

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.105/PV.203
16 July 1979

ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 3 July 1979, at 6 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria)

Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

Closure of the session

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages, preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also, if possible, incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room A-3550.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

79-70495

The meeting was called to order at 6.10 p.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The CHAIRMAN: Members have before them the draft report of the Committee to the General Assembly. I suggest that, as in previous years, we take up and adopt the draft report section by section. Delegations may, if they wish, comment on each section.

I call on the Rapporteur.

Mr. GARCIA (Brazil), Rapporteur: The draft report is contained in documents A/AC.105/L.113 and Add.1-4, A/AC.105/L.115 and Add.1 and 2, as well as the report of the Working Group on the draft treaty relating to the moon, which should also be read as part of our report.

The CHAIRMAN: Chapter I, the introduction to the report, comprises paragraphs 1 to 16. That takes account of the renumbering after the inclusion of a new paragraph, numbered 14A in document A/AC.105/L.113/Add.3, which was accepted earlier in informal meetings. Paragraph 1 would say that the Committee held its twenty-second session at United Nations Headquarters from 18 June to 3 July 1979, and the symbol of the document containing the verbatim record of the last meeting would be completed accordingly.

If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Committee adopts the introduction to the draft report.

The introduction (A/AC.105/L.113) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to chapter II, "Recommendations and decisions". Subsection 1 of section A is entitled "Remote sensing of the earth by satellites" and is contained in document A/AC.105/L.113/Add.1, in what will be paragraphs 17 to 29.

Mr. BOND (United States of America): We are a little confused. We had a very lengthy discussion on paragraph 21, for example, and agreed on alternative language which I do not see reflected. Document A/AC.105/L.113/Add.1 is dated "26 June". Is there a more recent version of this?

The CHAIRMAN: I am sorry; I should have said that the final version of the report is not now generally available. The revised paragraph 21 now reads as follows:

"The Committee took note of the various views expressed on the subject of dissemination of data by both Sub-Committees (A/AC.105/238, annex I, paras. 12 to 15, and A/AC.105/240, annex I, para. 17)."
That was the language agreed to and it will appear in the report.

Mr. HOSENBALL (United States of America): I think it would be most useful if, as we proceeded, we could be told of any changes.

The CHAIRMAN: The Rapporteur will gladly comply with that request. There are also, of course, in this subsection of the report the new subparagraphs 28A and B, contained in document A/AC.105/L.113/Add.3, which we adopted in informal meetings yesterday.

If there are no other comments, I shall take it that this subsection is adopted.

Subsection 1 of section A of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.113/Add.1) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Subsection 2 of section A deals with direct television broadcasting by satellites and is contained in present paragraphs 30 to 33.

If there are no comments on subsection 2, I shall consider it adopted.

Subsection 2 of section A of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.113/Add.1) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Subsection 3 of section A is entitled "Definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities bearing in mind, *inter alia*, questions relating to the geostationary orbit", and comprises paragraphs 34 to 38 in which is reflected the language agreed to in the informal meetings. If necessary, those paragraphs can be read out.

If there are no comments, I shall take it that this subsection is adopted.

Subsection 3 of section A of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.113/Add.1) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Subsection 4 of section A has an amended title: "Space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space". It also contains two new paragraphs agreed to in the informal meetings.

If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Committee adopts that subsection.

Subsection 4 of section A of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.113/Add.1) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Subsection 5 of section A is entitled "Use of nuclear power sources in outer space" and includes paragraphs 41 to 48 (a). There will of course be renumbering in the final version.

If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Committee adopts that subsection.

Subsection 5 of section A of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.113/Add.1) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Subsection 6 of section A is entitled "Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit" and comprises the present paragraphs 49 and 50.

If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Committee adopts that subsection.

Subsection 6 of section A of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.113/Add.1) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to subsection 7, entitled "Draft treaty relating to the moon", comprising the present paragraphs 51, 52 and everything under 53 as adopted earlier this afternoon in the informal meeting (A/AC.105/L.113/Add.4).

If I hear no comments, I shall take it that this subsection is adopted.
Subsection 7 of section A of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.113/Add.1) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We now turn to section B, entitled "Programme and activities relating to outer space in the United Nations", originally contained in document A/AC.105/L.113/Add.2.

In section B we have present paragraphs 54 through 63, and a new paragraph 63A at present contained in document A/AC.105/L.113/Add.3. Again, all the paragraphs will be consecutively renumbered.

If I hear no comments, I shall take it that this section is adopted.
Section B of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.113/Add.2) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The next part of the report is section C, entitled "Preparation for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: report of the Preparatory Committee". This is the part of the report that deals with the work of the Committee as the Preparatory Committee of the Second United Nations Conference and was originally contained in document A/AC.105/L.115.

We shall first consider paragraphs 1 to 5. There is a new paragraph 4A, noting the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development that we incorporated in the course of our work.

If I hear no comments, I shall take it that this part of section C is adopted.

Paragraphs 1 to 5 of section C of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.115) were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The next portion concerns the title of the Conference and comprises present paragraph 6.

If I hear no objections, I shall take it that this subsection is adopted.
Subsection I of section C of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.115) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to subsection II, entitled "Agenda", which contains present paragraphs 7 to 19, and two new paragraphs to be found in document A/AC.105/L.115/Add.1.

If I hear no comments, I shall take it that this subsection is adopted.
Subsection II of section C of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.115) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to subsection III, entitled "Final report", which comprises present paragraph 20.

If I hear no comments, I shall take it that this subsection is adopted.
Subsection III of section C of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.115) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Next comes subsection IV A, entitled "Preparation and organization of the Conference", and contains the present paragraph 21 and its various subparagraphs.

If I hear no comments, I shall take it that this subsection is adopted.
Subsection IV A of section C of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.115) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: On page 6 we have subsection IV B, "Organization", comprising paragraphs 22 to 25.

Mr. SUCHARIPA (Austria): With reference to paragraph 22 (b) of document A/AC.105/L.115 which deals with the post of the Executive Secretary of the Conference, my delegation would like to express its hope that the well-known experience of the current Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division, Mr. Perek, will be made available in the course of the preparation of the Conference.

Mr. PILLAI (India): My delegation would like to support the view just now expressed by the representative of Austria. In fact, in our statement on this subject, our delegation expressed such a hope.

Mr. SOKALSKI (Poland): My delegation shares the feelings just expressed by the representatives of Austria and India.

Mr. SANCHEZ PEÑA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation also supports the proposal put forth by the delegation of Austria and the other delegations who have spoken before me.

The CHAIRMAN: If I hear no other comments, I shall take it that this subsection is adopted.
Subsection IV B of section C of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.115) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We now turn to subsections V, VI, VII and VIII, contained in document A/AC.105/L.115/Add.2.

Mr. EDMONDS (Canada): Before we proceed further, my delegation would like to make a small procedural suggestion, namely, that what is now known as subsection VI, entitled "Procedure", should in fact be (4) at the end of the subsection on organization. It would more logically come under organization than after the subsection on the cost of the conference.

The CHAIRMAN: If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to the proposal of the representative of Canada.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: If I hear no comments, I shall take it that subsection V, "Ceiling for the cost of the Conference", VI "Procedure" - to be inserted in the place proposed by Canada -, VII "Date" and VIII "Venue" are adopted.

Subsections V, VI, VII and VIII of section C of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.115/Add.2) were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We then come to section D of chapter II of our report "Future work of the Sub-Committees, paragraphs 64, 65, 66, 66A and 67.

Mr. RICHER (France) (interpretation from French): After a lengthy discussion on whether the Committee would take note of a proposal contained in a working paper by France on the need to have a general debate in the Sub-Committees, you said, Mr. Chairman, that since the Committee had not taken any new decision on this matter, our traditional habit should not be changed. What I am asking the Committee now is that we should note that some delegations did make the proposal. I would propose a paragraph 67A, let us say, saying that:

"Some delegations proposed that the two Sub-Committees discuss, at their next meeting, whether or not they should necessarily begin each of their sessions with a general debate."

Thus we would be recalling the position that was voiced by a number of delegations.

The CHAIRMAN: A proposal has been made to insert a new paragraph 67A, or perhaps 68, along the lines of the language proposed by France.

Mr. KOLOSSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It would read "Some delegations proposed that the two Sub-Committees discuss" and then is it "at their next meeting" or "meetings"? We did not understand whether it was in the singular or the plural - a meeting, or meetings.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we should ask the representative of France, but I believe that what is meant in the first place is "sessions" because we have over-all sessions which include many meetings. What is apparently meant is "at the next session" or "sessions". We shall have to ask the representative of France what he has in mind.

Mr. RICHER (France) (interpretation from French): My proposal was in the singular. "Each Sub-Committee at its next session". Each Sub-Committee has a session, but in French it must remain in the singular. We do not want the subject to be rediscussed at each session of each Sub-Committee. We are talking about their sessions in the plural, but in French the singular is quite clear.

The CHAIRMAN: Has the Soviet Union any further comments?

Mr. KOLOSSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am sorry, Sir, but we should like you to repeat it once more. We want to be quite clear about the words "its" and "their" and exactly how it will read in English - in English rather than Russian in fact - because it might be "all delegations" or "some delegations" and all that is very important to us. We want to know now and not at any later stage exactly how the final text will read.

The CHAIRMAN: I will read it out once again.

"Some delegations proposed that the two Sub-Committees discuss, at their next session" -

one could also say "at each of their next sessions" -

"whether or not they should necessarily begin each of their sessions with a general debate."

Mr. KOLOSSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It is still not clear. Do we mean:
(spoke in English)

"Some delegations proposed that each of the two Sub-Committees discuss at its next meeting" or "some delegations proposed that the two Sub-Committees discuss at its next meetings" or "meeting".

(continued in Russian)

We still do not understand whether it is one meeting or whether the meetings are simultaneous.

The CHAIRMAN: Before I call on the representative of France, may I say to the representative of the Soviet Union that my understanding of what is meant - and we can of course improve on the language - is that "each of the two Sub-Committees, each at its next meeting". What is meant is that each one at its next separate meeting should discuss this matter.

Mr. RICHER (France) (interpretation from French): Yes, that is quite right, that is exactly what I said. We can put it in French even more clearly than I gave it the first time. We could say, for example:

"Some delegations proposed that each Sub-Committee discuss at its next session, whether or not it" -
in the singular -

"should begin each session with a general debate."

Mr. KOLOSSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I thank the representative of France. It is all clear now. But we have a substantive question to raise. Can the Legal Sub-Committee, for example, at its next session resolve the question of whether each session should begin with a general debate? I do not think the Sub-Committee can make decisions as to how to organize the debate, whether at the next session or in two sessions' time the general debate should be scrapped, and so on. It might decide that at some sessions it would have a general debate and at others it would not. We would go along with that approach.

We have always said that at each session each Sub-Committee can decide whether or not to have a general debate; that is up to the Sub-Committee concerned. Therefore, bearing in mind the fact that we are very near a consensus, we would ask whether instead of saying "some delegations" we could say "the Committee" agreed.

Mr. HOSENBALL (United States of America): I think we had this discussion yesterday. The thrust of it was that the delegation of the Soviet Union did not feel that this Committee should give directions to its Sub-Committees. We understand that it was in view of that thought that the representative of France offered the suggestion that each of the Sub-Committees at its next session should conduct the discussion that we have been precluded from holding at these meetings - namely discussion as to whether or not it would be useful to have general debates or to eliminate them, or whether we should perhaps be flexible on the question of general debates.

The idea is that each Sub-Committee will at its next session have a general discussion about the issue of general debates. The idea was not to endorse the concept that no delegation, upon arriving at a meeting of a Sub-Committee, knows whether or not that Sub-Committee is going to decide to have a general debate or not.

Therefore we could accept the French text as it stands. But we would not be able to accept the Soviet proposal.

Mr. RICHER (France) (interpretation from French): I did not want to re-open the debate. We had a debate yesterday, and there was no consensus. Today I was simply asking that the positions of some delegations be noted. I think my proposal very accurately reflects what I wanted to say and what a number of other delegations had in mind, and that is all. There was no consensus yesterday, and I do not think it would be fitting to re-open the debate today.

We are not prepared to resume a debate that fruitlessly took up so much time yesterday. We should just like the positions of some delegations to be noted. That is what I said. That has already been done on a number of occasions.

The CHAIRMAN: If I hear no other comments, I shall take it that the Committee adopts section D, with the insertion of the sentence proposed by France.

Session D of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.113/Add.3) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We come now to section E, "Other matters" - paragraphs 68, 69 and 70.

If I hear no comments, I shall take it that this section is adopted.

Section E of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.113/Add.3) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Finally, we come to section F, entitled "Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies".

The Committee agreed that in 1980 the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee would meet from 28 January to 15 February; the rest of the schedule will be as in Conference Room Paper No. 3.

If I hear no comments, I shall take it that section F is adopted.

Section F of chapter II (A/AC.105/L.113/Add.3) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We have thus adopted the report of the Committee on its twenty-second session to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN: I wish, on my own behalf and on behalf of the other officers of the Committee, to thank all delegations for the exemplary spirit of compromise and understanding they have once again displayed. That spirit has been particularly fruitful this year, and we have, indeed, come up with what I believe one can qualify as a momentous achievement - namely, the completion of the treaty on the moon and other celestial bodies. In view of the shortness of time I shall not mention all the other significant achievements that the Committee has been able to make at this session, not the least of which is that, in view of the especially good spirit of co-operation evident this year, we have been able to finish our work ahead of schedule. I believe that that will earn this Committee the special appreciation of the Organization and from other bodies of the United Nations that have been awaiting conference facilities, which we can now release to them, thus making it possible for work in other areas of international co-operation to go forward in an effort to arrive at achievements such as ours.

A number of delegations wish to speak before we adjourn. I shall now call upon them.

Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Group of Eastern European Socialist States, permit me to thank you for the manner in which you have performed your functions as you have presided over the Committee's activities and for your personal contribution to the important results of our work.

At the same time I should like to express equal gratitude to our friends Mr. Yash Pal and Comrade Szelei, who as the Chairmen of the Working Groups contributed so constructively, with proposals, to the achievement of such positive results in the Committee.

I should like to take this opportunity to give my best thanks to Mr. Perek, of whose valuable experience we shall, I trust, also be able to avail ourselves in connexion with the forthcoming Conference on Outer Space.

(Mr. Zachmann, German
Democratic Republic)

Our thanks also go to all the staff of the Secretariat, including the interpreters, who have very often shown great patience and have helped to settle the many questions that have arisen in the course of the deliberations.

My delegation wishes to underline the idea, expressed during the general debate in the Committee, that implementation of the SALT-II Agreement concluded between the USSR and the United States of America and its spirit will have a positive bearing on the peaceful use of outer space.

My delegation deems it a valuable result of our discussions that we have succeeded in bringing about significant compromises relating to the preparation of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. My delegation also highly appreciates the fact that it has been possible to remove substantial hindrances obstructing the conclusion of a moon treaty. The Committee's decision to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, for consideration and final adoption, the draft agreement covering the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies is an important achievement of this Committee. Though it has not been possible to overcome all impediments, particularly in relation to determination of the venue of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, we nevertheless wish to express the hope that at the coming meetings of the Outer Space Committee agreement will be reached that the said Conference should be held in Moscow, the capital of the USSR.

In conclusion, I wish you, Mr. Chairman, personal well-being and success in your future activities.

Mr. HOSENBALL (United States of America): It is with a great deal of pleasure that I address this Committee. I have personal reasons for making that statement. Many delegations will recognize that during this session the United States has expressed an interest in shortening our sessions. One of the difficulties with having longer sessions is that those of us who have responsibilities in other areas find it very difficult to take seven to ten weeks of our time to attend sessions of the Committee, no matter how much we enjoy doing so. Thus, this may possibly be the last session of the Committee that I shall attend. It has given me great pleasure to serve on the Committee for the past ten years. I have, equally, had the pleasure and privilege of participating in the negotiation of three important treaties during this decade. I am particularly pleased that at this session we have made progress in two important areas: the convening of the Second Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and the approval by this Committee of an agreement relating to the moon and other celestial bodies.

The significance of this Committee's approval of the text of the agreement relating to the moon is several-fold. It is a reaffirmation of the constructive spirit in this Committee, which has now produced some five treaty texts since its inception - an enviable record. It is also a reaffirmation of the validity of the consensus procedures by which this Committee works. Consensus may not be the speediest method of work, but it is a method which best ensures that the results achieved by the Outer Space Committee are meaningful and will be generally accepted. Consensus - that is, the full support of all members of the Committee - is a method especially appropriate to dealing with outer space, the common province of mankind. Article XI of the draft moon agreement, which declares that celestial bodies other than the earth, and the natural resources of such celestial bodies, are the common heritage of mankind, was initially suggested by Argentina but was formally proposed by my delegation in 1972. It makes clear that the parties to the agreement undertake, as the exploitation of the natural resources of the celestial

(Mr. Hosenball, United States)

bodies other than the earth is about to become feasible, to convene a conference to negotiate an international régime to govern the exploitation of those mineral and other substantive resources which may be found on the surface or subsurface of a celestial body. The draft agreement - and I am particularly pleased about this, as a member of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - as part of the compromises made by many delegations, places no moratorium upon the exploitation of the natural resources on celestial bodies, pending the establishment of an international régime. This permits orderly attempts to establish that such exploitation is in fact feasible and practicable, by making possible experimental beginnings and, then, pilot operations, a process by which we believe we can learn if it will be practicable and feasible to exploit the mineral resources of such celestial bodies. My Government will, when and if these negotiations for such a régime are called for, under articles XI and XVIII, make every effort to see that the régime is successfully negotiated.

We note also with satisfaction that article XI, paragraph 8, by referring to article VI, paragraph 2, makes it clear that the right to collect samples of natural resources is not infringed upon and that there is no limit upon the right of States parties to utilize, in the course of scientific investigations, such quantities of those natural resources found on celestial bodies as are appropriate for the support of their missions. We believe that this, in combination with the experimental and pilot programmes, will foster and further, and perhaps speed up, the possibility of the commercial or practical exploitation of natural resources.

Article III of the draft agreement is also noteworthy. It is a clear statement of the principle that the celestial bodies and those orbits around them are to be utilized only for peaceful - that is, non-aggressive - purposes. Paragraph 2 of article III, by spelling out in detail some of the consequences to be drawn from article II,

(Mr. Hosenball, United States)

makes it absolutely clear that hostile acts, such as the use or threat of use of force, in violation of the United Nations Charter, are forbidden.

Article VII contains important protections for the environment celestial bodies. We note the Committee's understanding that the language of this article is not intended to be read in such a way as to result in prohibiting the exploitation of natural resources to be found on celestial bodies but, rather, that any such exploitation is to be carried out in such a manner as to minimize, so far as possible, disruption of or adverse changes in the environment.

There has been considerable discussion of article I of the draft agreement. We accept the Committee's conclusions as to this article - namely, first, that references to the moon are intended to be references also to other celestial bodies, other than the earth; secondly, that references to the moon's natural resources are intended to comprehend those natural resources to be found on these celestial bodies; and, thirdly, that the trajectories and orbits referred to in article I, paragraph 2 do not include trajectories and orbits of space objects in earth orbit only, or trajectories of space objects between the earth and earth orbit.

(Mr. Hosenball, United States)

In regard to the phrase "earth orbit only", the fact that a space object in earth orbit also is in orbit around the sun does not bring the space objects which are only in earth orbit within the scope of this treaty; and a space object orbiting the moon, while the moon orbits the earth as well as the sun, is in fact within the scope of this treaty.

In regard to the matter of the moon treaty's relation to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, discussions in the Committee resulted in no statements to the effect that the moon treaty is intended to weaken in any way the provisions of the 1967 Treaty. In this light, and taking into account the last two preambular paragraphs of the moon treaty, there was a feeling that a non-derogation provision would be superfluous. Our delegation accepted this view, and has joined in the consensus on the moon treaty with the understanding that it in no way derogates from or limits the provisions of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

Since this might be my final statement - although I hope that it will not be - I should like to express my personal appreciation and the appreciation of other members of my delegation to you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Secretariat, including the Outer Space Affairs Division. I am most grateful for the assistance that has been rendered by the Secretariat, including the Outer Space Affairs Division, and in particular for Mr. Perek's assistance and wise advice.

While this morning I congratulated the representative of Hungary for the work he has done as Chairman of the Working Group, I should like to do so again publicly and on the record. Without his patience, tact and persistence, I do not know whether we would have achieved the results that we have achieved today.

I should also like to thank other delegations in this Committee, which joined together in one of the most constructive sessions I have had the pleasure of attending. I thank them for the patience they showed to my delegation and other delegations as well and express my appreciation to them for making this a very pleasurable and satisfying experience for me.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like, on the behalf of the Committee, to express the hope that this will indeed not be Mr. Hosenball's last appearance before this Committee.

Mr. KIRSCH (Canada) (interpretation from French): My delegation in its general statement at the beginning of this session expressed some concern with regard to the difficulties which the Sub-Committees of the Committee on Outer Space had encountered earlier this year in making material progress in a number of areas. We wondered if the well-deserved reputation of the Committee for as an effective framework for negotiation might not suffer from this relative loss of momentum. My delegation has been pleased to see so quickly that its fears were groundless. Hence, it is only fitting that we should now express our satisfaction at all the progress made during this session of the Committee on Outer Space.

It seems to us that the agreement on the moon and other celestial bodies deserves first mention. The crowning of so many years of efforts is an achievement which not only represents an important contribution to the gradual elaboration of outer space law but also is likely to give our Committee new impetus. In this connexion we wish to highlight the spirit of co-operation and determination shown by all delegations in the negotiations as well as the special efforts of the Austrian delegation.

This spirit of co-operation was also evident in the agreement we reached at this session regarding the inclusion in the Legal Sub-Committee's agenda of a new item relating to the use of nuclear energy sources in outer space. This is an excellent example of the ability of the Committee to adapt its activities to new needs which can arise as a result of the rapid rate of new technical developments in outer space activities.

With regard to the Outer Space Conference, a few questions of course still have to be settled. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the Committee did at this session make considerable progress in preparing a sound basis for the work of the Conference. We are particularly pleased that a rather broad framework for the Conference has been maintained and that general agreement has been reached with regard to the Bureau of the Conference and the procedure that the Conference will follow. It is now possible to undertake on that basis detailed preparations for the Conference, and we shall devote all our efforts to ensuring its success.

(Mr. Kirsch, Canada)

We stressed in our general statement that it would be useful to consider possible ways of making the future work of the Committee as fruitful as possible with regard both to procedure and to substance. Whether we decide to change certain of our working procedures or essentially to maintain our present methods, an examination of the organization of our work is in itself useful and demonstrates that the Committee is in good health; we hope to come back to this at an appropriate time and place.

We hope that the Committee will continue to devote its attention not only to developments directly related to the matters with which it deals but also to the implications for our activities of other techniques of which the Committee has not thus far been seized. That is a complex undertaking, but, in my delegation's opinion, it is essential if the Committee is to maintain its vitality and relevance.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to express to you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Bureau and the Chairmen of the Working Groups my delegation's heartfelt gratitude for the efforts made at this session, which have in large measure contributed to its success.

Our gratitude goes also to the members of the Secretariat, who have once again demonstrated their competence and dedication. I should like in this context to express the hope that the present members of the Secretariat, and the Director of the Outer Space Affairs Division in particular, will be able to lend us their valuable assistance in the preparation of the forthcoming Outer Space Conference.

Mr. DAYRELL DE LIMA (Brazil) (interpretation from French): Another delegation will speak on behalf of all the Latin American delegations to express our gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman, for your enlightened guidance of our work, and to express our appreciation to all the other members of the Bureau, the Chairmen of the working groups which have been meeting during this session, and to the Secretariat. At this time I wish only to assess the work that has been done on the draft agreement on the moon and other celestial bodies. We are particularly happy that this Committee, after so many years of work, has reached a consensus on a draft agreement on the moon and other celestial bodies. We can be justly proud that with that decision we have again followed our tradition as one of the most dynamic bodies of the United Nations - that is, our tradition of submitting international instruments which broaden ever more international space law.

Of course, the negotiation of texts of this nature, like any diplomatic negotiations, is an effort of compromise, and some of the provisions in this text reflect that fact. It is obvious, for example, that my delegation, along with other delegations, would have preferred firmer and more positive discussion on the contents of article XI, and particularly paragraph 5. This applies also to article XVIII.

The provisions of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, particularly its article I, very clearly reflect the fact that outer space should be used for the benefit of mankind at large. My delegation has always been among those which have opposed the establishment of a special outer space law by those who, because of their scientific and technological development, were the first to arrive on the outer space scene, especially with respect to the benefits which may accrue from the use of the present resources of outer space - which, I repeat, concern mankind at large and the developing countries in particular.

The principle of "first come, first served" is simply unacceptable to us. That is why we regard as very important, indeed essential, the provision of the treaty which confirms that the moon and other celestial bodies are the common heritage of mankind. We would have preferred that

(Mr. Dayrell de Lima, Brazil)

principle to be spelled out in the first article of the agreement. That was not possible and, in a spirit of compromise, we accepted the inclusion of a paragraph containing our interpretation in the Committee's report. In the opinion of my delegation, such a paragraph should also be included in the appropriate resolution which will be submitted to the General Assembly, if that interpretation, which extends the principle of "common heritage of mankind" to the moon and other celestial bodies, is explicitly approved by all the States present here. That is how my delegation understands paragraph 1 of article I of the text which has been adopted by consensus, in the light of the first paragraph of article XI of the same text.

Mr. DANIELSSON (Sweden): At the beginning of this session there was a feeling of concern because of the lack of progress in several areas, especially in the Legal Sub-Committee. Many delegations voiced such sentiments in the general debate. As we now are about to conclude this session of the Committee, we can note, to the great satisfaction of my delegation, that either the feelings of concern were wrong or, indeed, they were conducive to producing the results we have achieved.

A great deal of useful work has been done in the preparation of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. My delegation would like to extend its appreciation to the representative of India, Mr. Yash Pal, for chairing the Working Group on the Conference. We also express our gratitude to Mr. Carlos Moreira Garcia of Brazil for chairing the drafting work of the Group.

With due respect to the useful work carried out on preparing the Outer Space Conference, this session of the Committee will no doubt be remembered for concluding the work on the agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies. The adoption of that agreement represents a new important step in the development of outer space law and a new important instrument elaborated under the auspices of this Committee.

I can speak as frankly as one delegation did in the Working Group and say that when it became clear that an agreement could be reached at this session we were surprised, but pleasantly surprised. Discussions on the agreement had been going on for more than seven years and negotiations had sometimes been difficult. But in the final analysis, all the work that all the delegations in this Committee put into the agreement seems entirely justified now at the moment of success. I think that all the delegations in this Committee have reason to congratulate themselves on the achievement in this context. In particular, the spirit of co-operation that prevailed in the discussions at this session has once again proved to be the hallmark of this Committee and its Sub-Committees. We hope this will also be true in the future.

(Mr. Danielsson, Sweden)

During the informal meeting earlier today, my delegation had the opportunity of expressing its gratitude to the Chairman of the Working Group on the agreement on the moon, Mr. Szelei of Hungary. I should like now for the record to express our appreciation once again for his skilful handling of the chairmanship of the Working Group. Our appreciation is also extended to Mr. Haraszti of Hungary, who for many years presided over the work on the moon treaty, as it was called earlier.

In this context, I should also like to mention in particular the contribution of the delegation of Austria. It contributed considerably during the drafting to the establishment of a basis upon which success was possible at this session.

At this moment of success, it is with a particular feeling of satisfaction that my delegation not only expresses to you, Mr. Chairman, our usual gratitude and appreciation for the skilful way in which you have guided our Committee at this session, but also extends our congratulations to you for your contribution to the success of this session. Your chairmanship has once again been the solid guarantee for the spirit of co-operation and conciliation which is the basis of the successful work of this Committee.

(Mr. Danielsson, Sweden)

The efficient services of the Secretariat and the Outer Space Affairs Division continue to be a matter of satisfaction to us. In particular, I should like to thank Mr. Perek, Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division, for his constructive contribution and advice during the discussion on the agreement relating to the moon.

Before concluding, I should like to thank the interpreters, the verbatim reporters, the conference officers and all others who have contributed to making this session a success.

Mr. NOLAN (Australia): Sir, it gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, to express our appreciation for the guidance and inspiration you have, as Chairman, given to the work of this Committee. In so doing, I would also commend the role that other officers of the Committee have performed in facilitating our deliberations. In this respect, I would express our particular appreciation to the chairmen of the working and drafting groups. We are similarly grateful to the Secretariat for its continued excellent assistance. As always, its members have played a vital role in the work of this Committee.

We have all been aware of moments in history being registered during these past weeks. To have learned during this session that we have commemorated the tenth anniversary of men's landing on the moon may have given us the hope that our drafting of a treaty on the moon would result in agreement being reached during this session. But even the keenest hopes needed the nurturing of wise counsel. It is in no small part thanks to chairmanship, Sir, and to the excellent chairmanship of the Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Szelei, that this Committee has now taken the significant step, after seven years, of agreeing to a draft agreement on the moon. It is entirely fitting that the United Nations, as a global organization representing the Governments of the world, should have progressed in the 10 years since man first landed on the moon to the formulation of a draft agreement governing the activities of States on the Moon and other celestial bodies.

(Mr. Nolan, Australia)

On the range of other matters considered by this Committee, we are equally indebted to your capable and astute chairmanship. The progress that has been made in the preparations for a Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has been commendable. In considering the preparations for this Conference we have all been aware of its potential historic significance. On the basis of what we have achieved at this session, we have confidence that it will indeed be a significant and important meeting.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, I should simply like to reiterate, on behalf of the delegations of the Group of Western European and Other States, our gratitude to you for your excellent chairmanship of this Committee. We have been through some difficult deliberations, not the least of which we experienced this afternoon. However, your able guidance has ensured that satisfactory results have been achieved.

Mr. SUCHARIPA (Austria): The Austrian delegation sincerely welcomes the decision taken by this Committee today to submit to the General Assembly at its forthcoming thirty-fourth session the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies for final adoption. With this recommendation, the arduous negotiations which have been carried out over many years and in which many delegations of this Committee have actively participated, have finally come to a positive conclusion. A number of delegations in their statements this morning and also this afternoon have referred to the role the Austrian delegation was able to play over the past years in the drafting of this agreement. I wish to thank those delegations for their kind words expressed in this regard.

However, I should like to state that without the keen interest on the part of many members of this Committee and without their willingness to contribute in a flexible manner to the drafting process, and, last but not least, without the diplomatic and legal skill of many delegations, it would hardly have been possible for us today to finalize the draft agreement.

(Mr. Sucharipa, Austria)

Therefore, the Austrian delegation, in turn, wishes to express its sincere thanks to all those who in the past years have worked together in order to arrive at a consensus on the draft agreement. In particular, our thanks go to the members of the Hungarian delegation in this Committee and in the Legal Sub-Committee, Mr. Haraszti and Mr. Szelei, for their untiring efforts in presiding over meetings of the Working Group.

We consider the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies to be a further major contribution to the development of international space law. It contains many important provisions designed to ensure, also for the future, the peaceful exploration and exploitation of outer space.

Furthermore, some of the basic concepts of this agreement also have considerable importance on a more general level. By its action today the Committee has beyond any doubt given new proof of its ability, through its unique structure and its methods of work, to live up to its mandate and to the expectations of all United Nations Member States and to develop rules for international co-operation in outer space in the interest of the international community at large.

The Austrian delegation is equally pleased with the speedy progress this Committee has made in its preparatory work for the Second United Nations Conference on Outer Space. This success is largely the result of the skillful chairmanship of Mr. Yash Pal in the Working Group on the Conference, and the skillful work of our Rapporteur in the drafting group. We are confident that this Committee will have no difficulty in agreeing on the few outstanding questions at its next session.

Thus the Austrian delegation considers that this year's session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has been very productive and fruitful, and in this spirit we are looking forward to the future work of this Committee.

Mr. MESHARRAFA (Egypt): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the African Group, I should like to express our sincere appreciation for the highly efficient manner in which you have presided over the work of our Committee. We should like to express our gratitude also to Mr. Yash Pal of India for the able and effective manner in which he has presided over the Working Group of the Preparatory Committee on the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. His remarkable talents have enabled us to conclude our work under this item.

Our thanks and appreciation are extended also to Mr. Szelei of Hungary, the Chairman of the Working Group on the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies. Mr. Szelei has demonstrated tremendous integrity and wisdom and has conducted the work in an outstanding way.

The conclusion of the draft agreement on the moon and other celestial bodies is considered one of the cornerstones of future co-operation in outer space. It marks a historic moment for all of us - for all nations and for mankind as a whole - and also for our Committee.

The agreement reaffirms certain fundamental principles, especially the principle which stipulates that the moon and other celestial bodies and their natural resources are the common heritage of all mankind. We hope to see in the very near future the establishment of an international régime to govern the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon which will be based on an equitable sharing by all States in the benefits to be derived from those resources. In this connexion, we pay a special tribute to the Austrian delegation for its outstanding efforts to reach this consensus.

(Mr. Mesharraf, Egypt)

Before I conclude, I should like to express our appreciation and thanks to our colleague the Rapporteur, Mr. Carlos Moreira Garcia of Brazil, to the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division, Mr. Perek; to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Robinson, and all his colleagues; and to the conference officers and interpreters, all of whom have contributed to the success of our session.

The spirit of compromise, co-operation and determination that has prevailed during this session is commendable indeed. We trust that the outcome of the next session will be positive and that we shall take a decisive step forward in resolving other outstanding issues.

Mr. SANCHEZ PEÑA (Argentina)(interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the Latin American Group, I have the honour to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, an expression of our special appreciation. Under your wise guidance we have achieved positive results, results that a few years ago we thought we would never achieve.

We are honoured to have taken part in this historic twenty-second session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in which a spirit of goodwill has been displayed. It should certainly serve as an example to many other groups working in the United Nations. I say this has been an historic session, because of the number of significant events that have occurred and owing to the progress that we have made in respect of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as on the draft agreement relating to the moon and other celestial bodies which has been adopted.

On behalf of the delegation of Argentina, I wish to thank the delegation of the United States of America for its reference to the pioneering role played by Argentina in work on the draft treaty relating to the moon and other celestial bodies.

Our appreciation goes also to the Chairmen of the Working Groups, Mr. Yash Pal of India and Mr. Gyula K. Szelei of Hungary. Our special thanks go to them for their numerous efforts in the midst of arduous negotiations.

(Mr. Sanchez Peña, Argentina)

We express our appreciation also to the Rapporteur of the plenary Committee and Chairman of the Drafting Group, Mr. Carlos Moreira Garcia of Brazil; he deserves our special congratulations.

Finally, we cannot forget the invaluable support that we have received from the Outer Space Affairs Division and its Chief, Mr. Ferek, as well as all the members of that Division. Our thanks go also to the interpreters and the other members of the Secretariat, without whose logistical support this Committee would certainly have experienced many difficulties in achieving the success that it has achieved in less time than originally scheduled.

It is our earnest hope that the success that we have achieved here will be repeated in the General Assembly and will yield fruit for many years to come.

Mr. LAY (Italy): What I wanted to say has already been said much more elegantly by the representative of Australia, who spoke on behalf of Western European and Other States, but I should like to add a few words only since this will probably be the last time that I shall have an opportunity to participate in the Committee's work.

I shall be returning to my capital in a few weeks and should like to stress my deep satisfaction at being associated for four years in this field of United Nations activities which I view as of extreme importance for the furthering of international co-operation and the betterment of all mankind.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Italy and say to him arrivederci.

Mr. KOLOSSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Obviously, other delegations would simply not understand if we did not ask to be allowed to speak although the representative of the German Democratic Republic has already spoken on behalf of the socialist group of States.

Today is really an historic day for this Committee, because it has completed work on the draft agreement governing activities of States on the moon which, as is known, has been worked on for eight years on the basis of a proposal made in 1971 by the Government of my country.

Our delegation will make no hasty interpretation of the meaning behind each article of the new draft agreement, its possible impact on further developments in international co-operation in outer space, or its potential impact on the further development of international space law. We are sure that much effort will be devoted to this in articles, studies and monographs. We have had exchanges of opinion with colleagues and they have said that certainly The New York Times, in tomorrow's edition, will state what it feels about the achievements of this Committee.

Our delegation, unlike many others at the beginning of the session, did not feel any of the pessimism regarding the success of this Committee's work and that of its two Sub-Committees; we were optimistic, and spoke in detail about why we were optimistic. We highly commended the achievements in our work in previous years. Our session reaffirms the fact that we were not mistaken this time either.

Our delegation takes satisfaction at noting that we have made an important decision to hold the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are satisfied that the date for that Conference will coincide historically with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the launching of the first SPUTNIK satellite - and that is not our doing but that of the entire Soviet people. We hope that our proposal for the Conference to be held in Moscow will be maintained and that all delegations will transmit it back to their homelands. We hope that the fact that it was our country that 25 years ago - counting from the date of the forthcoming Conference - opened the way to outer space will not prevent us from taking the appropriate decision to hold the Conference in Moscow.

I do not want to be long-winded, so I am not going to specify exactly who made all the positive contributions to our work. Previous speakers have mentioned them all, and we associate ourselves with those words of congratulations and thanks.

(Mr. Kolossov, USSR)

We should just like to say that it would be unjust were we to omit mention of our success and of the fact that a great contribution has been made by the two Sub-Committees and their Chairmen, Comrade Wyzner of the Legal Sub-Committee and Mr. Carver of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

We are leaving now for another year. We are satisfied with our success, but we are also concerned about the plethora of ideas and proposals that we have heard at this session of the Committee. We should like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, personally for your able guidance of the work of our Committee. We wish you every success in your future work and hope that in a year's time we shall meet again to achieve ever greater success.

Mr. MEHMUD (Pakistan): I started off the general debate, as the first speaker, and it appears to me that I shall also be the last speaker, as we conclude this session.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation has been asked by the delegations of Asian countries present here to express on their behalf, as well as on behalf of Pakistan, our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to you for guiding the work of this Committee to the achievement of excellent results at its twenty-second session. This has been made possible by your personal qualities of hard work, leadership, great knowledge of this Committee's work and patience.

The most significant achievement of this session has been the adoption by this Committee of the draft agreement relating to the moon and other celestial bodies -- a matter that has been before the Committee for approximately the last seven years.

Mention must also be made of the work done by the Committee in preparation for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. Perek, Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division; Mr. Robinson, Secretary of the Committee; Mr. Garcia, our Rapporteur; the Chairmen of the two Working Groups; Mr. Murthy, the United Nations Expert on Space Applications; and all the supporting officials of the Outer Space Affairs Division as well as other members of the Secretariat.

(Mr. Mehmud, Pakistan)

I should also like to mention here the interpreters, who performed their duty with so much efficiency. Had it not been for the high order of their dedication to their work, we would not have achieved the excellent results attained today.

Finally, we should once again like to express our gratitude and thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, for making a significant contribution to ending this session with such successful results. I would call this a historic session. Please accept our best wishes for your personal well-being and good health in the years to come.

The CHAIRMAN: We have reached the end of this session. I think I owe it to all of you to thank you once again most heartily not only for the exemplary spirit of co-operation displayed by each and every one of you, but also for the undeserved words of praise and appreciation that you have directed to me, to the other officers of the Committee, to the Secretariat and to all those, including those behind the scenes, who have enabled this Committee to finish its work successfully and on time.

It is not necessary for me to repeat here the evaluation that many delegations have made, individually and on behalf of their regional groups, of the work of this Committee, but I think it is fair to say that this session was indeed a momentous one for the Committee and that when we leave today it will not be in a spirit of frustration or of pessimism, but rather in a spirit of happiness and optimism, a spirit becoming to a Committee that has a reputation to defend, a reputation which it has defended successfully, especially on this occasion. This Committee has shown not only a spirit of compromise but also the great talents of its members, two of which, Mr. Yash Pal and Mr. Szelei, have particularly displayed such talents during the current session.

However, I think it would be unfair for me to express appreciation only of individual achievements. I think that the Committee as a whole has once again shown that it is indeed a repository of great diplomatic, political and, indeed, human skills; and we want to maintain these skills and the friendship that binds us all.

(The Chairman)

In concluding this year's session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, I express the hope that we shall all meet again next year in the same spirit and be able to achieve further successes. In this spirit and with my best wishes - and, incidentally, a special wish to the United States delegation on their national holiday tomorrow - I say au revoir.

I declare the twenty-second session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space closed.

The meeting rose at 7.50 p.m.