



Seventeenth session
Agenda item 27

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE:
REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE,
THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Károly CSATORDAY (Hungary)

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, the following item was included in the provisional agenda of the seventeenth session of the General Assembly: "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Union" (A/5181, A/5229 and A/5237).
2. At its 1129th meeting, on 24 September 1962, the General Assembly decided on the recommendation of the General Committee, to include the above-mentioned item in the agenda and to refer it to the First Committee for consideration and report. Under this item, the First Committee was requested also to consider chapter VII, section IV, of the report of the Economic and Social Council.
3. The First Committee considered the item at its 1289th to 1298th meetings.
4. Representatives of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) participated in the work of the Committee, as observers, and the representatives of WMO, ITU and UNESCO made statements before it.

5. The Committee had the following documents before it:

(a) "Draft declaration of basic principles governing the activities of States pertaining to the exploration and use of outer space", submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 4 December (A/C.1/879);

(b) Documents submitted jointly by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on 5 December relating to "An agreement reached on co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space as a result of meetings between Dr. Hugh Dryden of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Academician A. A. Blagonravov of the USSR Academy of Sciences" (A/C.1/880);

(c) A "Draft declaration of principles relating to the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space", submitted by the United States of America on 8 December (A/C.1/881).

6. On 29 November, the United States of America introduced a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.320). A revision of this draft resolution (A/C.1/L.320/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1 and 2) was submitted subsequently with the following sponsors: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

7. At its 1298th meeting, on 11 December, the First Committee unanimously adopted the twenty-four-Power resolution (A/C.1/L.320/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1 and 2).

Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961 on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space,

Believing that the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space should be carried out in conformity with international law/ including the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of friendly relations among nations,

Stressing the necessity of the progressive development of international law pertaining to the further elaboration of basic legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space and to liability for space vehicle accidents and to assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles and to other legal problems,

Bearing in mind that the application of scientific and technological advances in outer space, particularly in the fields of meteorology and communications, can bring great advantages to mankind and contribute to the economic and social progress of the developing countries as envisaged in the United Nations Development Decade,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space made in response to resolution 1721 (XVI),^{1/}

A

1. Notes with regret that the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has not yet made recommendations on legal questions connected with the peaceful uses of outer space;

2. Calls upon all Member States to co-operate in the further development of law for outer space;

3. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue urgently its work on the further elaboration of basic legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space and on liability for space vehicle accidents and on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles and on other legal problems;

4. Refers to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as a basis for this work, all proposals which have been made thus far, including the draft declaration of the basic principles governing the activities of States pertaining to the exploration and use of outer space, submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;^{2/} the draft international agreement on the rescue of astronauts and spaceships making emergency landings, submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;^{3/} the draft proposal on assistance to and return of space vehicles and

^{1/} A/5181.

^{2/} Ibid., Annex III, A.

^{3/} Ibid., Annex III, B.

personnel, submitted by the United States of America;^{4/} the draft proposal on liability for space vehicle accidents, submitted by the United States of America;^{5/} the draft code for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, submitted by the United Arab Republic;^{6/} the draft declaration of basic principles governing the activities of States pertaining to the exploration and use of outer space, submitted by the United Kingdom;^{7/} the draft declaration of principles relating to the exploration and use of outer space, submitted by the United States of America;^{8/} and all other proposals and documents presented to the General Assembly during its debates on this agenda item and the records of those debates.

B

1. Endorses the recommendations set forth in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning the exchange of information;^{9/}
2. Notes with appreciation that a number of Member States have already, on a voluntary basis, provided information on their national space programmes, and urges other States and regional and international organizations to do so;
3. Urges all Member States and appropriate specialized agencies to give wholehearted and effective support to the international programmes mentioned in the report, and already under way, including the International Year of the Quiet Sun and the World Magnetic Survey;
4. Notes that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space considers that the creation and use of sounding rocket launching facilities under United Nations sponsorship would contribute to the achievement of the objectives of General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) by furthering international collaboration in space research and the advancement of human knowledge, and by providing opportunity for valuable practical training for interested users;
5. Notes the recommendation that Member States consider the establishment under United Nations sponsorship of a sounding rocket facility, or facilities, on the geomagnetic equator, in time for the International Year of the Quiet Sun;
6. Endorses the basic principles suggested by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the operation of such facilities under United Nations sponsorship;

^{4/} Ibid., Annex III, C.

^{5/} Ibid., Annex III, D.

^{6/} Ibid., Annex III, E.

^{7/} A/C.1/879.

^{8/} A/C.1/881.

^{9/} A/5181, para.14.

7. Affirms that such facilities when established and operated in accordance with these principles shall, upon request of the host Member State, be eligible for United Nations sponsorship.

C

1. Notes with appreciation the prompt initial response of the World Meteorological Organization to the request of the General Assembly, as embodied in resolution 1721 (XVI), that it report on a programme to advance atmospheric science research and to develop improved weather forecasting capabilities in the light of developments in outer space;^{10/}

2. Calls on Member States to strengthen weather forecasting services and to encourage their scientific communities to co-operate in the expansion of atmospheric science research;

3. Recommends that the World Meteorological Organization, in consultation with other United Nations agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations, develop in greater detail its plan for an expanded programme to strengthen meteorological services and research, placing particular emphasis upon the use of meteorological satellites and the expansion of training and educational opportunities in these fields;

4. Invites the International Council of Scientific Unions through its member unions and national academies to develop an expanded programme of atmospheric science research which will complement the programmes fostered by the World Meteorological Organization;

5. Invites United Nations agencies concerned with the granting of technical and financial assistance, in consultation with the World Meteorological Organization, to give sympathetic consideration to requests from Member States for technical and financial assistance to supplement their own resources for these activities including the improvement of meteorological networks;

6. Requests the World Meteorological Organization, following its Congress in April 1963, to report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-sixth session on steps taken relating to these activities.

D

1. Notes with appreciation the prompt initial response of the International Telecommunication Union to the request of the General Assembly, as embodied in resolution 1721 (XVI), that it report on those aspects of space communications in which international co-operation will be required;^{11/}
2. Believes that communication by satellite offers great benefits to mankind, as it will permit the expansion of radio, telephone and television transmissions, including the broadcast of United Nations activities, thus facilitating contact among the peoples of the world;
3. Emphasizes the importance of international co-operation to achieve effective satellite communications which will be available on a world-wide basis;
4. Observes that the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union has invited Member States to submit information on: (a) technical progress and developments in space telecommunications; (b) subjects which they regard as appropriate for international co-operation in order to achieve the objectives set forth in General Assembly resolution 1721 D (XVI); and (c) which of those subjects, if any, should be included on the agenda of the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference to be held in October 1963;
5. Notes that the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, in the light of the replies, will report on these questions to the next meeting of its Administrative Council in March 1963 in order that the Council may complete the agenda for this Conference;
6. Considers it of utmost importance that this Conference make allocations of radio frequency bands sufficient to meet expected outer space needs;
7. Requests the International Telecommunication Union to report to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-sixth session on progress made relating to its outer space activities.
