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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN 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 Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Helí PELAEZ (Peru)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The following items were included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 34/66 and 34/67 of 5 December 1979:

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

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
- (b) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and 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."

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1980, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the two items in its agenda and to allocate them to the Special Political Committee.
3. At its 14th meeting, on 23 October, the Special Political Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on items 55 and 56. The general debate on these items took place at the 14th to 19th meetings, held between 23 and 29 October.

4. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; 1/

(b) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. 2/

At this 14th meeting, Mr. Peter Jankowitsch (Austria), Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, introduced the reports.

5. The Committee also had before it the text of a letter dated 9 October 1980 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/SPC/35/4) and the text of a letter dated 10 October 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/SPC/35/5).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

6. At the 17th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Austria introduced draft resolutions A/SPC/35/L.10, L.11 and L.12.

7. Draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.10 and Corr.1, entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space", was sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, France, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia. Subsequently, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, the United States of America and Venezuela joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. Draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.11, entitled "Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space", was sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, France, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yugoslavia. Subsequently, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Venezuela joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/35/20).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 46 (A/35/46).

9. Draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.12, entitled "Admission of new members to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space", was sponsored by Austria.

10. At its 19th meeting, on 29 October, the Committee adopted draft resolutions A/SPC/35/L.10 and A/SPC/35/L.11 without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolutions I and II).

11. At the same meeting, the Committee voted separately on section II of draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.12, which was adopted by a recorded vote of 113 to 1, with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Eyelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Tunisia.

12. The draft resolution as a whole was then adopted without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution III).

13. The United States of America explained its vote on section II of draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.12. The Federal Republic of Germany and Israel explained their positions on draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.11.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

14. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

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DRAFT RESOLUTION I

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 34/66 of 5 December 1979,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its twenty-third session, 3/

Reaffirming the common interest of mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, as well as the importance of international co-operation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Welcoming the successful completion of the recent outer space mission carried out jointly for the first time by cosmonauts from Cuba, Hungary, Viet Nam and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, within the framework of the "Intercosmos" programme,

Reaffirming the importance of international co-operation in developing the rule of law in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its twenty-third session;

2. Invites States which have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. Takes note with appreciation of the detailed recommendations on the preparation and organization of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space submitted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in its capacity as Preparatory Committee for the Conference;

4. Notes that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its nineteenth session:

(a) Continued its efforts to formulate draft principles relating to the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space;

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 20 (A/35/20).

(b) Continued its efforts to elaborate draft principles governing the uses by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting;

(c) Continued its discussion of matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit;

(d) Reviewed existing international law relevant to outer space activities with a view to determining the appropriateness of supplementing such law with provisions relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

5. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Legal Sub-Committee at its twentieth session should:

(a) Continue on a priority basis:

(i) Its detailed consideration of the legal implications on remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles relating to remote sensing;

(ii) Its efforts to complete the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting;

(b) Continue to consider matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit;

6. Decides:

(a) In pursuance of the consideration of the relevant item in the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee at its nineteenth session, to include in the agenda of its twentieth session an item entitled "Consideration of the possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space";

(b) To establish in connexion with this item a working group of the Legal Sub-Committee;

7. Notes that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its seventeenth session:

(a) Continued its consideration of questions relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellites;

(b) Continued its consideration of the United Nations programme on space applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system;

(c) Continued its examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit;

(d) Considered technical aspects of and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and adopted the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space; 4/

(e) Considered questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;

(f) Achieved further progress, in its capacity as advisory body to the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its detailed consideration of questions relating to the preparation and organization of the Conference;

8. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its eighteenth session should:

(a) Consider the following priority items:

- (i) Questions relating to the United Nations programme on space applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system;
- (ii) Questions relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellites;
- (iii) Preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
- (iv) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(b) Consider the following items:

- (i) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;
- (ii) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit;

4/ A/AC.105/267, annex II.

9. Endorses the United Nations programme on space applications for 1981 proposed to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee by the expert on space applications; 5/

10. Requests the expert on space applications to include in his report to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its eighteenth session a list of activities which could be undertaken within the United Nations space application programme further to assist Member States in their efforts to share the benefits of applications of space technology for development;

11. Expresses its appreciation to all Governments as well as specialized agencies and other international organizations which acted as hosts to, offered fellowships for, or otherwise assisted in the holding of, international training seminars and workshops on space application, particularly for the benefit of developing countries;

12. Requests the specialized agencies to continue their co-operation with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

13. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution and previous resolutions of the General Assembly, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 33/16 of 10 November 1978, in which it decided to convene a second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to designate the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to serve as the Advisory Committee to the Preparatory Committee,

Recalling also its resolution 34/67 of 5 December 1979, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning:

(a) The agenda of the Conference,

(b) The preparation and organization of the Conference, including the secretariat, bureau and form of the Conference,

(c) The ceiling for the cost of the Conference,

Having considered the report of the Preparation Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 6/

1. Endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

2. Decides to accept the invitation of the Government of Austria to host the Conference at Vienna from 9 to 21 August 1982;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to invite:

(a) All States to participate in the Conference;

(b) Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, to participate in the Conference;

(c) Representatives of organizations that have a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices to participate as observers, in accordance with Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974 and 31/152 of 20 December 1976;

(d) Representatives of the national liberation movements recognized in its region by the Organization of African Unity to participate as observers, in accordance with Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974;

(e) The specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as interested organs of the United Nations, to be represented at the Conference;

(f) Interested intergovernmental organizations to be represented by observers at the Conference;

(g) Directly concerned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to be represented by observers at the Conference;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to make, within the ceiling of expenditure established for the Conference, the necessary organizational, administrative and publicity arrangements as set out in the report of the Preparatory Committee;

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 46 (A/35/46).

5. Invites Member States to submit national papers for the Conference not later than 15 June 1981;
6. Invites Member States actively to promote, to the extent possible, public awareness of the Conference by distributing relevant information through their national radio and television networks, as well as through the efficient use of other mass media;
7. Welcomes the decision of the United Nations Postal Administration to issue a special stamp commemorating the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space;
8. Invites Member States to issue special national stamps of a commemorative nature;
9. Requests the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Advisory Committee to continue the preparatory work for the Conference.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Enlargement of the Committee on the
Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The General Assembly,

Noting that the advance of science and technology has enhanced the knowledge of, and interest in, the peaceful uses of outer space and international co-operation in this important field, to the benefit of mankind and to the advantage of all States, whatever their level of economic and scientific development,

Aware of the need to ensure that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space carries out its work in the most effective way,

I

1. Takes note of the request of a Member State for admission to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; 7/
2. Decides, accordingly, to increase the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space from forty-seven to forty-eight;

7/ A/SPC/35/4.

II

1. Takes note of the fact that other States have expressed interest in becoming members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; 8/

2. Decides to expand the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space from forty-eight to a maximum of fifty-three;

3. Requests the President of the General Assembly to appoint no more than five new members after consultation with the regional groups.

8/ See A/SPC/35/5.