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Chairman: Mr. MUBAREZ (Yemen)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 55: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued)

- (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

AGENDA ITEM 56: 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 (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 55: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
(continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/35/20)
- (b) REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/35/46)

AGENDA ITEM 56: 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 (continued) (A/35/20)

1. Mr. PETREE (United States of America) said that 1980 had been a year of significant accomplishment in the exploration of outer space, and a period of productive work by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to which the United States had regularly reported major developments in its national and international space programmes. His country was pleased to see the increasing number of countries participating in the peaceful uses of outer space. In pursuit of its statutory mandate to conduct space activities for the benefit of all mankind, the United States had continued to enter into international co-operative space projects. It also wished to congratulate the Soviet Union on the recent record-breaking manned mission aboard the SALYUT-6 space station.

2. The United States programme had continued to be focused on helping to find solutions to national and global problems through the use of space science and technology. It was pursuing that aim through research and development that would help everyone to use space in more practical and beneficial ways.

3. The United States had been a major participant in the first phase of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)'s global atmospheric research programmes, the global weather experiment, which had involved a large number of countries and the major objective of which had been to provide adequate data for experiments to improve predictability and to define the elements required for an improved operational global observing system. That experiment had been completed in November 1979 and early analysis of the data provided had substantiated early findings that weather analyses based on satellite data alone appeared in some cases to be superior to those compiled from conventional sources. As part of the United States operational weather satellite system, the geostationary operational environmental satellite D had been successfully launched on 9 September 1980. It carried a new type of instrument with which scientists would conduct a long-term experiment to evaluate its usefulness for prediction of severe local hurricanes, storms and other short-term weather phenomena. Since it was stationary with respect to the earth, it could observe storms as they developed and hence should be useful in a forecast and warnings system.

4. In 1979 the President of the United States had announced a commitment over the 1980s to the continuity of land remote sensing data, based on the experimental

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(Mr. Petree, United States)

LANDSAT system. In moving towards a fully operational land remote sensing system, the United States would build upon and further encourage the use of remote sensing data by international users. It would continue its policy of non-discriminatory, open dissemination of LANDSAT-type data, including direct read-out to authorized foreign-owned and operated ground stations under pricing policies consistent with those applicable to domestic users. It would also seek to promote the development of complementary nationally operated satellite systems through co-ordination with prospective satellite-operating nations, and to encourage the establishment of regional remote sensing training and data analysis centres to complement such activities. The experimental LANDSAT system continued, based on LANDSAT 2 and 3, the former of which had been out of operation for nearly six months. Its return to operational status was of significance in that the LANDSAT 2 multispectral scanner would again provide earth-imaging data, thus supplementing LANDSAT 3 operation. The number of countries with ground stations capable of receiving data from LANDSAT 3 had increased during the past year and a number of other stations were in the planning stage.

5. As part of a research mission to understand how volcanoes affected the earth's atmosphere, weather and climate, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's stratospheric aerosol and gas experiment satellite (SAGE) had been used to observe the eruptions of Mount St. Helens in the western United States to demonstrate the variability of winds in the dispersion of volcanic ash. Such information was required to predict effects on ozone, ash fall-out and cloud formation in the atmosphere. SAGE, launched in 1979, had the over-all objective of obtaining and using global data on stratospheric aerosols and ozone in various studies concerning the earth's climate and environmental quality.

6. The magnetic field satellite (MAGSAT), launched in October 1979, had provided scientists with data to make the most accurate maps of the earth's magnetic field. It had gone out of operation in June 1980, and data were now being processed and delivered to investigators in a number of countries for use in research on geology, marine studies, and magnetosphere/ionosphere and core/mantle studies.

7. In order to investigate the problem of future congestion of the electromagnetic spectrum and geostationary arc, the United States communications satellite research programme was entering a new phase. The most direct path towards alleviating congestion was the opening of new frequency bands and the development of techniques for increasing the capacity of those currently used. NASA was therefore pursuing research in the previously unused 30/20 GHz band.

8. In the area of ultra-high frequency (UHF) mobile satellite communications, a joint study was under way with Canada concerning the potential for a joint mission.

9. Another highlight in the area of satellite communications had been the agreement reached by the United States, Canada and France to evaluate a satellite-aided search and rescue system (SARSAT). The parties had recently concluded an understanding with the Soviet Union regarding co-operation between SARSAT and a similar Soviet system (COSPAS), under which the two systems would be interoperable, using both United States and Soviet satellites. That co-operative effort would

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(Mr. Petree, United States)

allow a more effective demonstration and evaluation of the concept than would have been possible with either system alone. Norway had asked to join the SARSAT experiment and had been approved in principle as an investigator. Other countries were also considering joining either the western nations or the Soviet segment in that enterprise. The countries involved were making progress in planning for an orderly transition from a successful demonstration, to begin in 1982 and last at least 15 months, to a fully operational, globally effective satellite system for the detection and location of emergency transmissions.

10. With respect to space sciences, NASA had launched the Solar Maximum Mission Satellite in February 1980 in order to gain a better understanding of the nature of the sun and its effect on the earth. The launch had been scheduled to coincide with the solar maximum year, which was the peak of an 11-year cycle when especially violent bursts disrupted the solar surface. It was hoped that the instruments on board would be able to determine with a degree of confidence whether changes in the sun's total heat output were sufficient to affect climate and weather on earth. The Solar Maximum Mission was using various observational methods in addition to satellites, involving sounding rockets and ground-based instruments. The current solar year would be the most widely investigated in history because of the use of advanced technology.

11. The Pioneer Venus Orbiter continued to operate well. Data obtained from that mission had enabled scientists to map almost the entire surface of that cloud-enshrouded planet. The highly successful Voyager encounters with Jupiter during 1979 had provided a great deal of data which would be under analysis for years to come. The three new satellites of Jupiter that had been discovered were among the published results of that mission. Voyagers I and II were currently continuing their journeys towards Saturn. Work was also continuing on Galileo, a co-operative project with the Federal Republic of Germany designed to conduct comprehensive investigations of Jupiter and gather further data to supplement the information provided by Voyager. The orbiter and probe spacecraft would arrive in the vicinity of Jupiter in the middle of the 1980s. NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) were progressing in work on the International Solar Polar Mission in which two spacecraft would be sent out of the elliptic plane with one passing over each of the solar poles, thus offering scientists a view of the sun and its phenomena never seen before. The Infrared Astronomical Satellite programme, a joint effort between NASA, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, would get under way in 1982 and would carry out a comprehensive all-sky survey which was 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.

12. In the area of space transportation systems, the first test launch of the Space Shuttle was planned for March 1981. The roll-out of the Columbia Orbiter from the orbiter processing facility was scheduled for November 1980. Significant progress had been made in the testing and installation of protective tiles covering the shuttle fuselage. Other major accomplishments in shuttle development included the completion of a simulation launch, 54-hour mission and landing of the shuttle; continued successful engine firings and the completion of 9 of 12 full-

(Mr. Petree, United States)

duration firings of the main propulsion test system. Work had also progressed on the remote manipulator system which was being developed by Canada for use aboard the first orbital flight.

13. There had also been considerable progress in testing the first Spacelab flight unit. The European Space Agency was responsible for designing and building the first two Spacelabs. Spacelab I, which had been funded by ESA, was expected to arrive at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in 1981. NASA would purchase the second Spacelab, which, like the first, would be built in the Federal Republic of Germany. Preparations for initial Spacelab operations included two single pallet flights on orbital flight test missions in 1981 and 1982 and the initial Spacelab flights in 1983. Sixteen flights had been scheduled through September 1986. The versatility of Spacelab was illustrated by the different categories in which experiments would be conducted, including life sciences, astro-physics, materials processing, earth observations, solar terrestrial observations, solar-physics and space-plasma investigations. NASA had agreed to train two European scientists nominated by ESA as mission specialist candidates for the shuttle in recognition of the substantial contribution ESA was making to the space transportation system through its funding of Spacelab developments.

14. His delegation endorsed the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees. He expressed satisfaction that both the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee had continued consideration of the use of nuclear power sources in space, an issue which was becoming increasingly important in the exploration and use of outer space. The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space had been able to make significant progress in its examination of the safety and technical aspects of that issue on the basis of a number of useful papers on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space which had been submitted by Member States. His Government supported the continued consideration of that issue by both Sub-Committees and the establishment of international safety standards and procedures in that area. His delegation was impressed with the positive results of the ongoing remote sensing programmes which provided information on potential modes of operation in that field. His country's policy of non-discriminatory, open dissemination of LANDSAT-type data had been in effect for several years. Throughout that time no State had pointed out a single instance of harm to its national interests and all the results had been positive and beneficial. His Government looked forward to continued discussions with the goal of elaborating principles to promote the benefits of remote sensing for all States. With respect to proposals for establishing a definition and/or delimitation of outer space, it was not clear what practical problems would be solved by such a step. Furthermore, his delegation did not feel that the international community had yet adequately examined the multitude of scientific, legal, technical and political factors relevant to any definition or delimitation. Care should be exercised to ensure that an arbitrary decision did not inhibit or stifle future efforts to explore and use outer space.

15. The Legal Sub-Committee had made progress on the question of elaborating draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. With regard to the matters on which agreement had not yet

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(Mr. Petree, United States)

been reached, he reiterated his delegation's opposition to the formulation of any principles which would tend to restrict the free flow of information between peoples. That principle was embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and had been reaffirmed in recent pronouncements of UNESCO and other bodies.

16. His Government was particularly pleased with the useful work that had been done in preparing for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) and looked forward to being an active participant in the preparatory activities for the Conference. As the leader in applications of space technology, his country hoped that the Conference would serve to promote the benefits obtained through space sciences and technology and facilitate the access of developing countries to those benefits.

17. Mr. ANGUIANO (Mexico) said that the rapid development of technology and the growing public awareness of both the benefits and the dangers resulting from the use of outer space made international co-operation more necessary than ever. His country attached particular importance to the exploration and use of outer space and the need to develop legal principles dealing with the different aspects of that field. With regard to direct television broadcasting by satellites, he stressed the right of all receiving States to be informed in advance of the broadcasting of programmes. All direct television broadcasting by satellites should be agreed upon in advance by both the receiving State and the broadcasting State. Such broadcasting should be subject to a special régime in view of the non-applicability of article I of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

18. He reiterated the position of his delegation calling for the strengthening of the co-ordinating function of the United Nations in the collection and dissemination of information obtained through the remote sensing of the earth by satellites. An adequate basic data classification system should be established in order to permit the formulation of international norms which would prevent the indiscriminate dissemination of information. The need for machinery which would limit the indiscriminate dissemination of information on natural resources was linked to the sovereignty of States over those resources in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and other relevant General Assembly resolutions. His country also reaffirmed its position that all sensed States were fully entitled to prior and continuous access to all data thus obtained. Remote sensing of the earth by satellites was an activity with specific characteristics of its own requiring a special legal régime, particularly to protect the interests of developing countries. With regard to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, his country supported the view expressed by certain equatorial countries that the geostationary orbit was a limited space resource and as such was not sufficiently regulated in the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. The Legal Sub-Committee should continue its efforts to elaborate principles which would supplement that international instrument. The use of nuclear power sources in outer space merited special consideration. In view of the obvious limitations of the international

(Mr. Anguiano, Mexico)

legislation already in force, both Sub-Committees should continue their work in that field. The Legal Sub-Committee should give priority consideration to the elaboration of new provisions which would guarantee the rights and define the obligations of States with respect to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

19. Lastly, in the belief that the exploration and use of outer space should benefit all mankind, his delegation expressed the hope that the Second United Nations Conference dealing with that question would result in the establishment of flexible and realistic machinery for increasing international co-operation and responding to the legitimate needs of developing countries.

20. Mr. BETTENCOURT BUENO (Brazil) expressed frustration at the continued inability of the Legal Sub-Committee to reach a consensus on the elaboration of principles for remote sensing and the use of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting and he expressed the hope that the remaining differences of opinion would be resolved in a true spirit of co-operation and understanding. Brazil's position on those issues was based on two universally recognized principles: respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in matters of exclusive national competence since the activities in question required a highly sophisticated technology and affected the national life of every country. In the field of direct television broadcasting, he supported the drafting of provisions to safeguard the rights of receiving States and expressed the view that, in the field of remote sensing, the sensed State should have control over the acquisition and dissemination of data and information concerning its territory and natural resources. He could not understand why there was so much resistance on the part of some countries to the insertion in the draft principles of clear provisions relating to sovereignty, co-operation and agreement.

21. An analysis of the reports of both the Technical and Scientific and the Legal Sub-Committees as well as of the report on the twenty-third session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space showed how little progress had been made on the delimitation of outer space and the use of the geostationary orbit. A new attempt should be made to find a generally acceptable point of departure for the debate, which, in his view, would be the recognition that the orbit was a limited natural resource the exploitation of which must be regulated.

22. He noted with satisfaction that progress had been made on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, and he stressed the need to establish a legal framework containing specific provisions on notification and on radiological protection, such as the establishment of maximum limits for radiological exposure and a framework of precautionary measures to be applied in the event of accidents involving nuclear power sources.

23. In spite of the difficult negotiations relating to the composition of the secretariat of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he hoped that all the secretariat posts would be filled in the near future so that the secretariat would be ready to begin its work. For its part, Brazil would continue to give whole-hearted support to the Conference.

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(Mr. Bettencourt Bueno, Brazil)

24. In conclusion, he referred briefly to the dangers of extending the arms race into the extraterrestrial sphere. In accordance with the 1967 Treaty, outer space should be preserved as an environment free from military operations and any breach of that basic rule of international law was inadmissible. Outer space must be utilized in a strictly peaceful and safe way for the benefit of all States, regardless of technological capacity or level of development.

25. Mr. EUDAI (Hungary) said that his Government was endeavouring to take an active part in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The period since the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly had been characterized by intensive outer space activities and, in particular, by the successful co-operation of socialist countries under the INTERCOSMOS programme, which included joint experiments by international crews on board the SALYUT-6 space station. He paid a tribute to the Soviet cosmonauts Leonid Popov and Valery Ryumin for the longest space flight ever performed. During their flight, as the permanent crew of the SALYUT-6 station, they had received four PROGRESS transport vehicles and four manned SOYUZ spaceships, three of which, with international crews on board, had been docked with the orbital station. Cosmonauts Valery Kubasov of the Soviet Union and Bertalan Farkas of Hungary had been followed by Victor Gorbatko of the Soviet Union and Pham Tuan of Viet Nam, and later by Yury Romanenko of the Soviet Union and Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez of Cuba, who had carried out joint experiments with the Popov-Ryumin team on board SALYUT-6. The space flight of Soviet cosmonauts Malishev and Aksyonov had also taken place the year before on board the improved SOYUZ-T transport vehicle. The flight of Bertalan Farkas, Hungary's first cosmonaut, and his participation in the work carried out on board SALYUT-6 constituted an impressive demonstration of friendship between the Hungarian and the Soviet peoples and of the active involvement of the Hungarian People's Republic in the expansion of co-operation in the socialist community.

26. Hungary's space research activities were fully based on international co-operation and were carried out mainly under the INTERCOSMOS programme and under the auspices of the INTERSPUTNIK telecommunication organization of the socialist countries. Hungarian scientists and specialists were also participating in other programmes of co-operation, joining research workers from France and the United States in Biosputnik experiments, collaborating with France in optical observations of satellites, making telemetric investigations under the AMSAT programme, and co-operating in several other programmes. Hungary's participation in the work of other international organizations, such as COSPAR, IAF, IAA and WMO, was also important and Hungary had hosted the plenary meeting of COSPAR the previous June.

27. He stressed that any regulation to be elaborated in connexion with the remote sensing of the earth by satellites should take into account the principle of respect for the sovereignty of States and other relevant provisions of international law. He could not, therefore, agree to the free distribution of remote sensing data, which conflicted with the principles he had mentioned and was not supported by the great majority of Member States.

28. Most Member States attached great importance to the elaboration and adoption of legal principles governing direct television broadcasting by satellites and

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(Mr. Budai, Hungary)

were ready to complete the formulation of those principles on the basis of a provision that would clearly specify that such broadcasting should be based on agreements and/or treaties between the broadcasting and receiving States. His delegation fully supported that position, which was based on full respect for the sovereignty of States. His country also continued to support the proposal of the Soviet Union concerning the delimitation of air space and outer space. He reaffirmed his country's position that the geostationary orbit was an integral part of outer space and, as such, clearly fell under the relevant provisions of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. He stressed that, in his opinion, contemporary international law and, in particular, the treaties concluded in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space, provided adequate regulation for the use of nuclear power sources in space.

29. For several years, Hungarian scientists and specialists had been actively involved in biomedical research, cosmic radiation biology and cosmic physiology. He therefore welcomed and supported the proposal of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to include on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee a new item entitled "Maintenance of health and vital activity of participants in manned space flights of long duration" in the interests of further international co-operation. Bearing that in mind, he endorsed the report of the Committee on the work of its 1980 session.

30. Mr. SOEPRAPTO (Indonesia) expressed his delegation's concern at the lack of progress in the dissemination of data and the formulation of draft principles on remote sensing of the earth from space. Both Sub-Committees should be given the opportunity to continue consideration of that item in order that the activities in that field could be enhanced and more benefits could be forthcoming, especially for the developing countries.

31. His delegation expected that at its next session the Legal Sub-Committee would be able to adopt a satisfactory set of principles on direct television broadcasting by satellite according to which international co-operation, especially on information and education, could be equitably shared by the community of States.

32. As an equatorial State, Indonesia attached great importance to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space. Such a definition and/or delimitation must be made in view of increased space activities and the advance of space technology and also in view of the fact that various legal agreements, such as the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies set forth in General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI) could not be implemented without one. The definition must be based on objective criteria and be as comprehensive as possible. Any examination of the issue must also include a legal régime applicable to the geostationary orbit, which, as a limited natural resource, was not part of outer space but was subject to the sovereignty of the subjacent States. The equatorial States would not exercise their sovereignty arbitrarily, but for the benefit of mankind.

33. The danger that uncontrolled use of nuclear power sources posed to mankind and the environment warranted continued efforts to find an effective way of regulating

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(Mr. Soeprapto, Indonesia)

their use. One easy step was to continue the use of conventional sources wherever feasible. The relevant international law on nuclear power sources must be established, and his delegation would support any proposal for the continued discussion of the matter by the Legal Sub-Committee, including the possible establishment of a working group to elaborate supplementary legal provisions specifically governing the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, which was not adequately dealt with in existing international legal instruments.

34. Without an increase in the budget of the United Nations programme on space applications to offset current inflation, the programme's effectiveness would diminish, as would the developing States' possibilities of benefiting from it in their economic development endeavours.

35. His delegation urged continued co-ordination among the organizations within the United Nations system, whose reports and activities had been instrumental in furthering the application of space science and technology in developing countries. That co-ordination should take into consideration the special needs of individual regions.

36. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would have a direct impact on the future of mankind and, in particular, on that of the developing countries.

37. Mr. KIRSCH (Canada) said that, since developments in outer space and the uses of space technology were increasingly affecting man's daily life, it was of primary importance to ensure that they remained beneficial, that related activities were carried out in a co-operative way and that the United Nations, through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, continued and developed its central role in the formulation of policy. The 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies had proclaimed outer space to be the province of all mankind, and he hoped that all States shared his country's firm belief in the peaceful nature of outer space and would undertake or pursue their activities with that guiding principle in mind.

38. Over the past year, Canada had concentrated on the applications of space technology. In the communications field, the Anik-B satellite, launched in late 1978, was carrying out numerous experimental and pilot programmes through which residents in the remote areas of Canada would have access to services and programmes hitherto unavailable.

39. Activities in remote sensing continued to provide data, received from LANDSAT, which was being regularly used for a wide variety of purposes. In view of the growing number of remote sensing systems which would become operational in the current decade, increasing attention must be paid to the means of making the most effective use of those systems.

40. The experimental satellite-aided search and rescue project (SARSAT) was proceeding well, with the first satellite expected to be launched in 1982. The

(Mr. Kirsch, Canada)

USSR would be participating, along with the three SARSAT partners - France, the United States and Canada.

41. Turning to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/35/20), he expressed regret that the past year had not been as productive as it could and should have been in several areas. For instance, little progress had been made on remote sensing. In the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the debate on the classification and dissemination of data had continued to follow fixed lines. In an attempt to find a way out of the current impasse, his and other delegations had proposed that the appropriate international technical body should examine new technical approaches for dealing with those problems. It might be useful to put aside some of those questions until there was a real prospect of progress and to focus on the applications of remote sensing technology, particularly through the catalogue of the benefits of those applications compiled by the Secretariat. That catalogue, which should be continually updated by fresh contributions, could be a valuable guide to all States. The lack of agreed technical definitions made the drafting of provisions by the Legal Sub-Committee more difficult. There must also be the political will to make progress.

42. The continued inability of the Legal Sub-Committee to complete the principles on direct broadcasting by satellites (DBS) continued to be a major disappointment, since for several years his and the Swedish delegations had made a sincere effort to develop a text of principles which had won widespread support. However, as the points of disagreement were becoming fewer, his delegation hoped that the Committee would be able to complete those principles during the coming year.

43. It was regrettable that the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had spent so much time discussing organizational issues with less than fully satisfactory results. However, most of the arrangements were now settled, and all States should focus their attention on the preparatory process, which was crucial both to the success of the Conference itself and to the world-wide dissemination of information about space technology and its possibilities. That preparation should be accompanied by an increasing public awareness of the uses and opportunities provided by space technology.

44. The use of nuclear power sources in outer space was an issue of deep concern to Canada, as indeed to all States. His country had therefore been very disappointed that difficulties had arisen in the main Committee and both Sub-Committees. Nevertheless, additional views had been expressed in the Working Group of Experts of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and studies had been prepared which would serve as a basis for the 1981 session, at which he hoped considerable progress could be made in understanding the technical aspects of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. In the Legal Sub-Committee, most delegations had concluded that existing international law was far from adequate in the very special case of nuclear power sources and that it should be supplemented. His delegation had felt that any serious discussion must take place in the more informal setting of a working group within the Sub-Committee, with enough time to work in an effective manner. It had therefore proposed that the item should be

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(Mr. Kirsch, Canada)

accorded priority status and a working group established, but although the overwhelming majority of States had shared that view, there had been no consensus in the Sub-Committee, nor had any been reached in the main Committee on the arrangements for the discussion of that item at the 1981 session of the Legal Sub-Committee. However, it now seemed that members were moving towards arrangements acceptable to all concerned as a lowest common denominator, although his delegation for one would prefer the course of action it had proposed and for the item to have a more specific title. He hoped that all members of the Sub-Committee would demonstrate the good will required for extensive discussion of the matter at the 1981 session. At the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee, Canada had introduced a working paper which had included possible elements of a legal régime for the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, which he hoped would lead to constructive comments at the next session. His delegation would naturally welcome any views expressed, since all States must contribute to advancing progress in that area.

45. In conclusion, he said that his delegation would be pleased to be a sponsor of both the omnibus resolution, if agreement was eventually reached on it, and any other resolutions on outer space.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.