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FIRST COMMITTEE
45th meeting
held on
Friday, 25 November 1977
at 3 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BOATEN (Ghana)

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77-73267

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.1/32/PV.45
29 November 1977

ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/32/20; A/C.1/32/L.39 and Corr.1, L.42, L.43)

Mr. DEAN (India): Let me at the outset take this opportunity to convey to Mr. Jenkowitz my delegation's appreciation of the useful work carried out by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space under his able leadership. My delegation is of the view that the Committee has covered some useful ground during the past year, and the report of the Committee, which we have before us, is quite comprehensive. I should like to thank him also for his lucid presentation of the report.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of man's first venture into outer space. During these 20 years, space technology has been applied with increasing effectiveness to communications, to the surveying of the earth's resources and to a number of socio-economic applications. The Indian space programme has been guided by the principal objective of exploiting this technology for the benefit of our people.

(Mr. Dhan, India)

In India the Space Commission and the Department of Space are primarily responsible for guiding various activities in this field. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is at present engaged in a variety of activities which can be described in three groups, namely, space sciences, space technology and space applications.

Fundamental research in space sciences is undertaken in our country by the Physical Research Laboratory at Ahmedabad and the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre at Trivandrum. Those institutions are engaged in studies connected with the structure and dynamics of the earth's atmosphere, solar-terrestrial relationships, geomagnetism and connected problems. Those researches are of immense value to the development of space application techniques.

The space technology programme in our country has been drawn up to include the development of scientific and technological satellites, communications satellites and the manufacture of various types of sounding rockets for meteorological and upper atmospheric studies. I am happy to say that a great deal of success has been achieved in all those fields and we have been able to build up indigenous capability in all aspects of space technology.

The Indian space applications programme is marked not only by our intrinsic internal efforts but also by active collaboration with a number of countries. In that connexion I would like to mention briefly the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) which came to a close in July 1976 and our efforts in the field of earth observation experiments. The SITE, which was conducted in co-operation with the United States, gave us an opportunity to develop technology for the ground segment. We benefitted a great deal from this experiment by way of testing and management of a satellite-based instructional television system. The impact of that technology on the educational, economic and cultural fields is being studied for planning a future national satellite-based TV system.

As the Committee is aware, the first Indian satellite was launched with the co-operation of the Soviet Union about two years ago. Our scientists are now busy manufacturing a satellite for earth observation. The

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primary goal of that project is to launch a spacecraft system capable of conducting an earth observation experiment that could yield useful data in the areas of forestry, weather phenomena and so forth. According to an agreement signed between ISRO and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Academy of Sciences, this satellite is scheduled to be launched by the Soviet Union next year.

International collatoration also has been a major feature of India's space programme. As the Committee is aware, the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station, which has been sponsored by the United Nations, is an international rocket-launching facility which can be used by all United Nations Member countries for conducting experiments for peaceful uses of outer space. In January and February of this year my Government also organized an international training ccourse at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station and provided fellowships through the United Nations to the participants from developing countries.

Apart from launching of the satellites, the USSR Academy of Sciences and ISRO have also agreed to establish a satellite tracking and ranging station in India in order to study geodetic and geodynamic problems. An Indo-Soviet joint balloon experiment in gamma ray astronomy is also scheduled to take place towards the end of this year.

Similarly, India and the United States too have many collaborative programmes in space research. In addition to the SITE programme which I just mentioned, the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad is collaborating with the United States Naval Research Laboratory to monitor the fluxes of certain important solar radiation. The United States has also been supplying meteorological data and the Landsat imageries, which have been of great use to my country.

We have collaborative arrangements also with France, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany. Indian and French scientists have been working on the development of a liquid propellant rocket engine and Indian scientists and technicians are being trained in the French space research establishments. ISRO is also producing and supplying certain items needed for the French space programme. We are grateful to all those countries for the assistance received from their space agencies.

(Mr. Dhan, India)

I would now like to make a few remarks on the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/32/20). Before doing so I should like to thank Mr. Wyzner of Poland and Mr. Carver of Australia who were Chairmen of the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, respectively, for their wise guidance and valuable contribution to the work of the Sub-Committees.

The Legal Sub-Committee has made considerable progress during its 1977 session, especially on the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. My delegation is happy that the Sub-Committee, working through its Working Group II, has been able to formulate the text of a principle on "consultation and agreements between States" and a draft preamble. The working party of the whole appointed by the Legal Sub-Committee, which further examined that matter, was also able to make some improvements.

(Mr. Dhan, India)

However, as the Committee is aware, the entire text is still in square brackets and there is no consensus. My delegation is of the view that although the World Administrative Radio Conference held by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva in January-February 1977 reached certain agreements to prevent a spill-over of programmes, those decisions do not obviate the need for separate agreements for this purpose. The principle of consultations and agreements is a necessary corollary to the general principles of international law relating to respect for State sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. The Indian delegation has studied with interest the United States-United Kingdom proposal and we feel that it may be possible for the Legal Sub-Committee to formulate a principle which will be satisfactory to all.

My delegation is happy that some additional progress has been made in formulating further principles relating to remote sensing of earth resources. My delegation is of the view that while the principle of sovereignty of States over their natural resources should in no way be impaired, legal restraints should not be an obstacle to the extension of the benefits of this new and exciting technology to developing countries. For example, the meteorological and environmental data collected by remote sensing activities should be freely available for the benefit of all States. My delegation commends the Soviet delegation for its working paper on this subject presented to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and hopes that further study of the proposal recommended by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee will bring about useful results.

My delegation regrets that the Legal Sub-Committee has not made any progress regarding the draft treaty relating to the moon. My delegation would like to reiterate its earlier position that the moon and its natural resources are the common heritage of mankind and that their commercial exploitation should be undertaken only in accordance with an international régime.

Before concluding, my delegation would like to endorse the views expressed by many other speakers before me about the efficient manner in which the Expert on Space Applications has implemented the United Nations programme

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within the limited budget made available to him. Some of the credit for success in this field goes also to various Member States and organizations within the United Nations system, listed in paragraphs 55 to 60 of the report of the Committee, which have, through the hosting of seminars and the award of fellowships, contributed significantly to the success of the programme. Support for this activity continues to be inadequate and my delegation would favour increased financial provision for it so that the Expert is able to provide adequate technical assistance to developing countries.

Mr. PINIES (Spain) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Spain has studied the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Since the first artificial satellite, Sputnik, went into orbit 20 years ago, the United Nations has been dealing with the item on outer space.

Ten years have gone by since the entry into force of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies. In compliance with that Treaty the States parties, inter alia, undertook not to install nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction in outer space, and the establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications is prohibited. In other words, a genuine zone of peace was created in outer space. But while scientific and technological progress has brought man to the threshold of the conquest of space and the use of that environment, legal regulations seem to have fallen behind since there is still a vast legal gap to be filled in order to regulate every aspect of space activities.

Thus, we read in the report of the Committee that the Legal Sub-Committee continued to "give priority", but without the desired practical results, to the text of a draft treaty on the moon and other celestial bodies. It is to be hoped that as soon as possible a satisfactory solution will be found on the subject of the exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of those celestial bodies which are the common heritage of the international community.

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We appreciate the difficulties encountered regarding direct television broadcasts by satellite, in arriving at a formula which, without detracting from the sovereignty of States, will not jeopardize the exercise by peoples and individuals of the right to an exchange of information and ideas.

In this respect we are pleased with the provisional text of the principle of "consultation and agreements between States" and a draft preamble which we consider to be an important step towards an acceptable solution, although we realize that it is impossible to implement fully the recommendation contained in operative paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 31/8. We also hope that at its next session the Legal Sub-Committee will make further progress in its studies on the legal implications of remote sensing by means of artificial satellites and the definition and delimitation of outer space.

The delegation of Spain has studied with interest the activities of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and we are certain that the progress achieved will be to the benefit of all mankind. We further consider that this Organization should play an important role in ensuring for all States adequate access without discrimination to the data obtained from remote sensing.

The delegation of Spain also agrees with the United Nations programme for the application of space technology for 1978, as approved by the Committee and, as we have said earlier, we are in favour of convening a United Nations conference on outer space in due course.

My Government has been co-operating with the Committee and with the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee by providing the information required under General Assembly resolution 2223 (XXI) on the activities of Spain, nationally and in international co-operation, regarding outer space, which are programmed and co-ordinated by the National Commission for Space Research (CONIE). The information for last year appears in document A/AC.105/190/Add.8.

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Spain has continued to carry out activities in outer space with its own programmes, including tracking stations on our national territory and launching facilities for "El Arenosillo" sounding rockets. Internationally, we have continued to co-operate in the mandatory programmes of the European Space Agency and in voluntary programmes such as AEROSAT, MAROT, SPACELAB and ARIANE and in other bilateral programmes also. The delegation of Spain will at the end of this year make available to the Secretary-General a summary of the space activities of my country in the year 1977.

The delegation of Spain is one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.43, which was introduced by the Permanent Representative of Colombia, my illustrious friend Mr. Zea. Its purpose is to increase the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In fact, the participation in space activities of an ever increasing number of countries and the interest of all in co-operating with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, counsel a review of its composition since at present it consists of only 37 members, and they are permanent members. We believe that the participation of other States in the work of the Committee could be enormously beneficial by bringing in fresh points of view. In fact we note that, although 37 States are members, during its twentieth session only 34 delegations attended meetings, and two others did not deem it useful to participate in the debate. In the opinion of the Spanish delegation, in cases where there are organized bodies the composition of which is not subject to rotation, as is the case in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, we must find a formula that makes it possible for the Committee to be more representative by enlarging the composition, bearing in mind that the United Nations has also had a considerable increase in the number of States Members and that we shall soon achieve the desired universality. By approving this draft resolution we shall be taking a step towards attainment of that objective.

The Spanish delegation listened most attentively to the statement made on Wednesday last by the representative of Austria in introducing draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.42. While we cannot, for obvious reasons, support this text, we are pleased to observe the broad-mindedness reflected therein in the

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proposal to the effect that the members of the Committee would examine ways and means of achieving wider participation, including the introduction of the principle of rotation. The delegation of Spain considers that that principle would be very beneficial if it were introduced after we had enlarged the membership of the Committee.

In conclusion, my delegation hopes that the First Committee will consider and approve the draft resolution on co-operation in outer space, renewing the mandate of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Mr. ELIAV (Israel): My delegation has studied carefully the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/32/20), as well as the reports of its two Sub-Committees (A/AC.105/195 and 196). We wish to congratulate the Chairmen and members of those three bodies on their important and expert work, the results of which are succinctly presented in the reports. We should like also to express our appreciation to the international organizations which co-operated with the Committee and the Sub-Committees, including the specialized agencies and other bodies such as the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the twentieth annual meeting of which we were privileged to host this year in my country. The valuable contribution of COSPAR to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was demonstrated again recently by the study it carried out at the request of the Secretariat on characteristics and capabilities of sensors for earth resources surveys (A/AC.105/204). This study includes interesting material on the demonstrated performance of remote sensing systems in such fields as agriculture, water and marine resources and environmental monitoring,

Last, but certainly not least, my delegation would like again warmly to commend the Division of Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat for its valuable activities and in particular for its unswerving efforts in the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

The practical work of the Committee and of the two Sub-Committees, and in particular of the Legal Sub-Committee, has in recent years centred on two main subjects related to the use of artificial satellites, namely, direct television broadcasting and remote sensing. Both of these essentially global tools, which

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are employed in an increasing measure, present an important legal and international challenge: how to reconcile their tremendous potential, which promises benefits of importance to the quality of life of all mankind with the legitimate concerns of each State for the maintenance of its sovereign rights and interests. However, our approach to the solution of this problem need not be similar or uniform. Today's world, and certainly the world of tomorrow, requires rapid dissemination and exchange of information in all areas of human activity, and we already have ample evidence that television is a most vital instrument in the promotion of this goal. International television links have proved also to be an important instrument in fostering mutual understanding and awareness between nations, even when they may be apart politically or ideologically, as we again recognized only a few days ago in our region. Thus it would seem to my delegation that we can afford to be bolder and more imaginative in attempts to make the fullest use of television broadcasting by satellites for the benefit of all while still avoiding undesirable propaganda effects and especially gross distortions and misrepresentations.

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On the other hand, we believe that in the matter of remote sensing special emphasis must indeed be placed on the sovereign rights of each State to take inventory and to control all present or future utilization and exploitation of its resources. This becomes all the more important because of the tremendous and ever-widening gap between the scientific, technological and economic potential of certain Powers and that of all other nations. Furthermore, the report of the Committee on Outer Space correctly states, in paragraph 42, that the use of remote sensing satellite data could be expected to become an integral part of national economies and their planning activities. International co-operation in the field of sensing is the only cost-effective approach to achieve these benefits for the majority of States and especially for the developing countries, and it must therefore be geared carefully to a framework which will scrupulously safeguard national interests.

My delegation has noted with satisfaction that in those two central fields the Legal Sub-Committee has made important progress in the past year. Thus it has elaborated new principles on the use by States of satellites for television broadcasting which would facilitate the conclusion of the relevant international agreement or agreements which we have been seeking since 1972.

However, the difficulties which have prevented agreement on the principle regarding the "consultation and agreement between States" and the preamble indicate that the key problem to which I have just referred, namely, the finding of an adequate balance between the safeguarding of sovereign rights and the encouragement of optimum development of this outstanding tool of space application, still exists.

As to remote sensing the Legal Sub-Committee has been able to formulate additional draft principles relating to the legal implications of earth resources survey by satellites.

The activities of the United Nations in the domain of the peaceful use of outer space have been and still are predominantly in the legal field and its main and concrete achievements have been international instruments while work continues on additional drafts on this matter, some of which I have just mentioned. Thus we are celebrating this year the tenth anniversary of the

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entering into force of the Treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, to which my country is pleased to be a party.

We welcome the draft resolution in this respect submitted by the Committee on Outer Space (A/C.1/32/L.39) and we indeed believe, as many delegations have already stressed, that this Treaty has made an important contribution to the peaceful and harmonious development of outer space research and applications programmes.

However, while we share the general satisfaction in this respect, we should like to express our view that the relevant United Nations bodies should perhaps in the future put more emphasis on the initiating of technological and scientific projects shared by several States or which perhaps could even be undertaken on a global scale through the United Nations itself. This is not said to belittle the importance of the existing involvement of the Organization in space facilities located in several countries but, on the contrary, in order to encourage much more of that kind of activity. In this context my delegation has noted with interest the reference by the representative of Canada to the idea of launching internationally-owned satellites.

One of the ways in which we could take action to broaden the direct involvement of the United Nations in space efforts could be through the enlargement of the responsibilities of the Secretariat in the field of outer space so that the Division which deals at present with this subject could become a United Nations centre for information and consultation on outer space research and application. This centre could be given the mandate and the capability of providing full and detailed information to Member States related to the current state of the art in the fields of space application and space science and technology. It would also supply objective and expert information about possible future areas of activity, about potential applications and benefits which might be derived from future projects and about the preparations needed to participate in them. Further, such a centre could provide specific expert consultation on a regular basis upon the request of Member States and, finally, it could be involved directly in common space projects.

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It is evident that the Outer Space Affairs Division has already demonstrated that it can serve as a clearing-house for the information submitted regularly by Member States on their current activities as well as a focal point for organizing training seminars and workshops, which have been most beneficial to the participating countries. Thus we have a solid basis on which we can proceed to provide the United Nations with an instrument which could give it a more active and tangible role in the field of space research and space application.

I now turn to the question of convening a United Nations conference on the peaceful uses of outer space, which is one of the subjects referred to in the report of the Committee before us. Our initial attitude on that matter would be somewhat sceptical in the light of the past performance of such conferences which demonstrated the unwieldiness and political pitfalls unfortunately involved in them.

However, we believe that there is good reason to consider the convening of a United Nations conference on outer space during the early 1980s, provided that there is adequate preparation and programming. Such a conference would have as an objective the examination and possible implementation of international space projects which have important implications for all Member States.

To mention just one possibility, we all recognize the problem involved in the limitation of natural resources on our planet for the production of energy. We are also aware of the tremendous potential available if we could effectively utilize the energy produced by the sun.

Thus the proposed conference might have as one of its major subject areas the possible implementation of an international project designed to facilitate the utilization of outer space for the transmission to earth of unharnessed energy from the sun. My delegation understands that such a project is technically feasible but that the massive financial implications as well as the need for the benefits to be equally distributed could be better met by an international effort rather than by separate national projects.

Over the years there has been an increasing desire by Member States non-members of the Committee on Outer Space to participate more fully in the

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work of the Committee, which again has found eloquent expression in our deliberations in the past few days. Israel too shares the view that the scope of membership of the Committee should be widened, but we agree that this question requires further study and that too large a membership would make it more difficult to obtain consensus on the specialized legal and technical matters before it. We were glad to note that the representatives of the Netherlands and Turkey took the same position in their statements. Thus we support draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.42, which provides for adequate study and preparation before taking definite action on this issue.

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However, we should like to stress our belief that in any event the principle of a rotating membership, which exists in other United Nations bodies, should also be applied to the Outer Space Committee. We note that that idea has been put forward by several delegations, including some sponsors of the two draft resolutions before us. The introduction of the principle of rotation would demonstrate the universal importance and impact of the work of the Committee, and it would certainly enable some additional small States which have been active or have demonstrated an interest in the peaceful use of outer space to co-operate in a more direct way in the efforts of the United Nations on this matter.

May I now deal briefly with space research and space application programmes carried out in Israel under the general direction of our national committee on space research, on which we report regularly to the Secretary-General.

My delegation knows very well the limited dimensions of Israel's activities in this field. However, we believe it might be of interest to indicate once again that even small States can participate in the global effort concerning outer space. Firstly, we are indeed happy to be connected in some small way with the subject of space flights. Thus scientists from the Department of Geophysics and Planetary Sciences at the University of Tel Aviv are conducting Skylab measurements over Israel and related experiments, on the basis of an agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The results of these research activities which relate to the fields of geology, hydrology and agriculture are also available to scientists from all over the world. Among the space research projects which have been initiated in Israel itself I should like to mention the study of the correlation between the forces of the moon and earthquakes, the properties of comets, the analysis of solar wind data, the structure of X-ray sources, and nuclear reaction in flare regions.

As for space application programmes in Israel, these include work on the performance of remote sensing in the study of earth resources, of the ecology of arid zones- a subject which has special importance for my country-

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and of the detection of surface and water pollution. Other programmes deal with balloon-to-satellite transmitting systems, the thrust control of solid propellant rockets and the parameters of the climatic relevance of space-based observations. Recently, work has also started on space biology and life detection in space.

I should like to refer also to some of the facilities on the ground related to space research in Israel: a radio observatory near Haifa which conducts ionospheric investigations and studies of radio-wave propagation between satellites and the earth; an astronomical observatory located in Mitzpe Ramon in the Negev which carries out research in astrophysics and planetary physics; a Lidar system at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which is used in part for the detection of stratospheric aerosol layers; a satellite earth communications station at Emeg Ha'ela close to Jerusalem; and a rocket facility for launches to high altitudes and the retrieval of payloads by parachute and optical tracking.

In all those space activities in Israel international co-operation is a prime and essential element. We maintain active links with research institutes and individual scientists and experts in many countries which we shall always be happy to expand. The most important milestone for Israel in that context was the holding in Tel Aviv of the 20th annual meeting of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) established by the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), to which we were pleased to be the hosts in Tel Aviv in June 1977. About 500 scientists and experts from 30 States and a number of international organizations attended this Conference. We were indeed happy to welcome participants from the United States and the Soviet Union, from Canada, Japan and India and also from several countries in Western and Eastern Europe, as well as from the Outer Space Division of the United Nations Secretariat. Over 400 research papers were presented, including 24 by Israeli scientists. As to the actual work of the meeting, symposia were held on topics such as new instrumentation for space astronomy, the study of travelling interplanetary phenomena, the Viking experiments on Mars and the contribution of space observation to global food information systems.

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In addition, working groups and panels were organized on such subjects as space biology, interplanetary magnetosphere, the international solar system programme and data problems.

May I say that the meeting was generally regarded as having been successful and instructive and that we are looking forward to welcoming to Israel further international gatherings in the field of outer space, such as one of the future congresses of the International Astronautical Federation.

Space activities, by definition, stress our global coherence and solidarity. Despite the tremendous gap in potential and performance that exists between certain great Powers and all other States in this field, nevertheless, even those Powers need the co-operation of other nations in order to pursue their efforts in outer space.

May I once again refer to the biblical story of the attempt to construct a tower reaching into heaven, namely, the Tower of Babel, which may perhaps be regarded as the first recorded effort at what we may call space research. We are told that that effort was predicated on a situation in which everybody understood the words of his neighbours, and that the project failed when that situation changed and mankind began speaking in different and disparate languages. Thus what we might call today international harmony is stressed as having been decisive for the success or failure of that undertaking.

Today, although our languages are still different, each of us shares a common determination to promote international co-operation for the maximum benefit of mankind. Let that approach guide us in all our efforts to conquer outer space.

Mr. VUKOVIC (Yugoslavia): Twenty years have elapsed since the launching of the first artificial earth satellite and the establishment of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This is an occasion to recall the results that have been achieved with regard to the exploration of outer space as well as codification of international instruments on the conduct of States in this field.

(Mr. Vukovic, Yugoslavia)

There is no need to emphasize the importance of achievements in the field of the exploration of outer space and the practical application of their results. Suffice it to say that millions of people already feel in their daily lives the benefits of the results achieved by contemporary science in this sphere. The revolutionizing of the system of communications, the study of meteorological forecasts, the following and examination of the problem of pollution of the human environment, the remote sensing of the earth from space and a number of other still undiscovered or insufficiently tested possibilities point to the importance of further exploration of outer space and improvement of space technology. Yugoslavia is devoting its full attention to that question and is gradually taking part, to the extent that it is able, in the general efforts in the study and practical application of scientific discoveries made so far.

(Mr. Vukovic, Yugoslavia)

In this regard, we are co-operating successfully with other States in taking part in existing international activities. Precisely with this purpose in mind, a meeting of a number of representatives of the non-aligned countries held at Sarajevo recently considered the possibility and agreed on the principles of promoting co-operation among non-aligned countries in the field of television broadcasting.

Significant progress has been made, in the meantime, in the field of codification of international legal instruments. In this respect, the United Nations should be particularly commended for having realized in time the importance and necessity of engaging in this important and useful work. During this period the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has drafted four important instruments and is now involved in the drafting of new and just as important documents which will affect even more directly the position and conduct of States in their international relations. I have in mind here, primarily, the elaboration of principles governing the use of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting and the formulation of principles governing the question of remote sensing. Of course, my delegation attaches the same attention to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee on a draft treaty relating to the moon and an agreement on the delimitation of outer space.

Having precisely in mind the importance we attach to the work of the Committee relating to the formulation of the aforementioned principles, we have studied with attention the report of the Committee and listened very carefully to the introductory statement made by Mr. Jankwitsch. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate him, on behalf of my delegation, on his excellent introduction of the report of the Committee, as well as his dedicated work in the Committee. The report of the Committee presents a clear picture of the stage that has been reached with regard to the consideration of the aforementioned questions. This enables the delegations that do not participate in the work of the Committee to follow more easily and participate actively in the consideration of the report.

(Mr. Vukovic, Yugoslavia)

My delegation appreciates the results that the Committee has achieved this year. We have noted with particular interest the progress made with respect to the formulation of principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. It emerges from the report that agreement has been reached with regard to a certain number of paragraphs of the preamble, which is a positive development. It appears also that progress has been achieved in formulating the principle of consultation and agreement between States with regard to direct television broadcasting. I would like to stress that my delegation attaches to this principle the importance that it deserves, namely, that it is necessary, in our opinion, to take into account the sovereign right of all States to regulate by themselves the question of dissemination of visual information in accordance with their specific circumstances. We believe that it is imperative to respect the sovereignty of States in this field, particularly if we bear in mind the fact that there exist different conditions, especially with regard to levels of development of various countries and hence differences with respect to possibilities for equitable co-operation on this matter. The less developed countries should in no way become the object of rivalry among developed countries. We consider that the search for a solution to this question need not constitute a great problem, particularly if we have in mind that the aim of direct television broadcasting should be to contribute to the strengthening of peace and understanding among States and peoples, and to promote the intellectual enrichment of man.

We have noted with the same interest the progress made in formulating principles relating to remote sensing. My delegation supports the recommendation of the Committee that the Sub-Committee should continue its work on the basis of high priority, and give detailed consideration to the legal implications of remote sensing, with the aim of formulating draft principles relating to remote sensing. We share the view of delegations which consider that it is necessary to work out a generally acceptable text of a principle to safeguard the sovereign rights of all countries, in particular the sovereign rights of developing countries, over their natural resources as well as information concerning those resources. I believe that the reasons for adopting such a stand are obvious. The non-aligned and developing countries have expressed

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on numerous occasions their determination to protect their sovereign rights over their natural resources. It is inconceivable that they could renounce this principle in regard to the exploration of their natural resources.

I would like to welcome the decision of the Committee on the establishment of a task force to consider the question of organizing an international conference on the peaceful uses of outer space. We have already given our support, in principle, to the convening of such a conference and wish to reiterate that, in view of the rapid progress in this area, the holding of such a conference in the foreseeable future is quite justified. We agree, of course, that the conference should be well prepared and that its convening should not be linked to, or conditioned by, other conferences. We believe that problems involving the peaceful uses of outer space deserve special attention.

May I also refer to the question of expanding the membership of the Committee. There is no doubt that there is a growing interest among States in the work of this body of the General Assembly. This is quite understandable when we bear in mind the questions on which the Committee is engaged at present and, generally speaking, the increased importance of the problems involved. It seems to us that the desire of a certain number of States to take an active part in the work of the Committee, and thus contribute directly to the elaboration of international instruments in the field of space law, is quite legitimate.

As several delegations have already pointed out, the Committee was formed 20 years ago when our Organization was much smaller in size. In spite of the enlargement of the membership of the Committee a few years ago, its present composition is not satisfactory and does not correspond to present needs. My delegation sees no real reason for not adopting, at this thirty-second session, a decision on further increasing the membership of the Committee as proposed in draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.43, of which Yugoslavia is one of the sponsors.

Mr. RAZAFINDRATOVO (Madagascar) (interpretation from French): My delegation has been following with the utmost interest the statements made by preceding speakers regarding this particular agenda item. In particular, we appreciated the report submitted by Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria, Chairman of the Committee on Outer Space, on the work of the Committee and of its two sub-committees during the past year, and on the problems which remain pending.

Twenty years have already passed since the first Sputnik was launched into orbit, thus opening up promising perspectives for mankind. It would be tedious to recall here the many scientific and technological advances which have occurred in the course of the last year when man was freed from the weight of the earth and became acquainted with a new world unknown until then. The most spectacular result which has made an impression on the imagination of the masses still remains the television picture of the planet Earth in its entirety, thus proving that the peoples who live on it have a common destiny.

The developing countries which are still mired in their problems of political survival, of economic take-off, and of asserting their own identity, were not the last to become interested in outer space. The technological lag which characterizes those societies did not prevent them from properly assessing the benefits they could derive from space research.

(Mr. Razafindratovo, Madagascar)

Indeed, could not outer space provide these people, who for so long have been dominated and left out, with the opportunity for accelerated development, thus enabling them to effect a vast saving of time.

My country is a party to the Agreement of 19 December 1967 on the rescue of astronauts and to the Outer Space Treaty of 27 January 1968, and has constantly shown great interest in outer space, and above all in the beneficial fall-out from space research, particularly in regard to telecommunications and meteorology.

Furthermore, Madagascar, over which the orbit of a number of satellites passes naturally attaches great importance to the preparation and conclusion of an international treaty on the moon and also the treaty bearing on the use of outer space and its various aspects, and particularly the important concept of "the common heritage of mankind", which has already been used by the General Assembly in a Declaration on the sea-bed and ocean floor.

Finally, since we are situated in a zone where there are many tropical depressions which every year severely damage our economy and claim many victims, Madagascar is very particularly interested in the use of meteorological satellites which are so useful and effective in detecting cyclones from their inception. This new technology will also enable the authorities concerned to take appropriate measures on time to lessen in so far as possible the baneful effects of these natural disasters. In this respect, my delegation is most pleased with the establishment in Madagascar of a system for detecting cyclones, thanks to the co-operation of the United Nations Development Programme.

In this context, I would express to the representative of India our heartfelt sympathy in connexion with the recent cyclone which has just devastated a part of his country and claimed so many victims.

We have also noted with interest the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. My delegation supports the recommendations to give priority to the questions of remote sensing of the earth by satellite, the United Nations programme on space applications and the convening of a United Nations conference on outer space.

(Mr. Razafindratovo, Madagascar)

Madagascar also welcomes the progress made by the Committee in the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting.

But we must insist on the strict delimitation between international co-operation and the sovereign right of each State to decide on its programmes for education, information and entertainment.

As my delegation sees it, the establishment of a common cultural basis for mankind, a result of cultural interpenetration, however desirable, must not prevail over the affirmation of the cultural identities of each region and each country. The propaganda of blocs which have had their hours of glory at the time of the cold war should not now spread world-wide.

We consider also that these principles remain valid for the legal implications of remote sensing. Indeed, we need to have a text which can safeguard the sovereign rights of all States, and in particular the sovereign rights of the developing countries over their natural resources and over data concerning those resources.

It is to say the least surprising that States do not have valuable data, necessary for the rational use of their own resources, whereas more developed countries which have advanced technology do not hesitate to obtain such data.

Just as we believe that meteorological data with a bearing on the environment must be supplied to the entire world community, so we consider also that data concerning our natural resources should not be disseminated by multinational organizations which, in that case, simply play the game of the great Powers which have the technical and financial capability to exploit such data for their own ends. It is inconceivable that the sovereignty of a State should not apply first and foremost to the natural resources of that State.

My delegation is equally pleased with the United Nations Programme on space applications. We are pleased in particular with the seminars which have been held in various parts of the world on the applications of remote sensing for the study and development of natural resources in the developing countries in the fields of agriculture, forestry, the use of soils and the study of water resources.

(Mr. Razafindratovo, Madagascar)

The studies and experiments carried out with educational television and the use of solar energy with the aid of space techniques are also of the utmost interest to us.

It was with the major role that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could play in mind that my country became a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.43, designed to increase the number of members of the Committee from 37 to 47.

As we all know, originally there were 24 members and now there are 37. The draft resolution we are submitting to the First Committee simply gives concrete form to the growing interest of many States in the work of the Committee. Whatever its level of development, each interested State would, under the draft resolution, be able to make its contribution to the work of the Committee. For our part, we believe that such an enlargement can in no way be a barrier to a deeper study of the problems which are of interest to the entire international community.

The establishment of outer space legislation, parallel in many ways with the establishment of a new law of the sea will, we are certain, serve the common interests of mankind.

Accordingly, the delegation of Madagascar supports the establishment of a working group to consider the questions related to the convening of a United Nations conference on outer space which might be held as early as next year.

Mr. DAMANIK (Indonesia): My delegation wishes at the outset to thank the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Mr. Jankowitsch, for his excellent introduction of the report of the Committee. It placed the various issues in their proper perspective and illuminated their ramifications for the members of the international community. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, of which Indonesia has the honour to be a member, has continued, within the limits of its mandate, to fulfil its role as the focal point of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. We hope that in the future it will be possible to promote additional areas of co-operation.

(Mr. Damanik, Indonesia)

It has been two decades since the launching of Sputnik inaugurated a new era in the utilization of space by mankind. This has been followed by a succession of dramatic technological achievements. Particular mention should be made of the landing of men on the moon, remote sensing of the earth and satellite communications. In the context of continuing technological progress, we feel that the United Nations not only can provide the political and legal framework for these developments but also can facilitate access to these new forces of science and technology in outer space.

I should now like to describe briefly the activities recently undertaken by LAPAN, the Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space. LAPAN has formulated several short-range and long-range plans which will carry Indonesian space activities forward into the next decade. One of the key activities which LAPAN is assigned to undertake is the development of skills and expertise through the establishment of a LAPAN training centre.

Since the beginning of this year three important projects have been initiated. One such project is related to environmental and weather observation satellite utilization, which is designed to improve the quality and size of weather satellite pictures as well as to evaluate weather satellite data. A second such project is the development of meteorological and earth resources rockets designed to meet specific Indonesian requirements. Under this project, efforts will also be initiated to expand the technological capability to launch scientific rockets. A third project on laboratories for space applications of earth resources is intended to enhance both software and hardware interfaces suited to Indonesian conditions and requirements. The know-how and experience to be gained from these programmes are likely to contribute to other forms of space applications in Indonesia.

All these projects are in line with the resolve of the Indonesian Government to meet the needs for up-to-date and complete information on earth resources by taking advantage of the advances made in aerospace technology. For this purpose it is the Government's intention to increase and further develop the existing facilities of the Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space to ensure that the Institute will provide adequate services to various government agencies in their field programmes.

(Mr. Damanik, Indonesia)

An additional project of great importance undertaken by Indonesia is in the field of satellite communications. The two PALAPA satellites have already revolutionized communications among the 27 provinces of the country, although their impact is yet to be fully evaluated. Nevertheless, it is already clear that their contribution to national development will continue to grow, and the need for satellite services in the years ahead will not be confined only to communications, information and education but will extend to other social, economic and industrial programmes of the country.

In addition to serving the needs of Indonesia, the PALAPA satellite system can make a significant contribution to the development of the entire region of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Telecommunication experts of the ASEAN member countries have agreed in principle to the possibility of using the PALAPA satellite. This will facilitate the ASEAN telecommunication network which will cover satellite communications, education, information and television services among the member countries.

I should now like to turn to the report of the Outer Space Committee which we are considering. The outcome of the draft moon treaty is of great importance to all the members of the international community and in particular to the developing nations. In view of these considerations, my delegation is of the firm opinion that the principle of the common heritage of mankind should be recognized as a fundamental element of such a treaty. As a corollary, the rights of exploration and exploitation must be carefully defined in order to ensure an equitable sharing of possible benefits from such activities. This can be done only through the establishment of an international legal régime, which will ensure that the resources of the moon will not be exploited only for the benefit of the few and will not be considered the exclusive domain of those who are capable of exploring and exploiting them. To that end, it would be of great importance that all States commit themselves to the principle of an international régime for these purposes.

(Mr. Damanik, Indonesia)

It is equally essential to recognize that the relevant provisions of the Treaty on Outer Space cannot but be construed as indicating that the moon and other celestial bodies constitute a joint trust of all States. My delegation is convinced that the incorporation of these principles in the draft moon treaty will facilitate the common use by all States of the resources of outer space and will thus prevent the moon and other celestial bodies from becoming a source of conflict in the future.

My delegation is gratified to note that some progress has been made concerning the principles of consultation and agreement between States, on the rights of States to which programmes might be directed and also on the rights of States affected by technically unavoidable spill-over. My delegation has in the past not only repeatedly drawn the attention of the international community to the harmful impact of an unfettered flow of information on the social, cultural and political life of nations but also expressed the apprehension that such an unregulated flow might well become a source of international conflict in the future. The international community recognized the validity of such concerns when the General Assembly at its second session recommended the adoption of measures to combat the dissemination of distorted reports likely to disturb friendly relations among States. In this connexion it may be recalled that a number of international conventions have incorporated provisions which provide protection for States that might be affected by misleading and pernicious information.

In view of these factors and the recognition that direct satellite broadcasting to foreign States should be based solely on prior consent, my delegation deems it essential that the principle of consultation and agreement to be considered by the Legal Sub-Committee should be elaborated so as to adequately reflect those concerns. In our view such an approach would take into account the need to safeguard the sovereign rights of States as well as non-interference in internal affairs and would thus facilitate the evolution of a direct satellite broadcasting system to its full potential.

(Mr. Damanik, Indonesia)

My delegation shares the view that the United Nations should play a co-ordinating role in the field of remote-sensing activities. The value of remote sensing is widely recognized. Broad dissemination of material gathered by satellites has already taken place. These developments make it all the more imperative that rules be formulated to protect the legitimate rights of the sensed States. Of equal importance, moreover, is the need to ensure the confidentiality of the data collected. In our view, these concerns are adequately reflected in the unnumbered principle in annex III of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee, which recognizes the principle of sovereignty of States over their natural resources and over information concerning those resources. In our view, this represents an equitable solution to the problems posed by remote-sensing activities.

The problem of the definition and delimitation of outer space, which has not received adequate attention in the past, should no longer be neglected. In our view, there is a pressing need to define outer space in view of the fact that certain new types of activities have become a reality. These activities have the potential to blur the distinction between air space and outer space, which of necessity must be governed by separate legal régimes.

We are pleased to note the progress made by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee during its last session. Due to the importance of the access and availability of remotely sensed data, the Sub-Committee is to be commended for its success in formulating a definition of "data" and "information". I wish to inform the members of this Committee, in this context, that in view of the benefits which are to be derived from remote sensing Indonesia has decided to set up a receiving station of its own. The facilities of this receiving station will be made available to other countries in the region.

(Mr. Damanik, Indonesia)

As the Sub-Committee's report clearly emphasizes, the increased use of remote sensing techniques will require enhanced international co-operation for acquiring its full benefits. It will also be necessary to provide adequate training facilities in the field of remote sensing, particularly to the developing countries. We hope that the United Nations role in this regard will be enhanced. In my delegation's view it would also be desirable for the United Nations to explore problem areas where international solutions might be required and, in particular, the special problems of developing countries.

My delegation welcomes the establishment of an ad hoc working group to consider the factors involved for the possible convening of a second United Nations conference on outer space issues. We reiterate our support for the convening of such a conference in view of the major advances that have been made in the application of space technology to economic development in the last ten years. The conference will promote in a tangible way further prospects for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

In conclusion, I would like to refer to the problem of the expansion of the membership of the Committee. We are happy to note that many countries have expressed their desire to become members of the Committee. Indonesia always supports the widest participation possible and therefore welcomes that trend. We hope this matter can be solved in a way that will be agreeable to all concerned.

Mr. CORREA DA COSTA (Brazil): It is with pleasure that my delegation takes part once again in the debate on the items relating to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

As a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, my delegation is in a privileged position to address to Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria our expression of gratitude for the comprehensive manner in which he presented to the First Committee the report (document A/32/20) of this traditionally productive body of the United Nations.

Under Mr. Jankowitsch's experienced leadership, the Outer Space Committee was able at its twentieth session, held this year in Vienna, to pursue its fruitful consideration of the important matters with which it is entrusted.

(Mr. Correa da Costa, Brazil)

Our appreciation must also be expressed to the Chairmen of the two subsidiary bodies of the Committee, Mr. Wyzner of Poland and Mr. Carver of Australia, for the exemplary manner in which they conducted the tasks of these sub-Committees.

The quality of the work of the Committee and its two subsidiary bodies is also in direct relation to the high standards of efficiency and thoroughness demonstrated by the Secretariat, and Mr. Perék and Mr. Robinson of the Outer Space Affairs Division are to be specially congratulated. A word of thanks also goes to Mr. Murthy for his untiring efforts in implementing the United Nations Space Application Programme in spite of serious financial constraints.

May I here reiterate the position of Brazil on matters relating to outer space. My Government attaches the utmost importance to the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space. In our view, the highest expression of co-operation in this field is to be found in the furthering of an orderly development of space activities which would bear in mind the interests of all countries, irrespective of their level of scientific or economic development, and in a manner that should contemplate both the necessary encouragement of the advancement of space technology and the necessary extension of the rule of law to the extraterrestrial sphere.

The accelerated development of space technology and the ever growing number of its applications of direct interest to man's life on earth has justified the continuous elaboration by the international community of agreements and conventions designed to regulate specific aspects of those activities. That process, in which the Outer Space Committee has played a major and instrumental role, has given more substance to the development of the rule of law in outer space inaugurated by the 1967 Treaty.

The Brazilian Government has in this context participated actively in the negotiations conducted by the United Nations which resulted in a series of important international instruments. With the same endeavour we are presently engaged in the Outer Space Committee on efforts to come up with consensual texts for a Treaty on the moon and other celestial

(Mr. Correa da Costa, Brazil)

bodies, on principles governing the activities of States in the field of direct television broadcasting by satellites and on principles for the remote sensing of the earth from space.

It seems clear to my delegation that this trend towards the elaboration of specific legal frameworks for the different space applications and situations not encompassed by the 1967 Treaty obeys imperatives brought about by the very development of space technology, the growing awareness of its important impact in the lives of nations and the advancement of international co-operation in space matters.

In this context, it should be emphasized that the major part of these pioneering activities, although undertaken in outer space whose peaceful exploration and use is free in terms of the 1967 Treaty, exerts through its applications a direct influence in the economic, social and political spheres of sovereign States.

For Brazil, therefore, international co-operation in this field should not be limited to arrangements of a purely scientific or technical nature nor should it be deprived of the necessary advance backing of agreed norms that would determine, in an explicit manner, the rights and duties of States in the carrying out of these activities.

It is also clear to my delegation that, as the 1967 Treaty states, the exploration and use of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and interest of all countries, whatever their stage of development.

In our view, several elements follow naturally from the principles contained in the outer space Treaty. In the first instance, in those cases where certain space applications directly affect economic and social development and the political and legal life of States, the sovereign rights of the States concerned must be recognized.

The particular interest of developing countries in the benefits derived from the use of outer space must also be recognized. Outer space and, in particular, the moon and other celestial bodies should be considered the common heritage of mankind. That principle applies in particular to situations where in practice the existence of dissimilar conditions among States in the

(Mr. Correa da Costa, Brazil)

exploration and use of outer space could be implied in de facto national occupation and in the depletion of resources of a finite character and of universal interest. Those situations require internationally agreed and specific régimes that would take into account the rights of all parties affected and concerned.

(Mr. Correa da Costa, Brazil)

It is also high time for us to think of establishing measures, in the context of negotiations towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control, for the imposition of a strictly peaceful use of outer space. Not only should the prohibition of the emplacement of objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other type of arms of mass destruction continue to be respected, but also the use of all equipment of a military nature or envisaged for other hostile purposes should be outlawed. Systems of verification and international safeguards should, in this sense, be agreed upon.

The necessity for promoting an equitable transfer of technology and of sharing, in a non-discriminatory way, benefits accruing from space applications is evident; scientific and technological development should take place in the context of a new international economic order.

It is only fair that the international community should expect from countries which took upon themselves the pioneering task of the exploration and use of outer space, that they assume, with the same vigour, the consequent responsibility of ensuring an orderly development of their space activities, and respect for the legitimate interests and sovereign rights of other States, through the negotiation of internationally agreed and binding instruments.

A prompt international decision on the definition or delimitation of the very concept of "outer space" is long overdue in view of the absence of a definition of the scope and field of application of the 1967 Treaty and of the establishment of an internationally agreed régime for the sui generis case of the geo-stationary orbit, now menaced by the overcrowding of space objects.

The United Nations is the focal point for international negotiations on outer space and is to assume an increasingly important role in the co-ordination of international space activities and their applications.

It is imperative to ensure a strong link between the constant evolution of space technology and its applications and the necessary elaboration of legal instruments to regulate those activities.

There is, in this aspect, not necessarily a contradiction between the strengthening of international co-operation in space matters and respect for national interests and sovereign rights of States: the coming of age of new technologies of global scope should not conflict with principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

(Mr. Correa da Costa, Brazil)

The convening of a United Nations conference on outer space, if carefully prepared, will contribute favourably to the rationalization of space activities.

Among the sovereign rights of States raised by the introduction of space applications, the following could be highlighted: first, the right of a State to oppose the utilization of space applications which would imply restrictions in the exercise of its sovereign rights over its natural resources or which would affect the implementation of projects and programmes essential to its economic and social development; secondly, the right of a State over data and information, obtained through space means, relating to territories under its jurisdiction; thirdly, the right of a State regarding the inflow of transmissions originated by space means; and fourthly, the right of States over the use of finite space resources, geo-stationary orbit and resources of celestial bodies in particular.

With these views in mind, my delegation has participated in the work of the Outer Space Committee and its subsidiary bodies in the current year. We endorse the report presented to us in document A/32/20.

The question of enlarging the Outer Space Committee's membership has been put forward to us by several countries this year. May I just state here that my country has no reservations concerning the restructuring implied by draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.43, and hopes that this major change in the Committee's membership, a definite proof of the General Assembly's interest in the productive work done so far by this body of the United Nations, will be carried out in a practical and equitable way.

Although Brazil is not a major space Power, it will continue to participate actively in the future work of the Outer Space Committee, with the hope that this promising new field of human activity, in itself the very symbol of the ingenuity and daring of man in this century, will be conducted in the common interest of all nations.

Mr. ROS (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): In the first place the delegation of Argentina wishes to congratulate Mr. Peter Jankowitsch for the clear and complete introduction he gave when presenting the Committee's report as well as for his skill and devotion in guiding the work of the Committee. We also wish to express our appreciation to Mr. Carver of Australia and Mr. Wyzner of Poland for their concern and diligent guidance of the debates of the two Sub-Committees.

This year we are celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the beginning of the conquest of outer space and the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the "Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies".

The progress and advances made in the last 20 years of space activity may make us feel very proud but we should not forget the responsibilities with which we are now faced and the need for broad international co-operation so as to carry forward our task.

A clear example is to be found in the Legal Sub-Committee which is at the moment dedicating itself to elaborating three draft treaties which are as important as the four Conventions already concluded.

The Republic of Argentina has participated actively in the Committee since its establishment in 1957 and it is there that my country states in detail and in depth its position on each of the items under review and debate, which is why at this time I shall refer to only some of the items which are of special importance for the future work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

(Mr. Ros, Argentina)

My delegation wishes clearly to state that we consider it essential that the principle of the common heritage of mankind govern the legal régime of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies and that that principle be included in the text of the treaty and not be relegated to an alternative or optional protocol, as some delegations have suggested.

The Republic of Argentina considers it an elementary rule that any activity of the remote sensing of natural resources must be guided by co-operation and consultation between the State carrying out the remote sensing and the State being remotely sensed, as well as by the principle of the permanent sovereignty of States over their own natural resources and the right freely to dispose of them and of the data obtained on them. The interesting and constructive debate which resulted in the drafting of six new draft principles to be added to the existing five, shows it is possible to move ahead on this subject in a spirit of compromise.

As regards the item of direct television broadcasting, my delegation believes that, despite the considerable progress that has been achieved, there still remain to be solved certain aspects that are delicate and of special importance, such as overspill in particular. It is our hope that, together with the idea of freedom of information, delegations will take into account the concepts of respect for the sovereignty and independence of States, non-intervention, and that the principle of the right and duty to hold consultations among States is of capital importance in this entire subject.

The work done by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee regarding the classification of remote sensing data into three categories based on spatial resolution seems most interesting, as also do efforts to arrive at definitions of the data and information obtained from remote sensing. Similarly, we think it very wise to establish at its next session a working group of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to study the possibility and desirability of convening a second international conference on outer space.

The Republic of Argentina supports the holding of such a conference, and we duly sent to the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs the suggestions and comments required by note PO 313 (1-1) of 18 July of this year.

(Mr. Ros, Argentina)

As regards the draft resolutions on possible enlargement of the membership of the Committee, my delegation supports the draft in document A/C.1/32/L.43, introduced by the representative of Colombia.

In conclusion, I wish to recall that during 1976 and 1977 the Republic of Argentina organized and held two Latin American seminars on remote sensors. We are now preparing the third course, which will be held during the first half of next year.

Because of the experience we have acquired I wish to reiterate the formal offer, made in Vienna at the twentieth session of the Committee, that Buenos Aires be made the headquarters of a regional centre of remote sensors to train professionals in various disciplines in the use and application of satellite techniques designed to detect natural resources.

Lastly, my delegation wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude for the sponsorship the United Nations has for several years now granted the Celpa Atlantico-Mar del Plata rocket-launching base.

Mr. ABBA (Algeria) (interpretation from French): Only 20 years separate us from the launching of the first Sputnik around the earth, and tremendous progress has been made in the conquest of space since then. Indeed, in the course of this period of time, so brief in terms of the history of mankind, man has succeeded in escaping from his ancient planet, on which he has lived for millions of years, in order to make true the no less ancient dream of his ancestors: that of walking in space. In this period, man has been able to orbit the earth for several weeks, just as he has been able to hold meetings in space and to send devices to prospect distant planets. He has even succeeded in walking on the moon.

These achievements, which have opened up very exciting prospects for the future of mankind, must beyond doubt be credited to human genius. But however spectacular they may be, they should not cause us to lose sight of the fact that any action in the field of the use of outer space should remain aimed at satisfying the needs of mankind as a whole and should exclude all considerations of national prestige and rivalry between States. On the other hand, I would venture to hope it would not be too naïve to think

(Mr. Abba, Algeria)

that expensive projects in the field of space, the importance of which is not all that clear, should be abandoned for the benefit of more urgent action aimed at relieving the sufferings of people on earth. Indeed, the victories in space will always leave for us a bitter after-taste as long as men on earth are still suffering the scourges of hunger, disease and ignorance.

It is in the light of these general considerations that I shall embark upon a consideration of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Permit me first to congratulate Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria on his detailed presentation of the report of the Outer Space Committee and the dynamic and competent way in which he has conducted its proceedings. I should also like to pay a tribute to the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, Mr. Wyzner of Poland and the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, Mr. Carver of Australia.

My delegation would like to express its great satisfaction at the progress achieved in work on the draft treaty on the moon and to reaffirm its position on the fundamental question of the natural resources of the moon, which should be considered the common heritage of mankind. Indeed, we consider that only this notion of the common heritage of mankind will make it possible for the peoples of the world to benefit from the progress achieved in the conquest of space and avoid a situation in which some States more technically advanced than others claim the right to use and abuse the resources of celestial bodies.

Furthermore, the remote sensing of the natural resources of the earth by satellite has opened up promising prospects for the world economy, and particularly for the economies of developing countries. This new technique gives us ground for hoping that considerable progress will be achieved in the knowledge of natural resources so vital at a time of wasteful extravagance and the near-depletion of some resources.

Certain delegations have raised here the principle of freedom in the field of remote sensing of the natural resources of the earth by satellite. My delegation considers that remote sensing should not be carried out in an

(Mr. Abba, Algeria)

anarchic manner and should respect the interests of States. In particular, it should be based upon the principle of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources. In that way, information gathered in one State could be communicated to another with the consent of the State owning the resources. Furthermore, possession of such information should never be used to increase the already close dependence of the developing countries on the technologically-advanced countries.

(Mr. Abba, Algeria)

Still in the field of remote sensing by satellite, my delegation would like to express its satisfaction and its hope with regard to the possibilities opened up by this technology in the field of observation of the environment, whether this be in terms of studying pollution or of forecasting cyclones.

The technique of direct television broadcasting by satellite has also given rise to a great deal of hope with regard to the mutual understanding and growing closer together of the peoples of the world. I do not remember the name of the writer who said that "peoples should be enriched by their mutual differences". Television by satellite seems to us to be a particularly suitable means for such enrichment. However, my delegation shares the view which has so often been expressed here that this technique should not be allowed to become a means of propagating reactionary ideas or racist propaganda, or become an instrument of political or cultural aggression against any country. It is for this reason that the broadcasting of television programmes directly should necessarily be subject to the prior consent of recipient States, otherwise this kind of broadcasting will rapidly become intolerable interference in the internal affairs of States, which is contrary to the spirit and the letter of the United Nations Charter.

The question of a United Nations conference on space matters has been repeatedly raised in this Committee. My delegation believes that such a conference would make it possible to take stock of the state of international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space and give further momentum to activities already undertaken in this field. However, it is worth stressing that such a conference should not be allowed to interfere with the functioning of other conferences provided for within the United Nations framework and should particularly take account of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology.

Before concluding, I should like to say a few words on the question of expanding the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. My delegation, which is a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.43, believes that such an increase in the membership would be in keeping with the legitimate desire of many countries to make their own contributions to the peaceful use of outer space. We feel that the General Assembly should not postpone once again

(Mr. Abba, Algeria)

consideration of this item to its next regular session, delegations, in our view, having had already enough time to think the matter over. In any case, we find it difficult to understand certain terms in draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.42 where, curiously, the General Assembly, a sovereign organ, requests a Committee that it has itself created to study whether or not its own membership should be expanded.

Mr. BATIUK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Space flight, which was born with the launching in the Soviet Union of the first artificial earth satellite of the world on 4 October 1957, is a very young sphere of human activity. It is in fact younger than anyone here in this room. Nevertheless, today hundreds of millions of people in their everyday life are already concretely feeling the actual results of the beginning of the era of the peaceful use of outer space. Reliable systems of distant television, telephone and telegraph communications, reliable weather forecasting, remote sensing of the earth and prospecting for minerals, the deepening of knowledge about the universe - this is by no means an exhaustive list of the attainments and achievements that followed the successful launching of the first Soviet Sputnik 20 years ago.

In the course of that time about 10,000 space objects have been put into space and no fewer than 1,000 of them are still permanently operating in orbit. Every year sees a growth in interest in the theoretical and applied aspects of space research. There is a growing movement towards uniting, both on a bilateral and a multilateral basis, the efforts of States for joint research and the conquest of outer space. This movement has been spurred primarily by the global nature of the problems of conquering space and also the undoubted importance of work in this field for the whole of mankind.

It is with a feeling of profound satisfaction that we can point to the fact that in our day outer space has become the arena of broad international co-operation. Following joint earth-based observations and accompanying space experiments, many countries have embarked upon the joint manufacture of space objects and the carrying out of experiments in space by concerted efforts.

(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

An important contribution to research into and the use of outer space for peaceful purposes has been made by the members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, which have combined their efforts in the Intercosmos Programme. In the years that have elapsed since the adoption of this programme, scientists of socialist countries have carried out a broad range of research with the use of Soviet artificial earth satellites, geophysical and meteorological rockets and means of earth-based observation. Under the Intercosmos Programme, up to the present time 16 artificial earth satellites have been launched and six geophysical rockets in the vertical series. Work on research into the sun, the ionosphere, cosmic rays, meteors and the problems of solar-earth communications carried out under the Intercosmos Programme has been serving the interests of the peoples not only of the countries of the socialist community but also of the whole world. Very soon the Intercosmos series of Sputniks will be succeeded by a new generation of Sputniks, automatic universal orbital stations and a new generation of geophysical rockets, which will make it possible to carry out even more complex and interesting experiments.

The co-operation of the socialist countries taking part in the Intercosmos Programme is entering a qualitatively new stage of development. As has already been pointed out, for 1978 to 1983 joint flights have been planned for citizens of socialist countries aboard Soviet spacecraft and stations. The socialist countries have consistently favoured the further expansion and deepening of co-operation with all interested States. In recent years co-operation in this field between Soviet scientists and specialists of such States as France the United States of America, India and Sweden has assumed considerable proportions.

The Ukrainian SSR has also made its own contribution to the joint efforts of many countries in research into and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. Every year sees in the Ukraine an increase in the number of scientific projects connected with the study and practical use of outer space. Much work is being done jointly with foreign specialists, inter alia, within the framework of the Intercosmos Programme. In recent years Ukrainian scientists have taken an active part in carrying out a number of international programmes and experiments, such as, for example, the Soviet-French Arax experiment. Together with scientists from the United States of America, France, Austria and the Netherlands, Ukrainian

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(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

scientists have taken part in carrying out the West German Porcupine experiment. According to plans for Soviet-Austrian co-operation in the field of radio-astronomy, Ukrainian scientists have been carrying out studies into radi● radiation from the sun and discrete sources.

(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

Ukrainian specialists have taken part in the international geomagnetic meridian programme with scientists from the United States, based on the magnetic observatory at Odessa, and have carried out geomagnetic research. In institutions of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, a great number of devices, equipment and systems have been designed and produced for the study and conquest of outer space. Last year more than 15 institutions of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR and a number of observatories in the Republic carried out studies and scientific work designed to extend scientific knowledge about space, outer space, and near-earth space. Apparatus which has been produced and designed in our Republic has been used in joint Soviet-Swedish and Soviet-French experiments. Our scientists continue to participate in the work of the congresses of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR).

This year the Ukrainian SSR ratified the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR is convinced that the preparation of new international legal norms regulating the activities of States in space - and that includes the draft treaty relating to the moon - will undoubtedly serve to accelerate the exploitation of the advantages to be derived from the conquest of outer space, in the interests of the whole of mankind. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Sub-Committee have done some very useful work in that regard.

Turning now to the question of producing an international agreement on principles to govern the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR would like to point to the definite progress which has been made towards that end at the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Our delegation wholeheartedly shares the view that direct television broadcasting by means of artificial satellites should be used in the interests of strengthening peace and developing friendly relations among peoples. It should serve to promote the exchange of factual information and cultural values on the basis of observance of the principles of non-intervention in internal affairs and respect for national sovereignty and equality to the mutual advantage of all countries.

(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

We also believe that the text of a future agreement should contain no loopholes enabling direct television broadcasting from satellites to be used in order to transmit to other countries information which is in contradiction with their social, political, cultural and moral ideals. The broadcasting of television programmes from space to other countries without the clearly expressed consent of the Governments of the States concerned should be prohibited. We are driven to that conclusion by the intervention which is continuing to this very day in the internal affairs of States by means of radio transmission. Certain States have even been attempting to legalize that piratical activity by giving it a veneer of legitimacy. The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR believes that there is every likelihood in the near future that the Legal Sub-Committee will conclude work on the international legal principles governing the activities of States in the use of satellites for direct television broadcasting. Our delegation also expresses the hope that a successful conclusion will be reached in work on the principles relating to the legal implications of remote sensing of earth from space as applied in research in the fields of geology, geodesy and cartography, into forwarning of natural disasters and into agricultural pests, and so on.

In that regard, it is worth noting that a communication was circulated on 16 February this year in the United Nations on co-operation between the Soviet Union and the United States in the field of the remote sensing of earth by means of space technology. It expresses the readiness of the Soviet Union to co-operate for the purpose of studying the natural resources of the earth and its environment. It is ready to carry out photographic surveys of the territories of interested States and make available to them the information obtained, on the basis of appropriate agreements. That is a new contribution to international co-operation. In our view, that step is an invitation to all countries, both developed and developing, to join in equal co-operation in making use of the advantages of peaceful activities in space.

Our Committee has before it a draft resolution on the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, which has already been signed by 75 States. The draft resolution quite rightly points out the importance of the Treaty and contains an appeal to all States Members of the

(Mr. Batiouk, Ukrainian SSR)

United Nations to become parties to it. Our delegation associates itself with that appeal, which is in keeping with the wish expressed at the twentieth anniversary session of the United Nations Outer Space Committee that the international legal régime in space be strengthened. We believe that wish to be timely, since today we are witnessing breathtaking developments in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. Many of the results of the work of mankind beyond the boundaries of the earth's atmosphere which have been applied are of global scope and significance. All that has created a splendid opportunity for the study and use of outer space from the very outset to be an example of genuinely equal international co-operation, buttressed by solid international legal norms.

The Ukrainian delegation is ready to support all the proposals and draft resolutions aimed at ensuring that the activities and achievements in this field are harnessed to the service of the whole of mankind and are carried out in an orderly fashion on an international legal contractual basis.

In supporting the report of the Committee on Outer Space as a whole, the Ukrainian delegation, however, wishes to draw attention to the fact that in paragraph 78 of the report provision is still made for concentrating the work of the Committee and its sub-committees in New York. We share the view of those members of the Committee who expressed their preference for rotating sessions of the Committee between New York and Geneva.

In conclusion, the Ukrainian delegation would like to point out that it shares the approach to the question of widening the participation of States Members of the United Nations in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which has been reflected in draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.42, submitted by the delegation of Austria.

Mr. GBEHO (Ghana): I have pleasure in participating in the debate on the two items on the Committee's agenda, "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space", and the "Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting". My delegation believes that the two items are of considerable importance to the international community because they concern the international attempt to control and regulate a new frontier in man's scientific and technological knowledge.

I refer to this field of human activity as a new frontier because of the relative novelty of its history and also because of the vast expanse of knowledge yet to be conquered through science and technology. Man's present achievement therefore is only the beginning of the vast knowledge to be gained, and what is unknown is as vast as the cosmos itself. From present projections, the reward to our civilization of the conquest of outer space is incalculable, and an orderly exploration and exploitation of its resources should be of considerable advantage to a world that is facing a rapid depletion of its natural resources amidst an ever-growing demand. Outer space activity, therefore, not only is necessary and urgent for the support of man's continued existence on earth, but also must be controlled in order to ensure an equitable distribution of the resources so tapped to all countries and peoples.

It is only 20 years since the whole world was astounded by the impressive launching into space of the Sputnik satellite by the USSR in October 1957. That event heralded a giant step in man's probe of outer space because it generated an unprecedented international enthusiasm for space science and technology. Since then, many more objects have been launched into outer space, principally by the two leading nations, the United States and the USSR. The growing volume of activity in this field has to date encompassed nearly 10,000 space objects that have travelled through outer space. Today, there is an average of 1,000 objects actively engaged in orbiting the earth and transmitting a wealth of information surpassed only by man's unquenchable thirst for more knowledge of the unknown. Although these achievements are still at the beginning of man's mastery of the universe, it is only fitting that my delegation should, at this stage, pay tribute to the Governments of those countries whose courage and forward-looking endeavours continue to push our horizon further and further into outer space.

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

Before I turn to the report of the Committee on Outer Space, permit me to add the voice of my delegation to the voices of others who have expressed their appreciation to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the work that it has accomplished since the thirty-first session of the General Assembly. We note particularly the leadership of Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria, in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee, as well as the contributions of Mr. Wyzner, as Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, and Mr. Carver, as Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space records that the Legal Sub-Committee continued to give priority to the question of the natural resources of the moon, but, unfortunately, it was not possible to reach a compromise solution on the different views advanced. My delegation is not surprised by the lack of consensus on this question since the opposing views held by Member States are as varied as they are strong. However, it is our view also that the resources of the moon and other celestial bodies constitute a common heritage of mankind and must be explored and exploited for the benefit of all. In spite of the fact that various degrees of effort are being put into the outer space programme by individual countries for the successful exploitation of the moon, a controlled measure of activity is required now and in the future to obviate international disagreement on the manner of exploitation and distribution of the advantages therefrom. In trying to reach an agreement on this difficult question, it would be useful to bear in mind that whatever benefits accrue from the tapping of the resources of the moon and other celestial bodies will, in the final analysis, affect the structure and quality of life of our societies on earth. The question that arises, therefore, is whether we can allow the results of outer space activity to upset the agreements already reached for the future development of our societies on earth. The simple answer is that the resources gained should benefit our societies equitably in order to allow a societal development in keeping with the accepted principles of equality and the right to a better quality of life for all. For this reason, it is in our common interest that the resources of not only the moon but also other celestial bodies should be regarded as the common heritage of us all.

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

In the formulation of this philosophy, we cannot afford to ignore the lessons of history, as my delegation has had occasion to point out in the past, for we would do so at our own peril. The phenomenon of outer space enterprise is strikingly similar to the exploration and exploitation of the non-industrialized world a little over a century ago. At that time, the uncontrolled activities of representatives of industrialized societies in areas that have now come to be known as the third world led to conflict, indiscriminate colonization and the creation of unequal North-South societies. It has taken the international community several agonizing years to dismantle the unacceptable structures so created in society and to agree to a variety of new international orders that would direct the development of our respective societies towards an agreed and enlightened goal. With such painful empirical knowledge still fresh in our minds, activities in outer space should not be so influenced by considerations that could damage the profoundly sensible principles that we have all worked so hard to formulate for our mutual benefit.

It is in the interest of peaceful and harmonious exploration of outer space that my delegation has become worried about the increasing use of outer space for military purposes. In spite of the agreement already reached to bar nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction from outer space, we are informed of the increasing use of artificial space objects for military purposes. It is our view that such unacceptable use of outer space should be deprecated for the reason that it increases the military potential of countries and thus detracts from our efforts to achieve international peace and security. Furthermore, such use of outer space indirectly inflates the military budgets of countries at the expense of development. My delegation hopes, therefore, that the Committee and other international bodies concerned with disarmament would bear this development in mind in their endeavour to secure international peace.

In this regard, my delegation favours the creation of an international agency, under the United Nations, to control outer space activities. The proposed agency should, we recommend, perform a role similar to that of the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure an orderly exploration of outer space and also formulate safeguards in such activities in order to protect the safety and other interests of human society.

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

The Committee on Outer Space has given some thought to the proposal to convene a United Nations conference on outer space. Having considered the varying views on the proposal, we are informed that there was general agreement in the Committee to create a task force to study the likely utility, scope and financial implications of the proposal. My delegation associates itself with this decision because we believe that such preparatory work would ensure a maximization of the benefits of the proposed conference. We hope, however that the Committee would expedite its work in order not to delay unduly the convening of such an important world conference.

On the question of the remote sensing of the earth from space, my delegation has studied the Committee's report on the matter and fully appreciates the difficulties of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the questions of definitions, classification and the distribution of remote sensing data. While the Sub-Committee further tackles the important aspects of the remote sensing of the earth, we believe that the General Assembly should continue to clarify, in its debates, some of the general principles that would facilitate the Sub-Committee's assignment.

My delegation attaches great importance to this question because of the advantages which accrue, particularly to developing countries, from this aspect of space activity. The remote sensing of countries has the proven potential of assisting, inter alia, in the geological location of mineral resources, the scientific improvement of agriculture, in meteorological forecasts and in the detection and monitoring of pollution of the environment. These services are vital to the economic life of States and their improvement should be encouraged. They can continue to be even more beneficial only if international co-operation is strengthened and the data collected made available to all. However, we believe that certain rights of the remotely-sensed State to the information gathered and the scope of the dissemination of certain types of information should be protected, as we go along, in order to avoid conflict. The General Assembly may wish, therefore, to better clarify, for the benefit of the Committee on Outer Space, its views on this delicate question without necessarily stultifying growth in outer space activity.

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

In this regard, I wish to convey the gratification of my Government at the various programmes initiated in different parts of the world to train personnel, especially from the developing countries, in the science and technology of the remote sensing of the earth from outer space.

The Ghana delegation has studied the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. We have noted the useful work done by the Legal Sub-Committee to formulate a tentative text of an international agreement to regulate this activity especially as it relates to the principle of "Consultation and agreements between States". My delegation wishes to congratulate the Legal Sub-Committee on the performance of its arduous task and hopes that it can make similar progress at its seventeenth session in the consideration of outstanding matters.

Several delegations have expressed cogent views on this matter, especially the need to ensure the freedom to intellectual and cultural direct broadcasts through the medium of artificial satellites. Others have raised equally good reasons for the need for formulating parameters within which such freedom can be exercised. It is a difficult decision to make one way or the other and my delegation is of the opinion that the right course of action lies perhaps somewhere between the two arguments.

There can be no doubt that television broadcasting has been of immense value to our respective societies in improving their intellectual, educational and cultural pursuits but I believe there is also an admission of the fact that certain kinds of television broadcasts can be harmful to certain peoples. It is, therefore, only right that a receiving State should have a certain measure of say in broadcasts directed at its people without impinging too much on the right of its citizens to information and ideas. Whatever the arguments are for and against this freedom it must be recognized that the availability of the technical facility in itself will not change the attitude of Governments. In other words, the existing laws in various countries regarding the freedom of the individual to information will not change only because there is a novel use of television broadcasting by the medium of artificial satellites. To ensure

the progressive realization of our goal of that right of the individual to information, therefore, we must direct our attention to the totality of the media for the transmission and reception of information as well as our concepts of what constitutes that freedom. To allow only a part of the argument to hold back the development of technology would, in the circumstance, be to the disadvantage of us all. My delegation hopes that the Committee would bear this in mind in trying to reach agreement that would be broadly accepted by all.

Finally, I wish to say a word or two about the proposal to increase the Committee for Outer Space from its present number of 37 to 47. The Austrian delegation and others have advanced strong reasons against an immediate decision in the matter at the current session. The fact that the Committee was only recently expanded and the need for the Committee itself to first consider all aspects of the proposals are very cogent reasons for a postponement of the decision requested. My delegation is thus left in a difficult position. However, we find it difficult, after considering all the arguments advanced, including those for an immediate expansion of the Committee, not to support an increase in the membership of the Committee. In our view, considering that the United Nations now enjoys a total membership of 149 Member States and the fact that the outer space programme involves - or should involve - all mankind, we do not consider a committee of 47 to be too large or too unwieldy to facilitate a decision-making process. In fact, there are other Committees of the United Nations with similar or even larger membership which continue to render services of distinction. We are not convinced, therefore, that the Committee on Outer Space is necessarily an exception.

Further, although it is the technologically advanced States which remain, at this time, at the forefront of space technology, we are of the view that in so far as outer space activities relate to politics, geology, agriculture, meteorology and other important aspects of international activity, as many representatives as is technically possible should be brought into the body that studies and formulates decisions on behalf of the international community.

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

Certainly, a body less than a quarter of the total membership of the United Nations can be increased to a number less than a third of its membership in order to give increased representation to developing countries whose interests, we are agreed, are equally vital in the peaceful uses of outer space.

The next 12 months are going to be just as challenging and important for the Committee on Outer Space as the past 12. We hope that the views expressed in the present debate will help alleviate the burden that the Committee carries on our behalf. We ourselves may express views that vary from those held by certain individual delegations on the Committee but I wish to assure the Committee that their competence and good faith are appreciated and respected by my delegation. We will continue to support their valuable role and, on behalf of my delegation, I wish them all the best in their forthcoming deliberations.

Mr. SUMNER (Sierra Leone): The delegation of Sierra Leone supports a broad and active international co-operation in the exploration of outer space within the framework of the United Nations. Speaking briefly on my country's current space-related activities, our Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources has made an evaluation of a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) consultant's report on computer treatment by Landsat imagery of the country for land use and mapping purposes. A coverage of the country was made by high aerial photography using infrared black and white films. An intensive use of these photographs is being made through interpretation for land resource surveying and for other studies. Furthermore, field surveys and ground truth data collection are being carried out as a result of these high aerial photographs. Therefore we are grateful to FAO for this joint venture which has proved so useful to us.

While my country appreciates the assistance in the form of fellowships and training courses offered to developing countries, and in the organizing of seminars in the field of remote sensing, by United Nations agencies and by the Governments of Member States, it is nevertheless the hope of my delegation that such assistance and offers will be continued on an increased scale.

We live in an era when we can hardly be content with past achievements, however great such achievements may be. Remote sensing itself is still new to man's experience, especially to us of the less developed world. Therefore we appeal to the space Powers to redouble their efforts in assisting the developing countries to make good use of remote-sensing technology, which has proved so vital for development.

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the sentiments already expressed by earlier speakers in regard to the excellent work done by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and that done by the Secretariat in the preparation of the Committee's report contained in document A/32/20. My delegation hopes that the Committee at its twenty-first session will continue to give particular attention to the question of direct television broadcasting by satellite. We feel that it is now up to us to act with courage so as to arrive at an acceptable compromise on the issue of direct television

(Mr. Sumner, Sierra Leone)

broadcasting by satellite. As a developing country, Sierra Leone shares the concern of other developing countries that the permanent sovereignty of all States over their wealth and natural resources, as well as the inalienable right to dispose of those resources and the information thereon, should be respected.

Today more nations have become aware of the potential advantages offered by direct broadcasting by satellite while at the same time not losing sight of the attendant problems. Our Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should, therefore, continue to be guided in its deliberations by the principle of respect for State sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States. Our quest for a solution of the issue of "prior consent" must, therefore, be guided by this principle.

It is the view of my delegation that the moon and its natural resources are indeed a common heritage of all mankind and that all States should have access to the benefits that accrue therefrom. Hence our call for the expansion of opportunities for the acquisition of the requisite technology for exploiting those resources or, at least, for special consideration to be given to the interest of developing countries.

As regards the question of convening a United Nations conference on outer space matters, my delegation believes there is a need for such a conference. Tremendous strides have been made in the field of space technology. It is only reasonable that we endeavour to take stock of the achievements reached so far and to find ways and means by which these human achievements can go even further to alleviate human misery and social and economic imbalance. We support the appointment of a task force for this purpose as suggested in the Committee's report.

In conclusion, I wish to express my delegation's appreciation to the Government and people of Austria for affording the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space the opportunity of holding its meetings in Vienna.

Mr. ILLUECA (Parana) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, we are very pleased at the efficient manner in which the Committee's work is proceeding under your wise and worthy chairmanship.

It is not my intention further to prolong this debate, which has benefited from the valuable contributions of many delegations. Accordingly, I shall confine myself, on the one hand, to considering some aspects of the items proposed in regard to international co-operation in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes and, on the other hand, to referring to draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.43, which my delegation is co-sponsoring together with 23 other delegations. However, before proceeding, I wish to congratulate the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, under the chairmanship of the Representative of Austria, Mr. Jankowitsch, and also the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, under their respective Chairmen, Mr. Wyzner and Mr. Carver, on the advances they have made in the delicate tasks entrusted to them, which are described clearly and in detail in the report submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and covering the twentieth session held in Vienna from 20 June to 1 July 1977 under the pleasant and efficient auspices of the Federal Government of Austria. My delegation also wishes to congratulate the Secretariat on the splendid work it has done on the subject under review.

Once again I deem it necessary to emphasize that, in spite of appearances, the use of outer space, as is the case with all matters dealing with the vast spaces that science and technology have placed within the reach of man, is something which is also of direct and urgent interest to small countries which, like mine, are far from possessing the marvels of the use of sophisticated electronics and all-powerful computers.

(Mr. Illueca, Panama)

The truth is, as I said on a similar occasion, that the future also belongs to us, and until the day comes when our countries, by combining our resources through the inevitable design of history, have complete scientific and technological capability, we must see to it now that this new era in the world does not repeat the injustices and errors of the past. I was referring then and I refer now to the hegemony of the great over the small which might assume new forms, perhaps not deliberately created but brought about by the force of events themselves unless there is a legal system beforehand which will effectively guarantee in regard to outer space the rights of all peoples to freedom, education in accordance with their own cultural values, independence and national sovereignty, particularly as regards natural resources in which we must include the position of each country on the planet in the cosmic network between latitudes and longitudes.

Countries such as Panama therefore have a particular interest in establishing without delay a legal system governing the use of outer space, before we find ourselves facing faits accomplis or reprehensible practices.

In the inaugural statement, the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Jankowitsch, with his vast experience, said, in utterances which we endorse and which are relevant:

"We have also learnt that it is not necessary to be a master of all the scientific and technical details of a space programme in order to understand the primary objectives of such a programme and to recognize the potential political problems involved." (A/32/20, p. 22).

My words reflect justified apprehension because throughout this debate on outer space and its peaceful use we have observed once again the unanimity and the similarity of the points of view of almost all the great Powers when it comes to a matter that affects the tacit privileges which material power gives them. Indeed, although they know full well that

(Mr. Illueca, Panama)

the profound aspirations of the majority of the peoples of the world are not to be casual receivers of cultural or political propaganda but to safeguard appropriately their own national and legitimate interests, some Powers are reluctant to find a balanced solution within strict legal norms because they argue that any measure of legal regulation of the subject is incompatible with the fundamental concept of the free exchange of information and ideas among peoples, countries and individuals. Hence too their objection to consulting the State or States under the geostationary orbit, in which case they also invoke the right of unrestricted freedom for their information media.

The truth is that the privileged masters of science and technology know that they can with impunity invoke such great principles because they have the means to neutralize each other, either by stopping or preventing the flow of information which is not in accord with their respective political interests, either national or ideological, or by countering with an equal flow of information and replies. But we in the third world, how can we reply? How can we send out information or ideas if there is no legal rule which gives us that right?

The fact is that their opposition, couched of course in the best terms of international courtesy and elegant and specious arguments, is constant, as we note in reports, records and speeches, both in this chamber as well as in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee at their last sessions, as was pointed out last Wednesday by the representative of Canada. A symptom of all the foregoing is the delay in arriving at a definition and delimitation of outer space. The basic problem then is to endeavour to draft universal legislation on the subject, as was so rightly pointed out here by the representative of Colombia, Mr. Zea. My delegation therefore joins in the appeal to give the drafting of that definition priority on the agenda of the Outer Space Committee.

The aforementioned comments of course in no way detract from the praiseworthy work of the Committee, nor do they overlook the positive progress

(Mr. Illueca, Panama)

achieved in so many difficult spheres, as has been pointed out by several other delegations, and my delegation is particularly pleased to applaud them. But to recognize that progress does not prevent us from pointing out the existing difficulties and the obstacles we perceive for the future.

Allow me now to refer to draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.43 sponsored by more than 23 countries, including Panama, and introduced by the Austrian delegation.

Our countries - by that I mean the countries which in the last analysis are most interested in having a broad exchange of information on the space age so that it will not become the monopoly of the three or four main stars in technology - are most concerned that the solution to those problems reflect our points of view, our legitimate interests and our co-operation. Hence our wish to increase the membership of the Outer Space Committee. That is the origin and the purpose of draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.43.

So modest a purpose seems to be countered in draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.42, which seems to have been given questionable numerical priority.

Draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.42 in fact is a novel change in the constitutional order of the United Nations because, once we look through the text, what remains is an extraordinary delegation of the rights and powers of the General Assembly to a committee. Indeed, draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.42, in operative paragraph 1,

"Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to examine ways and means by which the Committee can accommodate the desire for wider participation in the work of the Committee and to report the result of its deliberations to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session;"

That means that it is the Committee which will in fact decide whether or not to accept an increase in its own membership. What then becomes of the sovereign role of the General Assembly? That is a decision which is not only scientific and technical but also, and above all, political. So delicate a question cannot be left to the arbitrary will of a committee, and in fact to a sub-committee - the Legal Sub-Committee. Furthermore, the fact that it has been agreed that decisions be taken by consensus in the Committee would in practice give rise to a deadlock in any attempt to increase its membership since objection by a single delegation would be enough to thwart any attempt to increase the membership of the Committee.

(Mr. Illueca, Panama)

Also, following the argument pro domo sua, we believe that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.42 seem to think that an increase in the number of members would lead to a decreased working effectiveness of the Committee. That is counter to the basic concept of legal equality of States, it flouts the principles of the United Nations Charter and fits in precisely with the idea of an exclusive club which might have as its slogan Horace's verse on profanum vulgus.

Finally, because of all the above, my delegation believes that we should increase the number of members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space by at least 10 members and that, in due course, the General Assembly should consider whether or not a system of rotation should be established as to the best means of giving effect to the Committee's purposes.

Before concluding, I should like to request delegations to support draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.43, which reflects positively the concerns and aspirations of countries that are progressing towards the higher forms of modern living. We also request that priority be given to draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.43 and hope that it will obtain a majority in this Committee.

Mr. MESSALLATI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation welcomes the consideration of the question of the peaceful uses of outer space, and especially the interest shown in it, and the progress achieved in it. My country hopes that, within the framework of meetings such as this, it will be able to make a contribution to the strengthening of co-operation between all countries, whatever their level of development from the technological point of view. We hope that all the countries in the world, particularly developing countries, will be able to benefit from the progress made.

With regard to the exploitation of outer space in the future, it is thanks to the international co-operation that progress will be achieved in the realm of remote sensing, satellite launching and stations using solar energy. Thanks also to co-operation we will be able to resolve the problems which we will encounter in this field. In view of the importance my delegation attaches to collective action and international co-operation in all fields, particularly

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in that of science and technology, and convinced as we are of the need for equitable geographical distribution in all the committees and international organizations so as to reflect the opinions of all and so that participation in the work is not limited to a given number of countries, my country supported draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.43.

This should not be taken to mean that my country wishes to become a member of the Outer Space Committee. Our position in fact shows that we recognize the right of certain countries to take part in the work of that important body. That is the main reason why we support this draft resolution.

My delegation has studied the report presented by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and would like to express its gratitude to the Committee for its report and also to its Chairman for his introduction of the report, which reflected the efforts made to produce the document and the recommendations it contains.

The technical advances of mankind can be of benefit to the whole world and all peoples if co-operation is established and concerted efforts made among all States, particularly because the population of our planet is growing constantly so that it has become necessary to seek other means of strengthening the capacity of man to survive. That is why we consider that it is necessary to produce a working plan to make international co-operation in the future more useful and to extend its scope.

In contributing to the discussion of this important item my delegation believes that within the framework of the debate we should take into account the following points. First, we should recognize the need to reach an international agreement which would organize the use of artificial satellites for the purposes of direct television broadcasting while respecting the sovereignty and security of States and the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs; furthermore, remote sensing should be carried out in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the norms of international law. Secondly, the developing countries should be able to derive benefits from technical progress in space in order to raise the standards of their people in terms of education. Thirdly, data and information obtained by means of remote sensing should be provided to the countries concerned and should not

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be communicated without their consent to a third country. Fourthly, my delegation would lay stress on freedom of the exchange of ideas and information while safeguarding the cultural heritage of each country. All efforts to that end should serve the peoples of the world and ensure the progress of man through the use of all available means in this field.

Mr. ABDELRAHMAN (Sudan) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation is happy to be able to participate in the discussion of items 35 and 36 of the agenda on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. Although our contribution to the discussion is limited we hope we can strengthen the efforts made by the majority of countries represented here with a view to attaining common goals.

This year coincides with the twentieth anniversary of the launching of the first satellite, Sputnik I, which revolved around the earth in 1957. It also coincides with the twentieth anniversary of the creation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and with the tenth anniversary of the conclusion of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

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We shall not be exaggerating in any way if we state that this is the most marked achievement of this Committee, because this Treaty is the basic legal instrument governing the space activities of States. The great evolution that has taken place in this period in the field of the conquest of space has raised very complex technical and legal problems. However, we are gratified by the fact that international co-operation in the exchange in and use of information for the benefit of mankind has been manifested more than once, as was shown by the joint Apollo-Soyuz mission of July 1975.

We are also happy to note the efforts made by the United Nations through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to give the necessary technical assistance to solve organizational problems resulting from the conquest of space by man.

Sudan, which has the honour of being a member of that Committee, is happy to be able to associate itself with previous speakers in expressing satisfaction at the constructive spirit which marked the work of the Committee. We are also happy to be able to extend our congratulations to Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria on his detailed statement in presenting the Committee's report last week. We should also like to congratulate Mr. Wyzner of Poland, Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee - this is the tenth anniversary of his chairmanship of that Sub-Committee - and Mr. Carver of Australia, Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Their enlightened leadership in guiding the proceedings of these sub-committees with the co-operation of Mr. Jankowitsch has been a guarantee of the success of those bodies. We should like to express our gratitude to the Government of Austria for having hosted the twentieth session of the Committee last year.

We are pleased at the progress made by the Legal Sub-Committee with regard to its work on norms governing the use of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. The Sub-Committee succeeded in drafting nine principles and the preamble. It is important to make it clear here that Sudan considers that we must reach a compromise reconciling the concept of freedom of information with that of the sovereignty of States. We believe that would be possible if the necessary political will existed and if guarantees prevented

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abuse of such technology. We hope that the Legal Sub-Committee will reach an acceptable agreement on the controversial points at the next session. Sudan also hopes that the Sub-Committee will be able to reach a solution with regard to the treaty on the moon and the legal régime governing the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon, which form part of the common heritage of mankind on the understanding that countries parties to the treaty will make available all information relating to the exploration of these resources.

With regard to the remote sensing of earth's resources from satellites, this is a question to which we attach great importance in view of the role science can play in the exploration of the resources of the earth, particularly in the realm of agriculture, in which we have a great deal of hope not only for the well-being of our people but also for that of all the peoples of Africa and the Middle East.

It is perhaps necessary for me to make it clear that we support the idea that we should safeguard the sovereign rights of all States, in particular the developing countries, with regard to information which should be made available to them so that they may know the resources existing in their territories.

We should like to express our gratitude to all countries which have demonstrated their readiness to help us in training. We cannot forget to express our appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization for its co-operation with my country and for the assistance it has given us in the realm of training and the application of technology. As a developing country we attach great importance to international co-operation because it is the best way of benefiting from the results of scientific progress in space. Like many other countries, we are convinced that the United Nations and the specialized agencies are the best way of benefiting from international co-operation.

This leads us to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. We see that the financial constraints which have been imposed have made it impossible for this programme to meet the present and future needs of developing countries. That is why we support the proposal for the convening of an international conference to study, after appropriate preparation, questions

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relating to space and items which may be discussed. We are among those who believe that the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology to be held in 1979 will make it possible to define the bases for the space conference.

Another question we want to raise as we conclude our statement relates to the wish of certain countries Members of the United Nations to be included among the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We support the wish of non-member countries to participate in the Committee's work. We are sure the Committee will benefit from their contribution. That is why we hope that this question will receive the necessary attention at this session.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to announce that Bangladesh and Jordan have become sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/32/L.43.

I would propose that, after hearing the remaining speakers on Monday morning, the Committee in the afternoon begin its discussion of the draft resolutions and take decisions on them. That will enable the Committee to conclude its consideration of the agenda items relating to outer space.

With the conclusion of its consideration of the outer-space items, the Committee will on Tuesday proceed to consider the remaining three agenda items - agenda items 37, 50 and 127. In this connexion I should like to draw the Committee's attention to the wish expressed by the President of the General Assembly that the First Committee not go beyond 9 December in considering all the items allocated it.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.