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Chairman: Mr. MATHIAS (Portugal)

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. Mrs. NOWOTNY (Austria) briefly reviewed the history of mankind's fascination with outer space and noted that the world had been irrevocably changed as a result of the efforts to explore and utilize outer space. The new technologies developed for that purpose and their applications in the fields of communications and data collection had become a feature of daily life, bringing the countries of the world closer together and offering a multitude of specialized services relating to such varied fields as the assessment of resources and the environment, disaster relief and medical diagnosis. The discovery of space had also revealed the earth's fragility and had thus increased mankind's awareness of the need to protect it. Accordingly, in exploring space, it was important to develop new moral and political concepts that would ensure that the promises offered by outer space were fulfilled to the advantage of everyone.
2. Only intense international co-operation could provide the basis for adequate measures to ensure that the results of the exploration of outer space were shared and were truly beneficial. Austria had always considered that the United Nations, and in particular the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, were the most appropriate forums through which to channel and institutionalize such co-operation. The United Nations had been and would continue to be the focal point of broad surveys of the progress made in the exploration of outer space and of the current and potential benefits offered by space science and technology.
3. Accordingly, the two main responsibilities of the Outer Space Committee were first to serve as a framework for ongoing exchanges of scientific information and reviews of scientific and technical developments and, secondly, to further the elaboration of fundamental legal principles and norms governing outer space activities. Each of the five treaties that had thus far resulted from that effort constituted an important step towards the codification of international law relating to outer space. Each of those treaties was designed to preserve space as a predominantly peaceful environment and to guarantee that its exploration and exploitation were conducted in accordance with international law and were based on international co-operation and mutual understanding.
4. The excellent record of the Outer Space Committee in that connexion had been possible only through compromise and the constant exercise of political will,

(Mrs. Nowotny, Austria)

stemming from a firm belief in the necessity and appropriateness of its work. Austria was convinced that the Outer Space Committee must tackle the other items on its agenda in the same spirit in order to bring its work to a successful conclusion.

5. During the past year, discussions had continued on the problems resulting from direct television broadcasting by satellites and from remote sensing techniques, both of which were among the most beneficial and widely used applications of space technology. It was important to realize that, in such sensitive areas, only a constant review of positions and patient, sensitive and constructive dialogue could eventually bring the divergent views together and lead to the necessary progress.

6. The Outer Space Committee had also taken up the new problem of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, which was directly linked to the safety of future space operations. Her delegation considered that discussion to be especially timely and appropriate, in view of the possibility of conducting regular space flights and setting up large structures there. Accordingly, the problem of protecting the earth in the case of the uncontrolled re-entry of space objects should receive special attention. Although the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had not yet reached a common position on the future treatment of that question, consultations in recent weeks had resulted in an agreement which took into account the different views expressed and offered a reasonable basis for future discussions on that problem.

7. The question of the definition and/or delimitation of outer space had aroused increased interest, and her delegation was prepared to join in any consensus that might develop on that subject. However, it was important not to overlook the fact that that issue was related to the question of the geostationary orbit. Taking into account the growing number of satellites in orbit, her delegation shared the view of those delegations urging that the optimal utilization of and equal access to that orbit should be the subject of a more thorough examination. The relevant understandings could then be formulated with a view to ensuring the most efficient and economical use of the geostationary orbit.

8. With regard to the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-82), she pointed out that one of the Outer Space Committee's main tasks was to organize and prepare for that Conference, and that considerable progress had been made in that direction. Her delegation believed that the Conference would be one of the most significant events of the decade and would serve to increase public awareness of space technology and its applications, of the space environment itself and of the wide range of possibilities for its utilization. The Conference would also provide a global forum in which to review the current state of space science and future possibilities, with special emphasis on the benefits that might be derived therefrom by those countries not possessing highly sophisticated technologies. Her delegation appreciated the fact that the preparation of the organizational framework of the Conference was well under way and that, during its coming sessions, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee would deal with the substantive issues.

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(Mrs. Nowotny, Austria)

9. As delegations were aware, her Government had offered to host the Conference in Vienna and its invitation had been accepted by the Outer Space Committee. She expressed the hope that that decision would be endorsed by the General Assembly, and she pledged Austria's continued active participation in the preparatory work for the Conference and in efforts to ensure its success.

10. With regard to the extension of the arms race into outer space, recent developments in the relevant programmes of both the major space Powers could not but increase the concern that matter had aroused. Such developments seemed to be directed towards a new phase in space militarization, characterized by the deployment of weapons systems around the earth, and towards the refinement of capabilities to interfere with observation satellites and other space systems. The fact that previous bilateral negotiations on the restriction of anti-satellite systems had not been resumed thus far was a further cause for concern. There were currently two options: either to respect the space environment as strictly peaceful and to use it in a positive way for the promotion of confidence and co-operation and for the development of a better future, or to carry hostilities into outer space and to plant the seeds of destruction and conflict there. She expressed the hope that the first option would be chosen, but in any case the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would have to pay increasing attention to preserving outer space as a peaceful environment.

11. In conclusion, she asked all delegations interested in becoming sponsors of the relevant draft resolutions to inform her of that fact as soon as possible so that those draft resolutions could be submitted without delay.

12. Mr. BOYADJIEV (Bulgaria) said that, in the short period of time since the Committee had begun discussing the exploration and uses of outer space, mankind had taken another step towards uncovering the secrets of the cosmos and mastering the practical uses of outer space. During that period, the People's Republic of Bulgaria had been among those countries which, acting in accordance with the principles and norms of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, had been contributing to that effort in the interest of mankind. Bulgaria was expanding its national programme of research and exploration in outer space by developing co-operation with other socialist countries, in particular the Soviet Union, which was one of the most advanced outer space countries, by intensifying its participation in the United Nations and in the relevant bodies dealing with outer space matters and by promoting co-operation with other Member States.

13. The problems of outer space research were global in nature and required complex experimentation. Accordingly, international co-operation and the pooling of the efforts of scientists and experts from different countries was particularly fruitful. For 13 years, 10 fraternal socialist countries had pooled their resources for the joint study of outer space in the context of the Intercosmos programme and had acquired rich experience, thus illustrating how such combined efforts could help to solve problems that were important to mankind. As a result of the Intercosmos programme and thanks to the fraternal and selfless assistance of the Soviet Union, joint flights manned by international crews from the socialist countries had been possible.

(Mr. Boyadjiev, Bulgaria)

14. Moreover, outer space was becoming increasingly habitable, as a growing number of cosmonauts were bearing mankind's goodwill into the cosmos. In that connexion, he drew attention to the words of the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and President of the State Council concerning the need to strengthen and deepen friendship among all people for whom the earth was a home for mankind and outer space a field for competition on behalf of man's happiness. Those words provided a good illustration of the course that lay ahead. In that connexion, his delegation wished to congratulate the representatives of the Soviet Union, Hungary, Viet Nam and Cuba on the brilliant performance of their cosmonauts aboard the SALYUT-6 - SOYUZ scientific and research complex, who had carried out perfectly with courage and endurance all the scheduled research and experiments. The last three international manned flights had again demonstrated that such cosmic ties were a direct continuation of the long-standing, firm friendship among the socialist nations, a friendship that was a solid support in years of trial and a great power in the struggle for a better life and for peace and progress.
15. He also expressed his delegation's admiration for the heroism of the remarkable Soviet cosmonauts who had spent an unprecedented 185 days in space performing difficult and highly responsible work as space researchers.
16. The use of Bulgarian equipment in the space experiments was of major importance to his country's national programme in the field of scientific research and the practical application of space technology. For example, the unique Bulgarian multichannel Spectrum 15-K camera has been used in various experiments, including the latest "Antillas" experiment conducted by Cuban scientists. Other types of Bulgarian technology - for example, electrophotometric equipment and equipment used in physiological and psychological research - were being used in other experiments. Bulgaria was the third country, after the Soviet Union and the United States, whose fresh foodstuffs had been used in outer space.
17. Bulgarian scientists and experts had devoted paramount attention to preparations for the flight of the first Bulgarian cosmonaut and to 27 other Bulgarian experiments performed aboard the SALYUT-SOYUZ orbital research complex. They were currently working vigorously on the next outer space project, "Bulgaria 1300", during which two satellites would be launched into orbit in 1981, highlighting the achievements of the Bulgarian State in its 13 centuries of existence.
18. Referring to the issues dealt with in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/35/20) and of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference (A/35/46), he noted that, despite the efforts of many delegations, it had not been possible to achieve a great deal of progress on the major items under consideration. Accordingly, it was imperative that all States should demonstrate the necessary political will and that, through an equitable approach taking into account the interests of all nations, large and small, developed and developing, they should make a constructive contribution to resolving the key issues still outstanding.

(Mr. Boyadjiev, Bulgaria)

19. His delegation attached particular importance to the elaboration of principles to guarantee that the use of satellites for direct television broadcasting was consistent with the interests of peace, mutual understanding and international co-operation. Such principles must also be consistent with the principles of international law concerning the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. Accordingly, those principles should become an integral part of the foundation for a new international information order.

20. His delegation could not endorse the attempts made by certain States to impose their national concepts in the field of mass communications. The brilliant innovations achieved in the field of space technology must not become an instrument of informational colonialism but must serve, first and foremost, the lofty goals of peace, understanding and development. In his delegation's opinion, the issues pending in that area must be solved within the explicit guidelines set forth in article VI 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.

21. With regard to the remote sensing of the earth by satellites, which his delegation considered to be a very important item, the principles set forth in the convention on the receiving and processing of satellite remote sensing data, signed on 19 May 1978 in Moscow, to which Bulgaria was a party, could help towards the elaboration of universal norms in that field. In establishing the legal framework for the remote sensing of the earth by satellites, it was important to take into account the principle of the full and inalienable sovereignty of all States over their own natural resources and the principle of freedom in outer space. Accordingly, the prior consent of the sensed State to the dissemination of information relating to its territory was mandatory and thus precluded any possibility that such information could be used to that country's detriment in political, economic or other terms.

22. With regard to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, his delegation felt that the time had come to find a satisfactory and scientifically substantiated solution to that problem, which was obviously significant and complex, as had been demonstrated by the divergent positions taken up by delegations.

23. In connexion with the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, he quoted from paragraph 45 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/SPC/35), to the effect that such power sources could be used safely, provided that all necessary safety requirements were met. In his delegation's view, requirements that imposed unwarranted limitations on the use of nuclear power sources would, in practice, impede the further exploration and use of outer space and contravene the acknowledged norms of international law relating to that subject.

24. With regard to the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he noted with satisfaction that, as a result of negotiations and the co-ordination of the views of Member States, most of the problems concerning the convening of that Conference had been solved. However, difficult and complicated work lay ahead in connexion with the remaining problems and the preparation and convening of the Conference itself.

(Mr. Boyadjiev, Bulgaria)

25. In conclusion, he said that his delegation considered the new Soviet proposal for the inclusion in the agenda of the next session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of an item entitled "Maintenance of health and vital activity of participants in manned space flights of long duration" to be timely and important, for that matter raised many complex technical, scientific, medical, psychological and other problems.

26. In accordance with its consistently peaceful policy, his country was seeking a just and appropriate regulation of the problems involved in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space. His delegation felt that the difficult, complex issues relating to outer space could and must be settled in the interests of international peace and security, co-operation, mutual benefit and friendly relations among States. It also believed that all countries, large and small, developed and developing, must contribute to the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, for only then would international co-operation be all-embracing and fruitful for mankind as a whole.

27. Mr. BOLD (Mongolia) said that over the past year much progress had been made in using outer space for the good of mankind. The socialist member States of the programme had achieved further success in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. In that regard he noted with satisfaction the achievements of the Soviet cosmonauts with their Hungarian, Cuban and Vietnamese counterparts as well as the manned Soviet space flight, which had set a record for length of stay in outer space and had provided an opportunity for very important scientific research.

28. Mongolia actively participated in the Intercosmos programme and had a network of earth stations for observing artificial satellites, which regularly gathered geodesic and geophysical data. Experiments designed to create a geodesic network were currently being conducted. Data obtained from the Soviet meteor satellite system enabled his country to forecast unfavourable atmospheric conditions with greater accuracy than hitherto, which was useful for agricultural purposes. The use of direct television broadcasting by satellites and the radio relay line and earth stations of the Ekran system were of great importance in the educational and cultural development of his country. A bilateral agreement with the Soviet Union provided for the remote sensing by satellites of the entire territory of Mongolia over the period 1981-1985. Geological exploration by remote sensing was of great economic and technological importance for large countries like his own which were rich in natural resources. Currently, Mongolian cosmonauts were being trained in the Soviet Union for future flights into outer space.

29. With regard to the dissemination of data obtained by remote sensing, he reiterated the position of his delegation that information concerning foreign States should only be disseminated with the permission of those States. The use of such information on the basis of the "free market" concept would be a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of States.

30. With respect to the draft principles governing direct television broadcasting, disagreement on the question of broadcasting to foreign States seemed to be the

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(Mr. Bold, Mongolia)

main obstacle. His country held the opinion shared by the majority of the members of the Committee that direct television broadcasting to foreign States should only be carried out on the basis of prior agreement with those States. Direct television broadcasting by satellites to other States without their permission would constitute interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

31. The time had come to make a clear definition of air space and outer space. In view of the complexity of the question and further technological developments, his delegation felt that the proposal of the Soviet Union to establish a lower limit of outer space not higher than 100 to 110 kilometres above sea level was the most acceptable solution at that stage. He also wished to stress the importance of the agenda item proposed by the Soviet Union concerning the maintenance of the health and vital activities of participants in manned space flights of long duration. Increasing the length of man's stay in outer space would enhance the effectiveness of scientific research work in various fields, expand the opportunities for using outer space and studying the human body in that environment and would also reduce costs. All countries should participate in finding a solution to that problem.

32. His delegation felt that existing legal norms adequately governed the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. He generally supported the work carried out by the Committee and its two Sub-Committees and expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved by the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The growing use of outer space and the rapid development of space technology enhanced the leading role of the Committee and required its members to increase their efforts and work in a spirit of compromise in order to find solutions to the questions before them on the basis of consensus, in accordance with the practice of the Committee.

33. Mr. LA ROCCA (Italy) said that his country had always attached the utmost importance to the peaceful uses of outer space because of the considerable benefits that could be derived therefrom for mankind as a whole, and he expressed his delegation's appreciation for the role played by the United Nations in that connexion.

34. Italy was deeply involved in several international space programmes, in particular those carried out by the European Space Agency (ESA). In that context, his country has participated in the planning and construction of the SPACELAB which was currently nearing completion, and had also taken part in major projects related to remote sensing and the application of telecommunications. Moreover, his country was concluding the second year of its 1979-1983 national programme, which was completely harmonized with the ESA programme. The main goal of the national programme was to continue to upgrade the Italian aerospace industry in order to ensure its more effective participation in the exploration of outer space and to render it more competitive at the international level. That programme also provided for the development of basic scientific and technological research and application programmes, particularly in the field of telecommunications and remote sensing.

35. With regard to telecommunications, the development phase of the satellite ITALSAT (20-30 GHz) was about to begin, and a comprehensive remote sensing

(Mr. La Rocca, Italy)

programme, focusing on data acquisition, processing, models and applications, was currently being elaborated. In that context, there were plans to perfect the technological applications of infrared and microwave sensors and to conduct pilot projects directed towards areas of crucial importance to Italy, such as agriculture and hydrogeology. Those initiatives would provide an opportunity to test new remote sensing technologies.

36. With regard to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees, his delegation endorsed their reports, but wished to comment on those points to which it had given particular attention.

37. On the subject of remote sensing of the earth by satellites, he reiterated Italy's fundamental position that the data and information gathered by remote sensing satellites should be available for free and unimpeded dissemination. That principle was fully valid, in accordance with the basic tenets of international law, and provided the most effective protection for all States against the possibility that a sensing country or group of countries would misuse the information gathered to the detriment of the sensed country. Any measures or guidelines agreed upon in that field should, in his delegation's view, be sufficiently flexible and pragmatic to preclude the formulation of hasty restrictions which might hamper or delay the beneficial application of such technology. Of course, the sensed countries should be entitled to prompt and full access to the data thus obtained, but they should also agree to reconcile their legitimate national interests with the general interests of mankind as a whole, so as to increase the opportunities to develop the earth's resources on an equitable basis and through close international co-operation.

38. Italy had consistently upheld that policy and, indeed, the Italian ground receiving station at Fucino continued to serve as a focal point for sensing operations throughout the Mediterranean, providing crucial assistance in the field of research by disseminating the data gathered and processed. Furthermore, Italy had been closely involved, through its support and contributions, in the remote sensing programmes carried out by FAO, in particular by offering highly successful training courses for experts from the developing countries.

39. As to direct television broadcasting by satellites, he noted that there was to be a thorough examination of the complex questions relating to that subject during the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee. However, his delegation believed that all the efforts directed towards regulating remote broadcasting must respect the principle of the free flow of information and ideas, on the understanding that that principle would be responsibly implemented.

40. With regard to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, he confirmed his country's view that a demarcation line needed to be established between air space and outer space by means of an international agreement. Of course, such questions as the definition of "space objects" and the formal recognition of the free transit through air space of objects so defined must be agreed upon prior to any over-all agreement on the question of the delimitation of outer space.

41. In connexion with the specific problem of the geostationary orbit, he said his delegation considered that matter to be inseparable from that of outer space and,

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(Mr. LaRocca, Italy)

as such, not to be subject to any claim of sovereign preferential right. Efforts should be directed towards the optimal use of such orbits.

42. As to the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, his delegation was well aware of the significant role such a Conference would play in the interests of mankind. It would also draw attention to the complex, delicate aspects of outer space and would shed light on the immense potential space technology held for the benefit of mankind. His delegation welcomed the report of the Preparatory Committee contained in document A/35/46 and was pleased to note that substantial progress had in general been made. Moreover, it was pleased to note that the question of the venue of and participants in the Conference had been solved promptly and by consensus. His delegation expected that, at its next session, the Preparatory Committee would formulate specific recommendations on such important issues as the public information activities for the Conference.

43. As to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, his delegation was concerned about the fact that so little progress had been made thus far on such an important issue. In its opinion, the international community had an obligation to make every effort to reduce the serious risks connected with the use of such power sources in space and thus to establish the relevant legal régime. In so doing, the international community would give all the parties concerned - in fact all States - adequate assurances with regard to the accidental re-entry of space objects equipped with nuclear power sources. Accordingly, his delegation felt that the relevant working group of the Legal Sub-Committee should begin a thorough consideration of that problem as a matter of high priority.

44. In conclusion, he reiterated Italy's firm belief that, because of the enormous possibilities offered by outer space in almost every area, it must be used for the development and progress of mankind. Accordingly, efforts must be intensified with a view to preventing outer space from becoming a new arena for the arms race and to ensuring that only peaceful activities of benefit to all peoples were carried out there.

45. Mr. VIRGIN (Sweden) said that the programmes of the European Space Agency continued to progress. The testing programme for the Ariane launcher was underway, and further development had been decided. The Agency had also decided to undertake the Gioho Mission, which was intended to rendezvous with the Halley Comet. India's first successful launch of a satellite showed that the number of countries with the capacity to launch space vehicles was increasing. After its decision in 1979 to increase the space budget substantially, the Swedish Government had decided that a scientific satellite for magnetospheric research, VIKING, would be developed and launched by Ariane together with the French remote-sensing satellite SPOT in 1984. The Swedish receiving station for LANDSAT data had been operational since 1978 and formed part of the Earthnet network managed by ESA, which had been included in its mandatory activities.

46. Sweden and an increasing number of other countries had repeatedly expressed their deep concern over developments that might lead to an arms race in outer

(Mr. Virgin, Sweden)

space. One immediate source of concern was the development of so-called anti-satellite systems, aimed at destroying satellites or putting them out of action. His country welcomed the fact that the prohibition of such systems was being discussed by the two major space Powers. However, the international community as a whole had a right and a responsibility to participate in the formulation of measures prohibiting those systems, measures which should cover not only their use but also their development and testing. His delegation welcomed Italy's proposal to the Committee on Disarmament that an additional protocol to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies should be developed in order to prevent an arms race in outer space. His delegation had repeatedly emphasized the need to observe strictly the disarmament prohibitions in the Treaty, which not only prohibited the placing of weapons of mass destruction in outer space but also emphasized that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes and that space activities should be carried out in the interests of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should pay proper attention to that question. His delegation looked forward to the report of the Group of Experts who had been asked to study the implications of the establishment of an international satellite agency for the monitoring of arms control, disarmament agreements and crisis areas.

47. His delegation was pleased to note that the preparations for UNISPACE-82 were proceeding on schedule but regretted that the Preparatory Committee had been unable to reach agreement regarding the officials to be appointed to the Conference secretariat. The objective of the Conference should be to stimulate increased international co-operation and improve the possibilities of all countries, in particular the developing countries, making use of achievements in outer space. Attention should be paid to what could be achieved through mobilizing the resources of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, which should participate in the preparation and in the work of the Conference.

48. His delegation had hoped that the "clean text" submitted by Sweden and Canada in 1979 would have opened the way for a final compromise on the use of satellites for direct television broadcasting. Despite the Legal Sub-Committee's inability to reach agreement at its last session, his delegation felt that a final compromise was not far away.

49. The Swedish delegation attached importance to a thorough study of all aspects of remote sensing satellites, both technical and legal. More attention should be paid to certain aspects of the question, such as the availability of data from remote sensing satellites, which must be guaranteed on a continuous basis. International co-operation on that matter was essential and data must be made as freely accessible as possible for all, thus preventing the growing dominance of sensing States. The United Nations programme on space applications had a particularly important role to fulfil in providing adequate assistance to developing countries in interpreting and using such data.

50. His delegation attached great importance to the elaboration of safety measures

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(Mr. Virgin, Sweden)

for nuclear power sources in outer space, a matter which concerned all countries, and not only those that launched space vehicles with nuclear power sources aboard. That activity must be carried out in accordance with the internationally accepted rules established for all other activities involving ionizing radiation. Internationally accepted guidelines were also essential where some activity resulted in radiation exposure of populations outside the country responsible for the activity in question. Such guidelines had been developed for ordinary nuclear power production, and nuclear power sources in outer space should not be excluded. His delegation regretted the lack of progress made by the Working Group established by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. At its current session the General Assembly should recommend that the Legal Sub-Committee be given time to consider the supplementing of existing international law concerning the use of nuclear power sources in outer space in a working group established for that purpose.

51. Any measures adopted on the delimitation and/or definition of outer space would have far-reaching implications. It was therefore important to avoid hasty decisions and his delegation was not convinced that the time was ripe for establishing a delimitation between air space and outer space.

52. Mrs. OLIVEROS (Argentina) said that an increase in the number of States actively participating in the work of the Committee on Outer Space should not be discouraged but should be carefully negotiated.

53. Argentina's remote sensing activities were constantly growing. It had therefore supported an increase in the assistance given by UNDP to space technology and the establishment within its framework of a special programme aimed at training specialists from developing countries in space technology (A/35/20, para. 31). It would also welcome the establishment of an international body under the auspices of the United Nations to direct and operate remote sensing programmes to co-ordinate the activities of the regional centres (A/35/20, para. 33). It would also like the Legal Sub-Committee's Working Group on remote sensing to continue, on the basis of priority, to give detailed consideration to the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles which would protect both the rights of sensed States and scientific progress (A/35/20, para. 34). Any activity connected with natural resources must be governed by co-operation and consultation between States as well as by the principle of a State's permanent, absolute sovereignty over its natural resources and its right to dispose freely of the information obtained about them. All States should have available, at an appropriate time, the data and information necessary to ensure the transfer of markets, and to enable them to adopt the relevant measures. It would be useful if such co-operation and co-ordination could be carried out by the United Nations, so that all the activities of that system could be harmonized. Argentina would support any measures designed to facilitate the transfer of technology to and among developing countries, in order to bridge the gap separating the developed countries from the majority of the international community as an effective means of furthering peace and justice throughout the world.

(Mrs. Oliveros, Argentina)

54. As to direct television broadcasting from satellites, her delegation considered that the Legal Sub-Committee's Working Group should actively pursue its work, so as to complete the elaboration of principles governing those activities, taking into account, in particular, the rights of receiving States and the protection of cultural heritages. Within the concept of freedom of information, the sovereignty and independence of States must be carefully respected, as well as the need for consultation.
55. Her delegation was pleased that the analysis of questions related to nuclear power sources in outer space had progressed, and hoped that the Legal Sub-Committee would follow the example of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and give priority to that problem at its next session, establishing a working group to consider it. It attached particular importance to the drafting of specific provisions on notification and protection from radiation as well as the establishment of technical and legal measures governing accidents. States should assume full responsibility for their actions in such cases, as in other types of activities.
56. Her delegation was pleased that the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE II had reached agreement on certain points but greatly regretted that last-minute difficulties had arisen on the apparently simple question of the composition of the Conference secretariat. It hoped that that matter would be settled in strict compliance with paragraph 14 of the report of the Preparatory Committee (A/35/46).
57. Finally, her delegation wished to request that the agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should include an item entitled "Other matters" in order to facilitate the discussion of questions which might arise, such as the prevention of the use of outer space for military purposes.
58. Mr. SCHOENHERR (German Democratic Republic) said that the results so far achieved by international co-operation on the peaceful exploration and use of outer space had proved that scientific research in that field could yield great advantages for mankind. However, those advantages were dependent to a considerable extent upon the strengthening and expansion of the process of détente and the degree to which international peace could be made more secure.
59. The past year had seen new successes and scientific and technological achievements in space research. The crew of the SALYUT-6 spacecraft, during their long-term space flight, had completed a programme of completely new dimensions. His delegation wished to congratulate the USSR on that outstanding success. The successful flights of the research cosmonauts from the Hungarian People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Republic of Cuba had testified to the viability of the Intercosmos programme and the possibilities of co-operation between States. The research findings obtained in joint experiments were of immediate use to the national economies of the countries that participated in them.
60. The German Democratic Republic was continuing its activities within the

(Mr. Schoenherr, German Democratic Republic)

framework of the Intercosmos programme and was participating in the activities of the five working groups, on cosmic meteorology, cosmic biology and medicine, astro-physics, space communications and remote sensing of the earth from space. On 1 November 1979, the twentieth Intercosmos satellite had been launched which, in addition to other devices, carried aboard a set of instruments for the collection and transmission of information as well as a multi-channel spectrometer, all developed jointly by teams from the USSR, the German Democratic Republic and the Hungarian People's Republic.

61. At the 1980 Congress of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), scientists from his country had given three lectures on the findings obtained in the scientific experiment to produce a new material, called "Berolina", carried out aboard the SALYUT-6 orbital station. Significant differences became visible when comparing cosmic experiments with those performed on earth. The findings of that experiment had made it easier to understand technological processes from a scientific point of view. Other experiments to produce new materials carried out aboard SALYUT-6 had been prepared jointly by experts from the USSR, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the German Democratic Republic.

62. In April 1980, a ground station of the socialist States' integrated telemetric system had been handed over by his country to the Mongolian People's Republic and put into operation by experts from the German Democratic Republic. The exact, trouble-free functioning of that station had been proved by a test carried out over long distances.

63. At the COSPAR Congress, 36 scientists from his country had given 26 detailed lectures on the most important results achieved in space research in the German Democratic Republic over the past two years. His country had also participated in preparing the experimental biological material for the bio-satellite COSMOS 1129 launched on 25 September 1979 and in the relevant analysis programme following the recovery of the biological material from outer space.

64. It was regrettable that, despite the extensive work done by the Outer Space Committee and its Sub-Committees over the past year, no substantial progress had been achieved in important spheres of the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, owing above all to the lack of political will of a number of delegations.

65. His country considered that it must be within the exclusive authority of States to decide upon the dissemination to third countries of data obtained from remote sensing of their territory so that the sovereignty of States over their natural resources would not be affected. In direct television broadcasting from satellites, the interest of the transmitting as well as the receiving State must be taken into account to the same degree, and any misuse must be prevented. The principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States must be taken as the basis for regulations in that field under the terms of international law. The conclusion of international agreements and the holding of bilateral consultations between transmitting and receiving States were absolutely necessary before the relevant transmissions could be approved.

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(Mr. Schoenherr, German Democratic Republic)

66. His delegation wished to emphasize the importance of the principle of consensus in future decisions taken in the Committee on Outer Space.

67. His country attached great importance to the preparation and holding of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and was prepared to make a constructive contribution to its success.

68. His delegation had participated in the preparation of the draft resolutions on the items under discussion, of which it was a sponsor, and it hoped that they could be adopted by consensus.

69. Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his country considered the exploration and use of outer space a question which involved all mankind. Soviet manned space flights were designed to set up long-term orbital space stations to carry out a whole series of tasks. An important step in that direction had been the creation of the manned research SALYUT-6 space station with its SOYUZ and PROGRESS spacecraft. The historic 185-day space flight of two Soviet cosmonauts in the SALYUT-6 orbital space station was an outstanding achievement of Soviet science and technology in the exploration and use of outer space. Four long-term expeditions and eight visiting expeditions had worked on board the space station. Under the Intercosmos programme cosmonauts from Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland and Viet Nam had taken part in space flights and had carried out research programmes jointly prepared by scientists from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. During 1980 cosmonauts from Hungary, Viet Nam and Cuba had carried out important work in outer space with Soviet cosmonauts. During the 185-day space flight and the flights of the international teams of cosmonauts a far-reaching programme of research and experimentation in the study of space materials, astro-physics, technology and biology had been conducted. Important material had also been gathered for research into mineral resources, the earth's surface, seasonal changes in agricultural lands, and the potential of the Pacific Ocean with regard to biological productivity, navigation and fishing. Soviet scientists and specialists were making more and more use of the results of space exploration in various fields of the national economy in order to satisfy the practical needs of the population.

70. Soviet space communications and television systems were being further developed. The Orbita communications system, which had been in operation since 1967 and which included 3 satellites and 85 land stations, was being improved and expanded. The Ekran television broadcasting system using satellites in the geostationary orbit and a broad network of land receiving installations was being further developed. The Moskva satellite television system using the Gorizont communications satellites in geostationary orbits and land stations had already been introduced. The combined use of satellites and land stations provided television broadcasting for 92-93 per cent of the Soviet population. The development of the Intersputnik international space communications system was continuing. Eight land stations were already functioning in a number of socialist countries and three new ones would soon be in operation. The use of spacecraft

(Mr. Ordzhonikidze, USSR)

to obtain hydro-meteorological information was being expanded. The Meteor meteorological system was in continuous operation and the testing of the improved Meteor-2 system was proceeding successfully. Information obtained by the Meteor-2 satellites was also transmitted to the member States of the World Meteorological Organization.

71. Space information was being used more and more in the study of the natural resources of the earth and in environmental control. The Soviet Union was conducting a broad programme to gather such information by means of observation and photography from the SOYUZ manned spacecraft and the SALYUT orbiting space stations, and through remote sensing by means of Meteor and Cosmos satellites. The information thus obtained was sent on request to interested organizations and was used in a wide range of scientific fields and branches of the national economy.

72. The Soviet Union was promoting international co-operation in the exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes, especially through the multifaceted Intercosmos programme. Cosmonaut candidates from Mongolia and Romania were currently being trained in the Soviet Union in order to take part in future Soviet space flights. Joint work in the fields of meteorology, biology and medicine and the study of the earth's natural resources was given a more practical orientation and was used to carry out specific tasks.

73. On a bilateral basis the Soviet Union had launched the second Indian satellite designed to study natural resources and was planning a joint manned space flight with India. Large-scale joint research projects had been undertaken with France and Sweden. A joint space flight programme had been agreed upon with France and two French cosmonaut candidates were currently being trained in the Soviet Union.

74. His delegation generally supported the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees. In its more than twenty years of existence the Committee had done much to broaden international co-operation in the use of outer space and develop international law in that field. The practice of taking decisions by consensus had permitted the formulation of international legal documents which took account of the interests of all States. Consequently, his delegation felt that that same practice should be used in dealing with the items under consideration in order to achieve generally acceptable solutions.

75. His Government supported the appeal of the General Assembly to States to accede to international agreements governing the activities of States in the use of outer space, especially the Treaty on Principles governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which had been signed by only about 30 countries.

76. His delegation shared the opinion of the majority of the members of the Committee that direct television broadcasting by satellites to a foreign State should only be carried out with the express consent of that State. Otherwise the transmitting State could freely determine the content and political orientation

(Mr. Ordzhonikidze, USSR)

of such programmes, which could constitute interference in the internal affairs of the receiving State. With respect to the draft principles on remote sensing, his delegation felt that the dissemination of information thus obtained should be subject to control. Space photographs with high spatial resolution of better than 50 metres should only be circulated with the consent of the sensed State.

77. The time had come to deal with the problem of defining outer space in terms of international space law. Since spacecraft would be able to fly both in air space and outer space in the near future, agreement on the definition of those two areas should be reached in order to protect the sovereignty of States. The Soviet Union, therefore, favoured a gradual approach to the solution of that problem and had proposed as a first step that the area higher than 100 to 110 kilometres above sea level should be considered outer space. Furthermore, the right of States to fly through foreign air space beneath that level in order to come out of orbit or fly into space and return to earth in their own territory should be preserved. That height however, should not be automatically taken as the boundary between air space and outer space. That question should be further discussed until a final solution leading to a treaty could be achieved.

78. His delegation felt that existing international legal norms on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space were adequate. The conclusion contained in the report of the Working Group that nuclear power sources could be used safely in outer space attested to the cogency of the Soviet position. Furthermore, he expressed satisfaction that the compromise achieved on that question was in keeping with the tradition of the Committee and took due account of the interests of various groups of States.

79. His delegation had proposed the inclusion of an item concerning the maintenance of the health and vital activities of participants in manned space flights of long duration in the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. The increase in the length of man's stay in outer space gave rise to many complex and serious problems of a technical, economic, scientific and legal character. The most effective and successful solution to those problems could be achieved through the broadest co-operation of all countries. Space flights were conducted not only for the benefit of individual countries, but also in the interest of all States. Lastly, he expressed his country's readiness to take part in the preparatory work for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

80. Mr. RESTREPO (Colombia) said that the item under discussion was of special importance to mankind as a whole and to his country in particular. Space law, that newest branch of international law, was very complex in that it had to reconcile the views of the Powers which invoked the concept of the "common heritage of mankind" as an argument for taking over a natural resource such as outer space and the right of the developing countries which nature had wished to compensate for their weak position as tropical countries by the invaluable asset of the geostationary orbit, which was unique in the infinite number of geosynchronous orbits. That orbit was situated at an approximate distance of 35,871 kilometres above the Equator. It was the only spot in the universe in which, with a reasonably

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(Mr. Restrepo, Colombia)

economical propulsion system, the natural attributes of the place could be used to maintain a satellite in a stationary position without great technical difficulty. The geostationary synchronic orbit was a physical fact connected with the natural characteristics of the earth for it depended for its existence on its relation with the phenomena of gravity generated by the earth; therefore it should not be included in the concepts of outer space. The Colombian Delegation had requested special treatment for itself and other equatorial countries in the statement by its Foreign Minister at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly. The principle had also been set forth in the Bogota Declaration, discussed, agreed and signed by the accredited representatives of the countries directly affected, based on the sovereign right over the segments of the geostationary orbit. That Declaration stated that the legal régime applicable to that orbit should take into account various facts: firstly, that the sovereign rights of the equatorial countries were intended to provide real benefits for their respective peoples and the international community, whereas at present only the most developed countries were benefiting from them; secondly, the segments of the orbit corresponding to the high seas beyond the national jurisdiction of States would be considered the common heritage of mankind; thirdly, the equatorial States did not object to free orbital transit or the transit of communications authorized by the International Telecommunication Convention when those satellites crossed their territorial sky in a gravitational flight outside their geostationary orbit; fourthly, the devices which were intended to remain stationary in an equatorial State's segment of the geostationary orbit must be specifically authorized by that State in advance and their operation must be subject to the domestic law of that State; fifthly, the equatorial countries declared that the fact that satellites were situated in their respective segments of the geostationary orbits did not entitle the satellites to remain there unless expressly authorized by the State concerned. His delegation categorically opposed the idea that the geostationary orbit should be governed by the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. Economic capability and technological development did not confer any priority rights which, if exercised arbitrarily, would merely transfer to other spheres the imbalance currently afflicting mankind.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.