to delete the sentence. However, if this meets with objections, then I would propose deleting the words "to consider these estimates". It could be argued that the Legal Sub-Committee should consider its venue but certainly not "estimates". So perhaps, as a compromise, we could say:

"The Committee further requested its Legal Sub-Committee at its next session to formulate a recommendation to the Committee as to the venue of its future work."

My delegation would be prepared to accept such a sentence.

Mr. VELLODI (India): We might say something along the lines of the suggestion of the representative of Austria, but perhaps there is some merit in our not asking the Legal Sub-Committee to formulate recommendations because that might put the Legal Sub-Committee in some difficulty since without considering estimates and so forth, it might be difficult for it to formulate recommendations. Could we put it in a somewhat milder form by saying:

"The Committee further requested its Legal Sub-Committee to convey its views on the venue of its future work to the main Committee" -- or something along those lines, not specifically asking it to make a recommendation.

Mr. MAJORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Either proposal would be satisfactory to our delegation, but both of them do leave out one point. For the Legal Sub-Committee to be able to formulate any recommendations it has to receive the information for which we are asking. So the first thing we need to do is to put in some language to ensure that this document actually reaches the Legal Sub-Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I think there is a compromise in the air that just needs to be worded appropriately. Would the representative of India, with his customary drafting skill, help us out?

Mr. VELLODI (India): All I can suggest is that the sentence read: "The Committee further requested its Legal Sub-Committee, taking into account the estimates referred to above, to convey its views to the main Committee as to the venue of its future work."

The CHAIRMAN: As I hear no objection to that wording, I take it that the Committee agrees.

If there are no further comments on section 2 -- which is now entitled "Related matters" -- comprising paragraphs 59 to 62, I shall take it that the Committee adopts that section.

Section 2 of chapter IV, as amended, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: It now remains for us only to adopt the report as a whole.

The report as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

## CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

Mr. VELLODI (India): I do not wish to prolong this meeting, but I would be failing in my duty -- and I am speaking on behalf of all the delegations from Asia represented in this Committee -- if I did not express to you, Mr. Chairman, our very, very sincere and heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the admirable way in which you have, as usual, conducted the proceedings of our Committee. If we have been able to complete our work on time -- and perhaps even ahead of schedule -- it is very largely due to the patience, understanding and energy which you have evinced during the past two weeks.

I should also like to express our profound gratitude to our very able and hard-working Rapporteur, who had to shoulder tremendous responsibilities within very severe constraints regarding time and without whose valuable assistance we could not have carried out our work.

Needless to say, I should also like to convey our very deep gratitude to Mr. Robinson, who has done a wonderful job as Secretary of the Committee, and all his colleagues -- I need not mention their names; to Mr. Murthy, the Expert on Space Applications; and to all the other members of the Secretariat who have greatly assisted us in our work.

Mr. FIORIO (Italy): I should like to speak for two reasons. First, I should like to call the Secretary's attention to some very small corrections to our statement in the general debate, which appears in the verbatim record of the 133rd meeting, held on 2 July. On page 16 there is the phrase "experiments in Mike-frequency", which does not mean anything. Instead of "Mike" it should read "ultra-high". On page 17 reference is made to a "ground station at Fiumicino"; the station is at "Fucino". On the same page we read "... the ERTS data for their sutdy"; the last word should read "study". Those are the three corrections to our statement.

(Mr. Fiorio, Italy)

Secondly, I wish, on behalf of my delegation, to compliment you, Mr. Chairman, for having presided over a particularly difficult session of this Committee with patient firmness and great ability. My delegation recognizes that while in the past this Committee was confronted with rather abstract problems, in both the scientific and the legal fields, problems that were thus of less practical importance for the delegations concerned, now the tremendous progress in space applications has brought to us bread-and-butter problems whose solutions will be ever more difficult to achieve unless delegations are willing to sacrifice substantially their fully legitimate interests for the sake of all concerned, including themselves.

For those reasons my delegation, which has always been ready --- perhaps too ready --- to sacrifice its position in order to achieve consensus on the vital matters which fall within our responsibility, is only moderately satisfied with the results of this session and the text of our report and fervently hopes that next year the work of this Committee will be conducted in such a way as to produce a report that will contain, not expressions by this or that delegation reflecting a lack of consensus but, rather, views and recommendations fully subscribed to by all the members as fellow representatives of a single earth.

Mr. KLEINPETER (German Democratic Republic): In the name and on behalf of the delegations of the socialist countries in this body, I should like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your conscientious and experienced guidance during the work of this Committee. It has been possible, with your help, to reach compromise on very difficult matters and we are very grateful to you in this connexion.

We thank the Rapporteur also for his active work in drafting the report.

Our thanks go also to the Secretariat staff, including the interpreters.

(Mr. Kleinpeter, German  
Democratic Republic)

The Committee has taken a new, hopeful and, we feel, important step in the direction of solving the problems before it. We look forward to the work before us in both the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the subsidiary bodies; and we assure you, Mr. Chairman, and through you the members of the Committee that the socialist countries are ready to co-operate constructively in the future work.

Mr. LECLERCQ (France) (interpretation from French): On behalf of the delegations of the Western European and other States Group, I should like to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, our gratitude for the authority, effectiveness and courtesy with which you have presided over our work. We are all fully aware of all those qualities that you possess and they have been merely confirmed once again. We would like to thank you most sincerely.

We should also like to thank the Secretariat staff that has worked with you so effectively, as well as the Rapporteur, whose imminent departure we particularly regret.

Mr. COCCA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): It is a pleasure for my delegation to speak on its own behalf and an honour for it to speak on behalf of the other Latin American delegations -- that is, Brazil and Mexico -- in expressing to you, Mr. Chairman, our great pleasure at the achievement of a report which harmonizes so many contradictory views and involved so much personal work on your part, as well as on the part of the Rapporteur and members of the Secretariat, in particular the Secretary.

Ever since 1965 I have had the opportunity to attend meetings of this Committee and I have noted that each year our work becomes more and more complex. This time those who read our report will see that financial questions have been added to others. They do not appear with the same detail in other reports on future meetings. We are now also dealing with the question of venue. All this leads us to the conclusion that your task, Sir, has been a very complex one but that you have overcome the difficulties with your well-known talent in presiding over our discussions and your full knowledge of how to deal with highly controversial situations.

(Mr. Cocca, Argentina)

I should also like to thank the Expert in charge of Space Applications for his contribution. I do not wish to omit any members of our Secretariat. I thank those who are present in this room, those who sit in the glass booths and other staff that we do not see here at this time.

On behalf of the Latin American delegations, I should like again to thank you, Sir, and to express the hope that we will soon meet again and work under your guidance.

Mr. LAURENT (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) (interpretation from French): I do not wish to prolong this meeting unnecessarily but I feel that I must draw attention to two errors that have crept into the French version of the statement made by the FAO representative on 9 July, which is contained in document A/AC.105/PV.140. On page 39-40, the word "consacre" should be replaced by the word "constate". The beginning of the sentence would thus read: "Quoi qu'il en soit, l'intérêt que l'on constate...", and the rest of the sentence remains unchanged.

Again, on page 41, the sentence which begins in the middle of the seventh line should read as follows: "C'est le point de son ordre du jour ayant rapport aux moyens d'augmenter la production agricole dans les pays en développement qui, semble-t-il, conviendrait ...", and the rest of the sentence also remains unchanged.

Those two corrections concern only the French-language version.

Mrs. JOKA-BANGURA (Sierra Leone): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the members of the African Group in this Committee, I wish to thank you very sincerely for the skilful, courteous and brilliant way in which you have conducted not only the general debates of the Committee but especially this difficult task of preparing the report.

I also wish, on behalf of the Group, to thank the Rapporteur for his patience and hard work in preparing the different corrected versions of the report.

Our thanks also go to the members of the Secretariat, including especially the Expert.

I cannot close this short statement without thanking the members of this Committee who have worked very hard. Discussions have been very frank and even heated at times. Those points on which we have agreed have, I think, justified all the hard feelings and the heated feelings during the meetings.

We look forward next year to a better and fruitful session, especially an enlarged membership of the Committee, particularly from the African Group.



The CHAIRMAN: As no other representative wishes to speak before we close the seventeenth session of the Committee, I should like first of all to express my thanks to all those delegations which have addressed kind words to me. I think that I can also speak on behalf of the Rapporteur and the Secretariat, who have also received expressions of appreciation.

We have a period of hard but, I feel, also successful work behind us. The result of our labours is before us in the form of the report for consideration by the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly. I think that this report reflects considerable achievement on the part of the Committee and its sub-bodies. I would, in particular, highlight the agreement achieved on an important segment of space law, the agreement on the registration convention, which fills a gap which we felt for a long time.

I am also happy to say that we have been able once again to map out in considerable detail the work of our Committee and its sub-bodies for 1975. It will be an important year in space events, as this year has been. Recently -- even during the session of this Committee -- we witnessed important space events such as the Soviet space launch at the very beginning of our meetings when the Soyuz-14 spacecraft achieved a successful docking with the Salyut space laboratory, and in a few days the United States will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Apollo 11 launching, the first manned moon mission. So this is a time of important events in space, and 1975 will see more important and trail-blazing events, such as the Apollo-Soyuz venture, which is scheduled for next year.

I feel that this Committee is one of the most hopeful and constructive committees of the United Nations, with the task of opening up new horizons. Many of these new horizons are reflected in our past work, and will be reflected in our future work, and as we read the report very important new fields of international co-operation, especially in outer space, are shown to us.

Some members have already spoken of these new horizons in previous meetings of this Committee and its Sub-Committees. Another subject which might perhaps at one stage or another come to our attention is that of solar energy. Many members are aware of feasibility studies being conducted to utilize solar energy to generate electricity on the surface of the earth. These studies envisage the establishment of satellites in space with huge solar panels capable of storing the

(The Chairman)

energy of the sun and transmitting this energy to the earth. I mention this only to point out that for the future this Committee has a great number of avenues which it could use in approaching the manifold tasks before it.

Distinguished representatives, before closing the seventeenth session, I wish to thank you once again for your co-operation and your patience. A tribute is due to all the representatives here. A tribute is due to the Secretariat and particularly to the hard-working members of the Outer Space Affairs Division, so ably led in the past by Mr. Abdel-Ghani and now in this period by the Secretary of our Committee, Mr. Robinson, to whom a special tribute is due. A tribute is also due to the verbatim reporters and the interpreters, whom this year, fortunately, we did not have to overtax because the Committee was able to finish its work within the time allotted to it.

Finally, I should like to address a word of farewell and thanks to those of you who will shortly be posted to other important assignments. I am thinking in particular of Mrs. Joka-Bangura, who just spoke, who will be leaving New York soon. I wish to tell her that we shall miss her in the Outer Space Committee as well as in other organs of the United Nations. Our Rapporteur will also be leaving New York but he will maintain his position as Rapporteur of the Committee. So this is not a farewell to him but rather an expression of hope that we shall maintain our good co-operation.

We have thus come to the end of the seventeenth session, and with an expression of hope for our future co-operation in future common achievements by all of us here in the Outer Space Committee, I conclude our work for this year.

I declare closed the seventeenth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.