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## COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

## VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 25 June 1980, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria)

General exchange of views (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS (continued)

Mr. HALASZ (Hungary): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Hungarian delegation, may I express deep satisfaction at seeing you again in the Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are convinced that under your guidance this Committee will perform the most important tasks entrusted to it.

This year has already been marked by outstanding accomplishments in the peaceful uses of outer space. The scope of international co-operation has been further broadened and highlighted by space activities during the past period. We have in mind particularly the joint space research programme of the socialist countries under the auspices of the INTERCOSMOS organization, as a part of which, on 26 May 1980, the SOYUZ-36 spacecraft was launched from the Soviet Union with an international crew. Soviet Cosmonaut Valery Kubasov, the commander of the mission, and the first Hungarian cosmonaut, Bertalan Farkash, were on board. After the link-up, the spacecraft carried out a joint research programme together with Soviet Cosmonauts Leonid Popov and Valery Ryumin, who had been working in space since 9 April. After having completed their task, Kubasov and Farkash returned to earth on 3 June.

The SALYUT-6-SOYUZ programme, which had been joined previously by the cosmonauts of the Polish People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic and the Bulgarian People's Republic, and recently by the first Hungarian cosmonaut, indicates a significant change in the history of outer-space activities.

Thanks to the selflessness of the Soviet Union and the extensive co-operation of the States of the socialist community, for the first time other nations, including Hungary, could join in manned space programmes besides the USSR and the United States.

(Mr. Halasz, Hungary)

It is our firm belief that the new results of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration of outer space underline once again that the co-operation of States in this field deserves the utmost attention of the community of nations. We look forward with confidence to further progress in this area, where States Members of our Organization can make tangible contributions to the peaceful development of mankind.

We continue to promote fruitful co-operation between States, international organizations and scientists in the sphere of outer space research. Recently Hungary acted as host to the plenary meeting of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), held in Budapest in the first part of this month.

I should like to turn now to a number of agenda items that will be considered by our Committee at its present session. My delegation has expressed on several occasions its point of view on the question of the remote sensing of the earth by satellites. The problems of the classification and dissemination of primary data as well as the enhancing of the co-ordinating role of the United Nations continue to attract our attention. In our opinion, any regulations to be laid down in this field should be based upon respect for the sovereignty of States and other relevant principles of international law. At the same time, we believe that the establishment of a panel of experts, as proposed at the seventeenth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, could assist the United Nations and strengthen its role in the co-ordination of remote sensing activities.

The Hungarian delegation carefully followed and took an active part in the deliberations of the Legal Sub-Committee concerning the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of satellites for direct television broadcasting. I have to admit that we deeply regret that no agreement was reached on the further formulation of the draft principles since that question, in accordance with resolution 34/66 of the General Assembly, has been one of the priority items on the agenda of the Sub-Committee.

At their last sessions both Sub-Committees had on their agendas an item relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. At this stage of

(Mr. Halasz, Hungary)

our discussions, I wish to state briefly our views on only one aspect of this complex issue, namely, the supplementing of international law with special provisions concerning the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

We believe that under existing international law, and in particular under the provisions of treaties concluded in the field of outer space activities, the use of nuclear power sources is legal. Moreover, international space law provides for guarantees to eliminate the possible consequences of an accident involving a space object with a nuclear power source on board. Thus my delegation holds the view that there is no need to supplement existing international law with special provisions in legal instruments on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

Finally, I wish to express the hope of our delegation that our Committee in its capacity as the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE 82, will be able to make concrete recommendations to the General Assembly on the venue, the participants, the duration and other issues relating to the preparatory work for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that are still pending. For our part, we are ready to make all possible contributions to that end.

Mr. KOVARIK (Czechoslovakia): Mr. Chairman, the delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is happy to see you once again in the responsible office of Chairman, and we are convinced that under your wise leadership and guidance we shall be able to make still another important step forward in promoting international co-operation in outer space.

The history of man's ventures into outer space is part of the history of our time. Man is acquiring deeper and greater knowledge of his possibilities in employing outer space for his economic, social and cultural benefit as he gradually masters the art of living in outer space. In that context, my country, together with other members of the INTERCOSMOS programme, contributes significantly to the efforts of the world community aimed at further research in and increased use of outer space.

(Mr. Kovarik, Czechoslovakia)

It is clear that the utilization of the potential of outer space in helping to solve the problems of mankind requires a considerable amount of human and material resources. That is why we should like to express our appreciation to all States that have successfully continued their national space programmes.

Recent space developments have been marked by a number of outstanding events. To mention just a few of them, I should like to recall the longest manned stay in space, the flight of the Lyakhov-Ryumina Soviet crew, which lasted 175 days and greatly contributed to knowledge about man's adaptability to life under outer space conditions for a protracted period of time. That new achievement of the national space programme of the Soviet Union fills us with pride and joy.

At the same time we congratulate our comrades and colleagues from Hungary, whose national Bertalan Farkash, together with Soviet cosmonaut Valery Kubasov, carried out most excellently the difficult tasks of the fifth joint flight of an international crew in the history of manned flights.

My country participates in the INTERCOSMOS international space programme and, while employing its industrial, scientific and technological potential for the benefit of all members of the programme, it shares at the same time in the valuable results of the programme so as to meet its own economic, scientific and technical needs.

Other States and international space programmes within the framework of international organizations have also achieved outstanding results in trying to use the potential of outer space for the solution of the different and urgent problems that they face. Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries, as far as their basic attitude to the ways and forms of international co-operation in outer space is concerned, proceed from the premise that the conquest of outer space by the human race is an imperative. The stereotype of the past, according to which mankind could penetrate outer space but, at the same time, need not do so, is no longer valid.

(Mr. Kovarik, Czechoslovakia)

We are all well aware of the fact that we must conquer outer space, since without using its resources we shall not be able to ensure our own existence in the future. We have now entered a new decade, and one of the most important lessons that we have been taught by the developments in the 1970s is the fact that, regardless of the social and economic nature of the society in which it takes place, continuing successful development of science and technology in its present form and on its present scale can be taken for granted only in the perspective of a few decades. The development of science and technology will be increasingly hampered by the growing energy and resources limitations of the earth. This is exactly why an expansion of international co-operation in outer space must be looked upon as an imperative.

At the same time, it should be clear to all of us assembled here that the said co-operation could not be strengthened - or even maintained - in a deteriorating international climate in which reactionary forces of the world would attack the positive results achieved in international relations. The echo of such attempts has, unfortunately, been apparent also in the sphere of international co-operation in outer space.

I should like to recall, in this connexion, that the Legal Sub-Committee, at its nineteenth session, which took place in Geneva earlier this year, achieved meagre results. As we all know, the work of both Sub-Committees and of the Committee itself is very sensitive, difficult and complex, in view of the various interests of the different States or their alliances. Nevertheless, the record of the Committee's work and that of its Sub-Committee proves that even the most complex, most difficult and most sensitive political, economic or other questions can be solved in a generally acceptable way, in a manner meeting the needs of all parties concerned.

It is not so hard to see the real intentions and aims of the different participants in the Committee's work. Experience tells us that some of the delegations participating in the nineteenth session of the Legal Sub-Committee did not come to encourage its work but to get the Sub-Committee into an impasse. The overwhelming majority of the participants rejected such an approach and tried to concentrate the Sub-Committee's attention on the priority questions set forth in the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

(Mr. Kovarik, Czechoslovakia)

Since the position of Czechoslovakia on these items is well known, I will not repeat it at length. However, I should like to stress that all our work in the Sub-Committee always was, is and should stay directed at implementing the principles of peaceful co-existence in the relations among States with different social and economic systems. In other words, whether we are considering trying to elaborate international legal rules governing direct television broadcasting via satellites, or the legal implications of the remote sensing of the earth from space, our final goal must be to promote co-operation among States. Attempts to put forward unilateral concepts for the solution of questions now on the agenda of the Sub-Committee, the conformity of which with contemporary international law is contested by many members of the Sub-Committee, cannot be taken as a serious basis for fruitful discussions. That is why we think that a solution to many open questions considered by the Sub-Committee for many years now may be found relatively quickly, and with no serious difficulty, if certain delegations assume more realistic positions.

In conclusion, I should like to mention one specific problem that the Legal Sub-Committee dealt with at its nineteenth session: the question of the legal aspects of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

Trying to make an assessment of what happened in Geneva with regard to this new problem, we must confess that, in our understanding, the Sub-Committee's terms of reference have evidently been misunderstood by certain delegations. The Sub-Committee's mandate in this particular sphere was quite clear, and contained no ambiguities. Its task was to determine, in the light of a review of existing international law relevant to outer space, the appropriateness of supplementing that law with provisions relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. Therefore, proposals directed at the question "in what ways or by what means should the alleged lacuna in contemporary outer space law be filled" are, in our view, somewhat premature. First, we must determine whether there is a need to supplement outer space law by any provisions of this kind. Only then can the question of how this is to be done be placed on the agenda.

(Mr. Kovarik, Czechoslovakia)

Keeping all this in mind, I cannot help but say that up to now no reasonable foundation for the need to supplement present outer space law in the sphere of the uses of nuclear power sources has been presented.

I have omitted from my statement any reference to the ultimate issue of the Committee's work, the Second United Nations Conference on Outer Space, on the understanding that this matter will be considered by the Preparatory Committee.

Mr. vanden HEUVEL (United States): Mr. Chairman, I wish to begin my statement by expressing the pleasure my delegation feels in seeing you once again guiding our deliberations. Under your leadership, we look forward to working with the other members of the Committee on the many important issues before us.

At the outset, I wish to summarize a few of the highlights of the United States space programme.

The Voyager I and II encounters with Jupiter in 1979 provide some of the most dramatic results of the past year in the United States space programme. The Voyager returned higher quality images of Jupiter and its moons than ever previously received on earth. Images of a number of previously unobserved Jovian phenomena were returned, including observations of extensive volcanic activity on the satellite Io, the ring around Jupiter made up of small particles, and superbolts of lightning in Jupiter's upper atmosphere. High-resolution images of the Galilean satellites were also returned, revealing striking surface features never before seen in celestial bodies. The Voyager pictures also revealed a new moon of Jupiter. The two Voyager spacecraft are at present en route to Saturn.

The United States Pioneer-11 spacecraft continues to work well after successfully flying past Saturn, the most distant planet yet reached in man's exploration of the solar system. Pioneer-11 is now heading out of the solar system after returning the first close-up pictures of Saturn and making a number of important scientific findings, including the discovery of two new outer rings and possibly a new Saturnian moon.



(Mr. vanden Heuvel, United States)

For the first time, scientists have mapped nearly the entire surface of the cloud-enshrouded planet Venus. Based on radar data from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Pioneer Venus spacecraft, approximately 83 per cent of the surface has been mapped. Data reveal the Venusian surface to be gently rolling, with occasional dramatic heights, including huge continent-size features such as mountains the height of Everest and deep rift valleys.

(Mr. vanden Heuvel, United States)

The Solar Maximum Mission satellite was launched in February 1980. We scheduled the launching to coincide with the Solar Maximum Year, which is the peak of an 11-year cycle, when especially violent bursts disrupt the solar surface. These violent eruptions, called solar flares, will be measured over a wide band of wavelengths in the ultraviolet, X-ray and gamma-ray regions of the spectrum via scientific instruments aboard the satellite. Several foreign scientific instruments, valued at around \$10 million, were contributed to this mission. We hope that one of these instruments, designed to measure the total solar radiation output to within one-tenth of one per cent over a period of one year, will provide sufficient data to determine with a degree of confidence whether changes in the sun's total heat output are sufficient to affect climate and weather.

To study the sun's activity, the Solar Maximum Mission will use various observational methods involving satellites, sounding rockets, and ground-based instruments. The present Solar Maximum Year will be the most broadly investigated in history owing to the new telescopes, remote-sensing instruments and spacecraft not generally available during past Solar Maximum years.

In astronomy, the third spacecraft in the series of High Energy Astronomy Observatories, HEAO 3, was launched in September 1979. Based on the results of the HEAO data, we believe that scientists will understand better how heavy elements are created in super star explosions and provide more information on the physical processes within and around neutron stars. In addition, we expect that direct evidence for the existence of black holes will be greatly advanced by the detailed observations made possibly by HEAO 3.

I also wish to take note of three space science projects which involve significant international co-operation.

NASA and the European Space Agency reached agreement on the International Solar Polar Mission, whereby NASA and the 11-member European group will each provide a spacecraft. The two spacecraft will be sent out of the elliptic plane, with one passing over each of the solar poles. Scientists will be offered a view of the sun and its phenomena never seen before. Scientists from the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Switzerland will provide mission experiments for the United States spacecraft.

(Mr. vanden Heuvel, United States)

Work continues on the Galileo project, an orbiter and probe mission. NASA and the Ministry for Research and Technology of the Federal Republic of Germany are co-operating in this project, which is designed to conduct comprehensive investigations of Jupiter, its environment and its satellites. The probe will make the first in situ measurements of Jupiter's atmosphere, while the orbiter will make long-term measurements of the Jovian atmosphere, satellites and magnetosphere. The probe and orbiter will be launched separately in 1984.

Work also continues on the Infrared Astronomical Satellite (IRAS) programme, a joint effort between NASA and the Netherlands, planned for launching in 1981. IRAS will carry out a comprehensive all-sky survey which is expected to detect as many as 10 million infrared sources and obtain sufficient spectral information to identify the most interesting ones for later intensive study with other instruments.

Development of the Space Shuttle is progressing, with the first test launching scheduled for Spring 1981. A full simulation of a launching, a 54-hour mission and landing of the Shuttle, was successfully completed. Successful engine firings now exceed 80,000 seconds. Significant progress is also being made in the testing and installation of the thermal protection tiles which cover the shuttle fuselage.

Work is continuing on development and production of Spacelab, a reusable space-borne laboratory being produced as an integral element of the Space Transportation System by the European Space Agency. Delivery of the first Spacelab flight hardware is scheduled for Spring 1981, with the first Spacelab launching currently planned for 1983.

We have also been able, by using new operating techniques involving magnetics, to re-stabilize the LANDSAT-2 and bring it back into operation after it had been inactive for nearly six months. This return to operating status is of significance because the LANDSAT-2 multi-spectral scanner will again provide earth imaging data, supplementing the operation of LANDSAT.

(Mr. vanden Heuval, United States)

The number of countries with ground stations capable of receiving data from LANDSAT-3 continues to grow. LANDSAT stations are now operational in Japan and India, joining stations in Canada, Brazil, Italy, the United Kingdom and Sweden. Stations in Australia and Argentina have entered the initial test stage and will soon be operational. During the past year, agreements were signed with Thailand and the People's Republic of China.

Now I should like to comment briefly on some specific matters before the Committee.

We hope that during this session the Committee will agree to ask the Legal Sub-Committee to begin drafting principles governing the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The United States strongly supports the establishment of rigorous international safety standards and procedures in this area.

We also hope that the Committee will deal successfully with the remaining organizational questions concerning UNISPACE-82, including agreement on key conference personnel and venue. The United States believes this Conference can be of great benefit to the many users of space technology, and we reaffirm its strong support for the Conference objectives.

During the meeting of the Legal Sub-Committee there was an extended discussion of the draft principles on remote sensing. During that discussion, understandably, emphasis was placed on legal and political rights and issues. Sometimes overlooked were the real and significant benefits now being realized using existing remote sensing satellite systems. To emphasize those benefits - and the close international working arrangements which already exist - my delegation has prepared a brief slide presentation which is available for reviewing in room 204-B, just off this meeting room. This presentation also will show how LANDSAT data are used to complement data from other sources to produce analysed information of immeasurable value to management of the earth's resources. In this Committee's further deliberations on remote sensing it is imperative that we do not lose sight of the reality of the world-wide benefits of remote sensing.

(Mr. vanden Heuval, United States)

Finally, while major progress has not been made on all of the issues before the two Sub-Committees, it is important to recognize that this often results from significant differences of view on the substance of the issues. Progress in such areas can only take place after thoughtful analysis and discussion. This steady approach may at times seem frustrating to all of us, but the alternative of continually advancing exaggerated or extreme positions is not in the interest of this Committee or the International Community. In our view, the course our Committee has followed has resulted in solid achievements of which we can all be proud.

My delegation will have more specific and comprehensive comments to offer as we consider each of the agenda items.

Ms. KAFTAN (Iraq): My delegation expresses satisfaction at its participation in the thirty-third session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and extends its sincere wishes to you, Mr. Chairman, for the successful steering of the debated issues set before the Committee. We hope that this session will see the Committee arriving at decisions on key issues which have been repeatedly postponed. We are fully confident, Mr. Chairman, that you are equal to this important task.

Since Iraq became a member of this Committee in 1978, it has participated in all its meetings and in the meetings of its two Sub-Committees. We hope to continue this participation in the future. In my following remarks I shall describe briefly Iraq's main activities in the field of space science and its applications.

Space activities in Iraq are carried on at various centres and in various organizations. The Foundation for Scientific Research (FSR) serves as the co-ordinating body for the various space application programmes through the National Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Further, the FSR is developing its own space research programmes. Long-range planning for involvement in space science research in the FSR is carried out by the Iraqi National Committee for Space Research, which also serves to represent Iraq in the Committee for Space Research (COSPAR), of which Iraq became a member in 1978.

Space Science: (1) Astronomy occupies a central position in the involvement of FSR in space science research. In the rapid cultural, scientific and technical renaissance that Iraq is currently experiencing, astronomy is a natural focus for the country's pride in its past achievements in this field throughout the different civilizations that have flourished in Iraq. It is also a most suitable field in which the FSR can direct its explorations towards occupying a significant position within the world community of scientists by contributing towards the common research efforts for the purpose of understanding our universe. Its current plans, carried out through the Astronomical Observatory Unit, include galactic and extra-galactic research, using ground-based telescopes in the radio, optical and infra-red wave-length ranges.

(Ms. Kaftan, Iraq)

In the radio field, the main instrument currently specified is a large parabolic telescope designed for the millimetre wave length range. The aim is to reach the shortest wave length achievable with current technology down to the sub-millimetre range.

Spectroscopy of inter-stellar molecules and the study of quasars, active galactic nuclei and other variable and explosive cosmic phenomena will form the core of the research programme for this telescope. Observations at longer wave lengths, between 5 and 30 GHz will occupy a large percentage of the time in the earlier stages of operation. In particular, active participation in Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VBLI) is planned for a fair percentage of the observing time. The core of the optical facility will be a telescope of over 2.5 metres in diameter designed for efficient performance at the infra-red level, while still retaining the highest optical properties. The facility will also include a smaller telescope of about one metre in diameter with equal performance specifications. Several other special purpose instruments are also included.

The Astronomical Observatory Unit has succeeded in the selection of an excellent observing site in the northern mountains of Iraq. The site selection was undertaken with the collaboration of leading astronomers and with the co-operation of various major observatories in Europe and the United States of America. Its altitude of 2,100 metres, combined with the clear dark sky of Iraq, will help to make the astronomical facility one of the most active and productive in the world.

The Astronomical Observatory Unit anticipates the continuation and expansion of this international co-operation in its future activities.

During the fourteenth session of the International Astronomical Union, held in 1976 in Grenoble, Iraq was elected to membership.

(2) Ionospheric studies: An active ionospheric research programme is being pursued at the University of Baghdad. For several years during the period 1965 to 1974, FR measurements were made for the ionospheric electron density over Baghdad using iK-2 type ionospheric sounders. Analyses of the

(Ms. Kaftan, Iraq)

data obtained were used to study the behaviour of the F-2 layer and to predict its expected behaviour. During the past year, contacts have been made to enhance the ionospheric research activities at the University by updating the equipment and by exchanging data and experience with similar research centres in several countries in order to enhance the University's research programme in this field.

Space application programmes: (1) Telecommunications. The Iraqi Post, Telegraph and Telephone Organization (PTT) is a member of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), and operates on this system two standard A earth stations with 32 metre parabolic antennas, one called Dujail-1 in the Indian Ocean region and the other called Dujail-2 in the Atlantic Ocean region. They were put into operation in 1976 and have been serving as the main access for the international telephone, telegraph and telex traffic of Iraq.



(Ms. Kaftan, Iraq)

In total, the two stations operate direct preassigned links with 14 corresponding earth stations in other countries in Europe, Asia and the United States. The Dujail-2 station includes a spade terminal to cater to the demand assignment traffic with a number of other countries. In 1979 the total number of telephone channels operated by the two stations via INTELSAT was 160. Expansion of the stations, which started in 1979, included the modification of the feed subsystem. A new feed for dual polarization operation will be installed for the new INTELSAT-5 satellite mode of operation. Operation on that feed is expected by the end of 1980.

The expansions also include the increase in the number of the receive chains to permit the introduction of more direct satellite preassigned links with other countries, and the multiplex subsystem for a larger number of channels. The two stations are maintained and operated fully by Iraqi engineers and technicians and all the specifications for the expansion were also drawn up by Iraqi engineers.

The Iraqi PTT is a member of the Arab satellite telecommunications organization (ARABSAT) and was a member of the Board of Governors of the organization in 1979. The PTT is planning to have an earth station operating on this system as soon as it is put into service.

In 1979 Iraq ratified the agreements of the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT). The Iraqi PTT is planning to take a more active part in its activities in the future.

(2) Remote sensing. The Satellite and Aerial Data Analysis Centre was established in the directorate general of the geological survey and mineral investigation in 1976. It deals with the application of LANDSAT MSS data and the aerial photographs for the natural resources survey and environmental studies. The main activities of the centre for 1979 include the following projects: hydrological survey in the western desert, regional geological mapping of the mountain zone, land-use mapping in the Tigris River basin, and environmental monitoring of the marshes in southern Iraq.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of the International Astronautical Federation.

Mr. GOROVE (International Astronautical Federation: The delegation of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), in its official capacity as Observer, is grateful for the opportunity to attend this session of the Committee. As the Committee is aware, the IAF is a non-governmental organization of the astronautical and space societies of many nations, which has consistently pursued the dissemination of technical information relevant to space exploration and applications independently of political activities or concerns.

In recent years we have concentrated more and more on the potential applications of space technology in the developing nations. Our annual reports to the Committee on current activities in space technology have identified areas of interest to the developing nations. The background papers we are now preparing in support of UNISPACE 82 are being assembled by teams of experts, which include several contributors from the developing world, and much of the subject matter of those reports will deal with areas of interest to those contributors. Finally, the IAF is now considering a major effort, keyed to UNISPACE 82, aimed at stimulating public awareness of the benefits of space activities among the peoples of all nations.

The bureau of the IAF, the International Institute of Space Law, the International Academy of Astronautics and the individual societies which form our membership, are dedicated, like this Committee, to the furtherance of space science and technology, both exploration and applications, for the benefit of all mankind. We are pleased to assist the Committee in its efforts towards that end in any possible way, and we shall entertain the Committee's suggestions for undertakings beyond those which we are already performing in support of UNISPACE 82 and of the Committee's work in general.

I should like once again, on behalf of our President, to thank the Committee for this opportunity to express our views. He will arrive at the session in a day or two and both he and I, along with our entire delegation, will be most interested in discussing with the representatives those subjects that are of common interest to the Committee and the IAF.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.