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*Chairman:* Mr. C. W. A. SCHURMANN  
(Netherlands).

## AGENDA ITEM 28

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer  
space:

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of  
Outer Space (A/5482, A/5549 and Add.1);
- (b) Report of the Economic and Social Council (chap-  
ter VII, section IV) (A/5503)

1. The CHAIRMAN extended a welcome to the Secretary-General, whose presence testified to his interest in the item under discussion, and to the representatives of the various specialized agencies and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions.

2. He wished to point out that the verbatim record annexed to the additional report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549/Add.1) was provisional, since the corrections from delegations had not been received when the report was prepared. It would be issued later in final form.

3. Mr. STEVENSON (United States of America) expressed satisfaction at the progress already achieved towards freedom, peace, law and co-operation in outer space. He recalled that in an earlier great age of discovery—that of Ericson and Columbus—the rulers of Europe had failed to match the geographical vision of the great navigators with a corresponding vision of law and statecraft. In 1494 the two great nautical Powers Spain and Portugal had agreed to divide the New World between them; and for centuries a voyage of exploration had been a voyage of conquest and expansion. However, the nations of today had agreed that no nation could make sovereign claims in outer space; thus discovery was no longer a prelude to conquest.

4. He hoped that the pace of technological advance in outer space would not outstrip the progress of social invention. He recalled the principles of space freedom proclaimed in General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) and the two important steps, which had recently been taken to limit the arms race in outer space: the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water and the resolution adopted by the General Assembly in which it called upon all

States to refrain from placing in orbit objects carrying nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction (resolution 1884 (XVIII)). Those measures would help to create the atmosphere of confidence needed for greater progress in disarmament and for intensified co-operation in all fields. The structural framework of that co-operation and of the space activities of all nations must be an international legal order. The General Assembly, in its resolution 1721 (XVI), had therefore asked the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to study the legal problems arising out of space exploration. After almost two years, the Committee had unanimously decided to submit to the General Assembly a draft declaration of legal principles. His Government hoped that the Assembly would adopt without dissent the draft resolution embodying those principles (A/5549/Add.1, para.6); it considered that the legal principles contained in the operative part of the draft declaration reflected international law as accepted by the Members of the United Nations. The United States intended to respect them and hoped the conduct they recommended in the exploration of outer space would become the practice of all nations. However, the declaration was only a first step; the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should now give priority to the drafting of international agreements on liability for space vehicle accidents and on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles. The General Assembly should ask the Committee to arrange its work programme accordingly. Study of space law should continue as the activities of States developed in the new environment, so that the United Nations could gradually create an international legal order for outer space.

5. Another task facing the General Assembly was that of promoting international co-operation in space. It had been his Government's policy, since the beginning of the space age, to encourage such co-operation. He cited in that connexion the many bilateral and multilateral arrangements concluded by the United States, which covered virtually the entire range of research and practical applications undertaken by the United States in the peaceful development of outer space. More than sixty countries had signed co-operation agreements with the United States. In August 1963 the Soviet Union and the United States had concluded an agreement providing for the exchange of scientific data in connexion with weather satellites and the World Magnetic Survey and for joint experiments in space communications with the aid of passive satellites. That was an important first step, and his Government hoped that the programme would soon be implemented.

6. Bilateral co-operation prepared the way for broader co-operation. Through COSPAR, with its three data centres—at Washington, Moscow and Slough, England—twenty-four countries were already taking part in scientific research on space. The United States also intended to play an active part in the International Year of the Quiet Sun in co-operation with scientists

from some sixty countries. That community of interest, which transcended national frontiers, was epitomized by the United Nations. The Secretary-General already maintained a registry of information on space launchings, and had built up a staff of experts on space matters. He hoped that, in implementing the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, that staff could draw up constructive proposals for defining more precisely the scope of the Committee's recommendations and its future programme. The Committee was already preparing to publish information on national and international programmes and on the resources of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international bodies concerned with the peaceful uses of outer space.

7. The expanding role which certain technical agencies were playing in that regard made international co-operation truly essential. He cited in that connexion the problem of allocating frequencies for space communications, radio astronomy and other purposes, and expressed satisfaction at the results achieved in that sphere by the 1963 Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference of ITU. There was also a need for international organization and co-operation in weather forecasting, for which the Tiros weather satellites could be of service to all countries. WMO had laid the organizational and financial basis for a world weather system designed to make the greatest possible use of both conventional and satellite weather data; his Government fully supported that programme. Similarly, the advances made in space communications called for the establishment of a single universal system in whose ownership, management and use all countries could participate; his Government and the Communications Satellite Corporation hoped soon to exchange views on that matter with other Governments and entities. Everything that was now taking place reflected a desire to ensure freedom in outer space under international law, and to initiate a programme of international co-operation designed to extend human knowledge and bring its benefits to all mankind.

8. The project for exploring the moon was not a stunt and must be regarded as a stage in man's struggle to conquer space. That project, in which the United States was co-operating with many other countries, would open the way to interplanetary exploration and thus marked both the culmination of one phase and the beginning of another. In that undertaking, too, the United States welcomed the greatest possible measure of international co-operation. In his statement to the General Assembly in September (1209th plenary meeting) President Kennedy had proposed to explore with the Soviet Union the opportunities for working together in that new phase of the conquest of space; President Johnson now renewed that offer. There were areas of work where practical co-operation short of integrating the two national programmes could be undertaken. The United States fully endorsed the statements contained in the draft declaration that in the exploration of outer space States should be guided by the principle of co-operation and mutual assistance, and that States should regard astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space regardless of their country of origin. It hoped that all countries would take part in the great moon exploration venture in the same spirit of universality.

9. Mr. FEDORENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that there had been a certain relaxation of international tension since the seventeenth session as a result of the signing of the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and

under water, so that there was now a better prospect for progress in the peaceful exploration of space. During the previous year important new advances had been made not only in space science but also in the legal aspects of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

10. The Soviet Union had carried out scientific research on conditions in outer space and had, by expanding its knowledge of space flight, been able to conduct new and more complex experiments. Thus it had developed the Vostok spaceships, in which Soviet cosmonauts had made their celebrated flights. During 1963, in Vostok V and Vostok VI, Valery Bykovsky and Valentina Tereshkova had established new records for distance covered and total time aloft. Those experiments had made it possible to study the effect of various factors on the human body, and television had enabled the people of many countries to see the cosmonauts in the cabins of their spaceships and to hear their voices. New qualitative progress had been achieved with the launching in November of a manoeuvrable vehicle, the Polet I, whose ability to move in any direction greatly widened the possibilities for space exploration. The United States, the United Kingdom, France and other countries had also achieved major successes in the exploration of space. Scientists in the socialist countries had greatly assisted the Soviet Union in the observation of satellites.

11. In June 1962 the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States had concluded an agreement on co-operation in the use of artificial satellites for weather forecasting, communications and the mapping of the earth's magnetic field.<sup>1/</sup> That agreement, which was now to be implemented (see A/5482), opened the way to broader co-operation and to the working out of suitable solutions to major international problems with due regard for the interests of all concerned.

12. The prospects for international scientific co-operation in the study and use of space continued to widen, and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would obviously have a constantly increasing part to play. His delegation endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the reports of ITU (E/3770) and WMO (E/3794 and Corr.1), which were as useful as they were interesting.

13. In the sphere of law, the absence of rules on the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, pointed out in General Assembly resolution 1802 (XVII), had impaired the development of international co-operation. The Soviet Union had always endeavoured to reach agreement on the fundamental legal principles which should govern the exploration and use of space, and thereby benefit all States. Thus as early as June 1962 it had submitted a draft declaration containing a number of basic principles.<sup>2/</sup> In the spring of 1963 it had submitted to the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space a revised draft declaration incorporating the provisions proposed by the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States, and other useful proposals brought out during the debate (A/5549, annex III, A). As a result of considerable work by the Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee and of the negotiations held between

<sup>1/</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 27, document A/C.1/880.

<sup>2/</sup> *Ibid.*, document A/5181, annex III, A.

the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union, a draft resolution had been prepared containing a declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, which the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had unanimously decided to submit to the General Assembly (A/5549/Add.1, para.6).

14. The importance of that draft resolution lay first of all in the fact that for the first time a document had been drawn up in an attempt to regulate the activities of States in outer space. It contained some extremely important legal principles which had been mentioned in one way or another during the discussions. The Soviet Union hoped that its provisions were in keeping with the interests of all countries, both those in the forefront of scientific progress and those which had not yet undertaken any activity of the kind. The Soviet Union had always maintained that so important a document as the draft declaration should define not only the rights but also the obligation of States. Its point of view had been considered in working out the text of the draft declaration, and it had been possible through mutual concessions to reach agreement on a document providing that the space activities of a State might never prejudice the interests of other States or be used for war propaganda. Several of the provisions were especially important, particularly those concerning international consultations in the case of dangerous activities, and liability for activities undertaken by international organizations, States or private undertakings.

15. The Soviet Union continued to believe that the principles which should govern the activities of States in outer space should constitute an international document having the nature of a convention and containing clearly defined legal obligations. The draft declaration did not, and indeed could not, touch the use of outer space for military purposes. The Soviet Union had repeatedly declared that it was prepared to destroy all types of armaments as part of a programme of general and complete disarmament under strict international control, which would *ipso facto* solve the problem of prohibiting the use of outer space for military purposes. The USSR could not agree to the separation of that problem from other disarmament measures directly related to it, such as the elimination of military bases in foreign territories.

16. Nevertheless, with regard to international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, the draft declaration, in spite of certain defects of substance and form, unquestionably constituted a step forward, and the Soviet delegation hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

17. The United States representative had said that in his Government's view the legal principles contained in the draft declaration reflected international law as accepted by the Members of the United Nations and that the United States for its part intended to respect them. The Soviet Union, in its turn, undertook also to respect the principles enunciated in the draft declaration if it were unanimously adopted.

18. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space still had on its agenda certain questions which had come to the fore after the draft declaration had been prepared, namely, the rescue of astronauts and liability for material damage. The Soviet Union was prepared to agree to the establishment of one or two groups of experts—whose membership could be de-

termined by the Legal Sub-Committee—to prepare draft agreements on those matters.

19. In conclusion, he reaffirmed that his country would spare no effort to promote the development of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space in the interests of all States.

20. Mr. MATSCH (Austria) reviewed the advances made in outer space during the previous year, and noted with satisfaction that progress in science and technology had been complemented by encouraging results in international co-operation. In August 1963, the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR had announced the approval of a first memorandum of understanding to implement the bilateral space agreement of 8 June 1962 on collaboration between the two countries in the use of artificial satellites for meteorological purposes (see A/5482). That agreement, although limited in scope, was significant because it showed that there were some technical areas in which the United States and the Soviet Union had found it possible to undertake joint action. Moreover, the signing at Moscow on 5 August 1963 of the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water should remove one of the great dangers of man's exploration of outer space: the hazard of radio-active pollution of space near the earth. Moreover, during the current session the First Committee, and later the General Assembly, had taken another important step in urging, in resolution 1884 (XVIII), that all countries should refrain from placing nuclear weapons in outer space.

21. Turning to the reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549 and Add.1), he noted that that Committee was presenting to the General Assembly a number of scientific and technical recommendations, which he hoped would be approved.

22. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, after long consultations, had finally reached agreement on most of the legal issues. His delegation was not surprised at those encouraging results, which it had foreseen during the meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee and the September session of the plenary Committee. Nevertheless, it was gratified that the agreement had been expressed in the form of a draft declaration of the legal principles which should govern the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space. To be sure, the draft declaration did not cover all aspects of the problem. For example, the Austrian delegation had said at the 1311th meeting of the First Committee, during the discussion of the draft resolution designed to preclude the placing of weapons of mass destruction in outer space, that that draft resolution was entirely in harmony with the work undertaken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and that its contents should be taken into account in formulating the legal principles which that Committee was studying. While regretting that a provision to that effect was not contained in the draft declaration, his delegation accepted the document in its present form and hoped that it would be adopted by the First Committee and the General Assembly.

23. Circumstances appeared propitious for a speedy resumption of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. On the legal side that Committee should endeavour to work out further principles, for the present draft declaration could in no way be regarded as complete and final. As for the preparation of draft international agreements on liability for space-

vehicle accidents and on assistance to and return of space vehicles and personnel, it was to be hoped that the adoption of the general principles would make it possible for work to proceed without further delay on the drafting of those legal instruments.

24. On the scientific side, the Austrian delegation believed that, besides implementing the concrete suggestions made in its report, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should concentrate on certain specific and important issues, and investigate how certain objectives could be achieved with the assistance of the competent international and national bodies. Those objectives would include in particular the establishment under the auspices of the United Nations of a satellite system for radio navigation which would free terrestrial navigation from the vagaries associated with the use of the earth's magnetic field. He understood that ITU had already started to study the technical aspects of the project; but it also had political aspects, such as co-operation among States, listed in General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) among the terms of reference of the Committee.

25. A second objective might be the establishment of a global space communication system, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 1721 D (XVI). That project should be considered by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for several reasons. First of all, the experiments made with the Telstar I and II, Relay and Syncom satellites had shown that the establishment of such a system was technically possible. Moreover, at the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference of ITU, held at Geneva in October and November 1963, seventy countries had signed an agreement on the allocation of frequency bands essential for the various categories of space radio communications and for radio astronomy. The representatives of thirteen European countries had met at Paris in May and at London in July 1963 to discuss the development, in co-operation with the United States, of a space communication system; and another session had been held at Rome on 27 November. In the United States the Communications Satellite Corporation was planning the first launching of commercial telecommunication satellites in 1966 and expected its initial system with global capacity to be in operation by 1967. The establishment of such a system would have far-reaching consequences: Governments or individuals could communicate anywhere and at any time by voice or television. It would also have important legal and political aspects, such as the participation of Governments in the ownership, use and management of the satellite system. All those aspects should be considered by the Committee. It might equally consider whether the global communication system mentioned in resolution 1721 D (XVI) should not be placed under the auspices of the United Nations.

26. Another area of study was that of weather and climate control. He noted with great interest from the second report of WMO that the Working Group on Research Aspects of Meteorological Satellites was studying the general circulation and the heat budget of the atmosphere in order to gain a better understanding of the nature of weather and climate and perhaps eventually to give mankind the power to influence them. The major factors in that connexion would be the observational data sent from weather satellites placed in the atmosphere and from a world-wide network of observation posts called the "World Weather Watch" which was to be established by WMO. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could

consider those questions when it received the next report of WMO.

27. Finally, the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee might be requested to study and establish, in collaboration with COSPAR, a long-term programme of co-operation to explore the possibilities of making use of electromagnetic and other forces in outer space for the benefit of all mankind.

28. Mr. FAHMY (United Arab Republic) said it was encouraging that the discussion of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was taking place at a time when international tensions were abating. That détente had already been reflected in the conclusion of the partial test ban treaty and the adoption by acclamation of General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII). The next step was to build on those first foundations. In a number of documents, notably resolutions 1348 (XIII) and 1472 (XIV), the General Assembly had already expressed itself in favour of the peaceful use of outer space. The Committee would also recall that one of the legal principles on which there had been unanimity from the outset was that of the applicability of international law, including the United Nations Charter, to the activities of States in space. The Charter provided for co-operation among States solely in the interest of peace; the same should apply in the new dimension opened by the exploration of outer space. That was the mandate, which had been reaffirmed when the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had decided to instruct its Legal Sub-Committee to continue its consideration of legal questions connected with the peaceful uses of outer space in the light of section I of General Assembly resolution 1802 (XVII). Even resolution 1884 (XVIII) was based on resolution 1721 (XVI), in which the General Assembly had made it clear that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

29. Thus when, on 14 September 1962, the United Arab Republic had submitted its draft code<sup>3/</sup> proposing to confine the use of outer space solely to peaceful purposes, it had simply been acting in accordance with the letter and spirit of the resolutions adopted unanimously by the General Assembly and calling for co-operation in peace and for peace. Its proposals had been advanced because it was essential to take measures from the outset to prevent an arms race in outer space. The representatives of Japan, Lebanon, India and Brazil, speaking at the 24th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (see A/5549/Add.1, annex), had likewise stressed the need to proclaim that outer space should be used solely for peaceful purposes. Many delegations had spoken in favour of general principles governing the exploration of outer space and had referred to areas where almost the same conditions existed as in outer space; he recalled in that connexion the Antarctic Treaty signed in 1959 by many States, including the nuclear Powers, which prohibited any measures of a military nature in Antarctica. It should be possible to attain a similar objective with respect to outer space. The United Arab Republic was not calling at the present stage for the conclusion of an international agreement or treaty, but it hoped that the General Assembly, in adopting any set of principles, would make it clear that that was the goal envisaged. While his delegation shared the view that the creation of a legal vacuum

<sup>3/</sup> *Ibid.*, annex III, E.

in space must be avoided, it believed that it would not be advisable to adopt a set of legal norms which could not win the full support of world opinion and would therefore have precisely the effect of creating such a vacuum. It was common knowledge that despite lengthy negotiations between the two principal space Powers it had not been possible for the draft declaration of legal principles to take into account some of the reservations which had been made. It was now the task of the General Assembly and all Member States to consider the situation in a spirit of real co-operation and to give due attention to the sincere convictions of Member States.

30. His delegation did not consider that in their existing form the legal principles set forth in the draft declaration constituted either a rigid framework or what might be called a law of outer space governing co-operation in space. They were limited to certain legal norms and were not the "general principles" the adoption of which his delegation had always advocated. Considering, moreover, the valid reservations expressed by many delegations in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the universality of those legal norms could be established only to the extent that they were accepted and put into practice. The principle set forth in paragraph 1 should not appear in the draft declaration, for it could hardly be called a legal principle. The principles enumerated in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 simply reiterated principles already established by the General Assembly in previous resolutions, but they raised the question of the application of international law and of the United Nations Charter to outer space. It should be stressed that there was as yet no international law governing outer space, and that a body of law applicable to that new field would evolve from the co-operation and experience of the various countries. The principles set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 were an improvement on previous formulas, and could be regarded as additional proof of the sincere desire of the two space Powers to co-operate. Nevertheless, he agreed with the Japanese delegation that States which launched objects into space should provide adequate information in advance and that other States should have the corresponding obligation to return space vehicles. Finally, the wording of paragraphs 7 and 8 was not clear, and would probably give rise to many legal problems, particularly with respect to the definition of a launching State, the legal status of joint programmes and the liability emanating therefrom, and the position of "lending States". Despite those reservations, however, his delegation would support the draft declaration, in the hope that it would be possible in the near future to adopt a more satisfactory and comprehensive set of principles.

31. He noted with satisfaction that in the scientific and technical fields the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had been able to adopt useful suggestions, particularly with respect to the exchange of information and encouragement of international programmes, the achievements of ITU in the field of satellite communications, international co-operation in satellite meteorological programmes, education and training programmes, and potentially harmful space experiments. COSPAR and the specialized agencies concerned deserved thanks for their valuable co-operation in that connexion. As those various proposals were still at the preparatory stage, the Committee had decided, in conformity with the wish expressed by his delegation, that the Secretariat should prepare studies

on the implementation of those recommendations in consultation with the agencies concerned.

32. In view of the many tasks which the Committee would have to carry out in 1964 it was essential that it should have the support and guidance of the General Assembly so that it could ensure international co-operation in space and the peaceful exploration of space in the exclusive interests of mankind, as desired by the Assembly.

33. Sir Patrick DEAN (United Kingdom) said that the reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549 and Add.1) could be considered in the light of certain important events which had taken place during the previous year, notably the conclusion of the partial test ban treaty and the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII). His delegation also welcomed the projects for technical co-operation between the United States and the Soviet Union in space. The United Kingdom was strongly in favour of co-operative activities of that type; it was for that reason that it was to be a member of the European Launcher Development Organization (ELDO) and the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) and hope to participate in the establishment of a global system of satellite communications, and that it had supported the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which should be congratulated, together with WMO and ITU, for the constructive work accomplished during the year. His delegation was confident that the General Assembly would approve those developments in the technical field, and it was now preparing, together with other delegations, a draft resolution to that effect.<sup>4/</sup>

34. His delegation felt that the draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space (A/5549/Add.1, para. 6) would have to be supplemented by detailed agreements at a later stage. Nevertheless, it noted with satisfaction that the efforts made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to narrow disagreements and emphasize areas of agreement had been crowned with success, as indicated by the fact that it had been possible to formulate a draft declaration. The two principles already enunciated by the Assembly in its resolution 1721 A (XVI) formed the basis of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the draft. The principle set forth in paragraph 5 concerning the international responsibility of States for their national activities in space should be acceptable to all States, whatever their social and political systems; private groups of lawyers, such as the study group set up by the David Davies Memorial Institute of International Studies in London, had strongly recommended a principle of that kind. His delegation was glad to note that the principle enunciated in paragraph 6 re-stated one of the principles it had proposed in its earlier draft declaration,<sup>5/</sup> for it was important that States should have due regard for the corresponding interests of other States. Paragraph 7 appeared to make national registration of objects launched into outer space the criterion for jurisdiction and control. That was a satisfactory starting-point, but the concept should be further developed. Paragraph 8 was drafted in very broad terms and the principle which it expressed

<sup>4/</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.1/L.332.

<sup>5/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 27, document A/C.1/879.



could be satisfactorily applied only through bilateral and multilateral agreements. The question was one which gave rise to many difficulties, particularly in the matter of activities in outer space undertaken jointly by several countries; it should therefore be considered further when the question of liability for space vehicle accidents was taken up.

35. As a future member of ELDO and ESRO, the United Kingdom was particularly interested in the effects that those basic principles might have on the space activities of international organizations. The fact that an explicit reference to international organizations was contained only in paragraph 5 should not, in the view of the United Kingdom delegation, be interpreted as excluding such organizations from the scope of the rest of the draft declaration or as prejudicing in any way the position of international organizations conducting activities in outer space. Such questions as the liability of international organizations for damage caused by objects launched into outer space would have to be given further consideration when an international agreement on liability came to be drafted. The United Kingdom delegation agreed with the delegations of the United States and Austria that international organizations as well as the States belonging to them could be internationally liable in such cases. Moreover, the United Kingdom did not regard the draft declaration as in any way implying that such organizations did not have international legal personality to the extent required for the conduct of their activities.

36. Some of the new principles would have to be elaborated by means of subsequent agreements, particularly on such matters as liability for space vehicle accidents, a matter which had attained a certain degree of urgency. The United Kingdom delegation felt that it would be useful to recommend to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that that item should be given priority on the agenda of its Legal Sub-Committee. That Committee should also ask the Legal Sub-Committee to give further consideration, at its next session, to the question of drafting an agreement on assistance to and return of space vehicles and personnel.

37. The United Kingdom delegation supported the draft declaration because, although the principles were broadly stated and some of them would need supplementing by detailed international agreements, it constituted a significant contribution to the development of the law of outer space. The United Kingdom Government intended to respect those principles and believed that all States would apply them, thus ensuring that the exploration and use of outer space would be confined to peaceful purposes.

38. Mr. ATTOLICO (Italy) said it was gratifying to note that thanks to the conclusion of the partial test ban treaty and the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1884 (XVIII), consideration of the question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space was taking place in a most propitious atmosphere. Significance was also attached to the practical ventures in international co-operation that had been undertaken in that field such as the agreement concluded during the previous year by the United States and the Soviet Union, the regional activities that were taking place in Europe within the framework of ESRO and ELDO and such international projects as the installation of sounding rocket launching facilities in India. In Italy, scientists and technicians were at work

on the San Marco programme, which would permit the launching of space vehicles from nautical platforms.

39. The agreement which had been reached on the legal aspects of the question was a matter for satisfaction and it was to be hoped that the General Assembly would adopt by a large majority the draft declaration of legal principles drawn up by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The declaration would only be a first step, and would have to be further developed by giving detailed consideration to potential problems and situations and by concluding international agreements. The questions of liability for damage caused by space vehicles and of assistance to and return of space vehicles and their personnel in cases of forced landing or distress required detailed regulation, and draft agreements should be elaborated to deal with them. Furthermore, the technical advances that had been made in the field of outer space would undoubtedly give rise to new legal problems; the legal aspects of the question would therefore have to be kept under constant review so as to ensure that outer space was used for the benefit of all mankind and in a spirit of co-operation. The Italian delegation was therefore satisfied with the positive tenor of the draft declaration, which rightly emphasized the necessity of using outer space for peaceful purposes. For its part, Italy would conscientiously respect the principles set forth in the draft declaration.

40. The Italian delegation was happy to note the progress that had been made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the scientific and technical field. With regard to the collection and exchange of information, it felt that in view of the abundance of data the next step should be to determine exactly what information was needed, by whom, and for what purpose, so that the best possible use could be made of it. Detailed consideration would also have to be given to the question of training in space technology, so that the developing countries could make full use of the advantages flowing from scientific advances made in the field of outer space. The recommendations to that effect contained in the Committee's report appeared to be somewhat weak, and the time had come for the Committee to act as a catalyst so that all of the resources available within the United Nations system could be mobilized. It should be noted that WMO had established a special fund intended inter alia to provide for training in space technology, and it was to be hoped that that example would be followed by other specialized agencies.

41. Important work had been done by ITU in the matter of space communications, and an extraordinary conference had recently been held for the allocation of frequencies for that purpose. At its next session the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would probably consider the report of that conference and add some useful recommendations to promote the development of international space communications for the use of all countries. However, to enable the developing countries to share in the benefits of progress achieved in that field, they would have to be given technical assistance for a survey of their telecommunications needs and the development of their national networks. It was therefore essential that the United Nations agencies should co-ordinate their efforts in that direction.

42. Similar considerations also applied, to a lesser extent, to the area of satellite meteorology. In that

connexion, WMO was to be commended for the excellent work it had done with a view to establishing a global meteorological network, which would be of benefit to all countries. But to achieve that objective all the necessary measures would have to be taken to ensure a perfect World Weather Watch. The longer the project was delayed, the longer would be the delay in bringing about new and more ambitious programmes for land improvements in the developing countries, which needed them the most.

43. If all countries resolved to do their utmost to promote international co-operation in outer space, joint international projects could be undertaken for the peaceful conquest of outer space. It was in that spirit that the late President of the United States, Mr. John F. Kennedy, had mentioned the possibility of joint expeditions to the moon by the United States and the Soviet Union. For its part, the Italian delegation considered it essential that the area of co-operation in outer space activities should be enlarged, thus contributing not only

to the material progress of mankind but also to mutual understanding among the peoples of the world.

44. Mr. DE PINIES (Spain), exercising his right of reply, wished to correct certain errors that had crept into the statement made by the representative of the United States. He wished to point out, first of all, that the discovery of the American continent by Christopher Columbus had been accompanied by a parallel breakthrough in the realm of law; Father Vitoria had been the founder of international law. Furthermore, there had been no division of spoils, but a joint effort to civilize the continent. Lastly, there had been no nationalist competition or imperialist war. The division effected by Pope Alexander VI in 1493 had been the first case of arbitration in international law. It should be added that if all voyages of discovery had resulted in a blending of races, as had happened in South America, the world would have avoided many conflicts.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.