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18th meeting  
held on  
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at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. KEKEH (Togo)

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 55: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/SPC/35/4 and 5):

- (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 CONCERNING 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/35/46; A/SPC/35/L.10, L.11 and L.12)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to document A/SPC/35/L.10/Corr.1, which applied only to the English text. She announced that the delegations of Greece and Venezuela had joined the sponsors of draft resolutions A/SPC/35/L.10 and L.11, that the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.10 and that the delegation of Belgium had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.11.

2. Mr. TIINKA (Romania) said that his delegation appreciated the work of the Committee and its two Sub-Committees, which had been conducted in a constructive and objective manner. In view of the growing number of States which sought to set up a regional or a national infrastructure in order to benefit from the progress achieved through space research activities, his delegation noted with satisfaction the decision taken by the Committee at its last session to permit States which so wished to participate in its work and supported the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Austria on the admission of new members to the Committee (A/SPC/35/L.12). The main goal of the Committee should be to use space science and technology to eliminate under-development and exploit natural resources in a more effective manner. He expressed regret that the Committee had made little progress towards that goal in spite of intense negotiations over the course of many years. At a time when technological change was occurring at a rapid pace, the Committee and its subsidiary bodies had difficulty in solving certain scientific and legal problems. That situation made efforts to promote international co-operation even more difficult. In view of the growing gap between countries in scientific and technological potential, outer space activities should be governed by a new type of relations between States on a more just and equitable basis.

3. The Committee should accelerate and rationalize its work. It was up to the members of the Committee to show the necessary political will to reach solutions which took account of the interests of all concerned. States, especially those with great scientific and technological power, must recognize the need to respect the fundamental principles of international law and new international relations, especially State sovereignty. In that regard, his delegation stressed the importance of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources and all the principles which derived from that concept, including the inadmissibility of the

(Mr. Tinka, Romania)

indiscriminate dissemination to a third party of data obtained by remote sensing. The principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of foreign States should be strictly respected in regulations dealing with direct television broadcasting by satellite.

4. His delegation attached particular importance to the preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-82). That Conference and all the preparatory work leading up to it should aim at bringing about a climate of trust between States and should contribute to the establishment of the new international economic order and the elimination of under-development by promoting international co-operation in outer space for peaceful purposes. In view of the alarming extension of the arms race to outer space, the Conference must clearly define the main objectives of co-operation between States and the peaceful use of outer space as well as the political and legal principles necessary to govern that co-operation in the interest of international peace and security and social and economic progress. The United Nations must take the necessary steps to guarantee the implementation 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 and to assume the responsibilities incumbent upon it. He noted with satisfaction that at its last session the Committee had adopted by consensus recommendations on a number of specific questions concerning the participants in the Conference and its date and venue. It was hoped that consultations could be held on the questions pertaining to the composition of the secretariat and the bureau in order to reach generally acceptable solutions. In that regard, due account must be taken of the need for adequate representation of developing countries in all the committees of the Conference and of the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

5. One of the main tasks of the Conference would be to identify ways of enhancing the role of the United Nations in promoting international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space, especially for developing countries. That was especially urgent in view of the restrictive and discriminatory regulations adopted outside the Organization.

6. The United Nations programme on space applications should be provided with more funds in order to enable it better to meet the needs of developing countries. In that regard, he noted with satisfaction the decision of the Committee to identify with the aid of specialists new activities that would help States to derive greater benefit from the uses of space technology. Furthermore, the possibility of expanding UNDP assistance in the use of space techniques and establishing a special programme for training qualified personnel in developing countries should be investigated. It should also be possible to implement in institutional and organizational measures which would enable the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies to improve co-operation between the Organization and governmental and intergovernmental bodies under that Programme. In that respect, a better system should be established for providing information on the activities of those bodies in order to avoid duplication of effort, save funds and co-ordinate all efforts to improve international co-operation in the peaceful uses of space technology. Lastly, his delegation expressed its readiness to participate actively and constructively in efforts designed to achieve that goal.

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7. Mr. ALBORMOZ (Ecuador) said that his delegation had taken note of the recommendations of the two Sub-Committees. The Legal Sub-Committee should continue to formulate the principles concerning remote sensing and should bear in mind the need to respect the system of prior consultation with the sensed State, especially for the use of data obtained by remote sensing and the dissemination of that data to third States, and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, which included that of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources. The acceptance of the fact that there was no scientific or technological reason for a sensed State not to have free access to information on its own territory was a step in the right direction. The principle of prior consultation was of particular importance for developing countries, which constituted two thirds of the earth's population. Information systems in developing countries should be able to participate both in the planning and in the execution of programmes and benefit from training opportunities in order to enjoy the full exercise of the freedom of information on a par with developed countries.

8. His delegation felt that it was necessary to reach a definition of outer space and outer space activities, including questions relating to the geostationary orbit, which was not covered by the Treaty on Principles governing the Activities of States in Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. In delimiting outer space, account should be taken of the sui generis nature of the geostationary orbit. As a limited natural resource it required a special international instrument which would safeguard the interests of developing countries in view of the great disparity between space Powers and other States with respect to financial and technological potential. Ecuador shared the concern of other developing countries that the range of frequencies of the geostationary orbit was being overloaded by space activities.

9. His delegation agreed that it was necessary to elaborate provisions of international law with respect to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. In view of the growing use of outer space for military purposes, the Committee should also formulate principles to protect man and his environment in areas not covered by the Treaty on Outer Space.

10. He welcomed the fact that the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would be held in Vienna and expressed the hope that the developing countries would derive the greatest possible benefit from it. Developing countries should, therefore, participate in the formulation of the principles, regulations and agreements emphasizing the impartial and universal regulatory role of the United Nations in that field.

11. He noted with satisfaction the progress made by the United Nations programme on space applications. Lastly, Ecuador did not object to an enlargement of the membership of the Committee.

12. Mr. HUANG Jihua (China) said that the rapid developments and new discoveries in the field of science and technology had broadened human activities in outer space. As a result, the peaceful uses of outer space and its legal status had become questions of growing interest and importance to the international community. Outer space was also an area where existing international law urgently needed to be further developed.

(Mr. Huang Jihua, China)

13. The main task of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was to promote the peaceful application of science and technology in outer space, and thanks to the positive efforts of its members and the universal interest of States Members of the United Nations, that Committee had achieved positive results. It had established important principles, in the form of declarations, conventions and agreements, which reflected the common aspirations of all peace-loving countries and provided an appropriate orientation and legal basis for activities and co-operation among States in outer space. Moreover, the various international and regional symposiums, seminars and training courses held in the context of the United Nations Space Applications Programme contributed to the dissemination and exchange of space technology and to the training of technical personnel from the developing countries. The Outer Space Committee had always attached great importance to the promotion of broad and effective international co-operation in the fields of satellite communications, meteorology, navigation and environmental monitoring, and he expressed his delegation's appreciation for its efforts in these areas.

14. With regard to the report of the Outer Space Committee contained in document A/35/20, he noted that the questions of direct television broadcasting, remote sensing, the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and the use of nuclear power sources in outer space all affected the interests of every country and urgently required a just solution. Apparently, serious differences of opinion still existed on those issues. In his delegation's view, the key to solving such problems was to arrive at an over-all arrangement which would take into account the interests of all sides and would be in strict conformity with the important principles governing activities in outer space already established by the Outer Space Committee.

15. Accordingly, in addition to the need to develop space science and technology through international co-operation, it was also necessary to take into account the vital interests and special characteristics of States, in particular the just and reasonable demands of the developing countries. Efforts should be made to overcome differences step by step, through comprehensive consultations based on equality, mutual benefit, understanding and accommodation, in order to arrive at an agreement that would be acceptable to all. Some issues would require further intensive scientific research before they could be properly solved. His delegation attached great importance to those questions and would make additional observations and suggestions when it had acquired a better all-round understanding of the subject.

16. His delegation supported the purposes established by the Outer Space Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and endorsed the convening of the Conference in August 1982 in Vienna. In its opinion, the convening of such a conference with the broad participation of the countries of the world would be beneficial to all, especially to the developing countries, in terms of the peaceful uses and broad exchange of outer space technology.

(Mr. Huang Jihua, China)

17. China, which was a developing socialist country, recently had been actively engaged in outer space exploration and research as part of the development of its national economy. In the field of space physics research, China had produced and had launched various types of rockets up to an altitude of more than 100 kilometres with a payload of over 100 kilograms. In 1970, China had successfully launched its first artificial earth satellite, which had been followed by seven others, three of which had been retrieved. Plans had now been completed for the development and use of satellites in the fields of communications, meteorology, natural resources and science. At the same time, China had been co-operating extensively and fruitfully with friendly countries in the use of international satellites for a variety of purposes. In the field of remote sensing, China was applying the relevant technologies to important sectors of its national economy and, in recent years, had concluded a series of agreements with many friendly countries on scientific and technical co-operation, including projects for co-operation in space. All those activities were aimed at the promotion of mutual development and exchanges and the peaceful application of space science and technology.

18. In international affairs, China had always pursued a foreign policy of peace. The development of international co-operation on an equal footing and the preservation of international peace and security had been the constant desire of the Chinese people. The Chinese Government was very interested in the question of the peaceful uses of outer space and, in June 1980, had sent an observer delegation to participate for the first time in the work of the Outer Space Committee. The Chinese observer had, at that time, expressed China's desire to become a member of the Outer Space Committee, and China had subsequently submitted its formal application for membership to the current session of the General Assembly (A/SPC/35/4).

19. China hoped that the exploration and use of outer space would help to enrich the economic, scientific and cultural life of all peoples, promote friendly co-operation on an equal footing among countries, safeguard international peace and security, and truly serve the interests of mankind as a whole. In that spirit, China was prepared to do its share in contributing to the common effort to fulfil the important mandate which the General Assembly had entrusted to the Outer Space Committee.

20. Mr. MARCUS (France) said that France's space policy was carried out in co-operation with an increasing number of States. The budget of the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES - National Centre for Space Research), 62 per cent of which was spent on bilateral or multilateral international co-operation, had been increased by 16 per cent over the past year. France was continuing to develop important telecommunications and direct television programmes by perfecting the TELECOM I and TDF I satellites but those national activities above all enabled it to extend its international co-operation to increasingly varied fields. For instance, the TDF I telecommunications satellite had been the subject of an important agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany in April 1980. Belgium, France and Sweden were co-operating in the SPOT remote sensing system scheduled to become operational in 1984.

(Mr. Marcus, France)

21. France participated in all the programmes of the European Space Agency (ESA), the major project of which was the ARIANE heavy launcher project, which was 60 per cent financed by France. After the success of the first test launch in December 1979, the second launch in May 1980 had been less successful. Experiments were currently being carried out on the basis of the data obtained and, depending on the results, the third test launch could take place any time after the second fortnight of March 1981, with a fourth launching in June of that year, so that the first operational launching would not have to be postponed but could take place in October 1981. The ESA member States intended to provide the international community with launching services by the ARIANE rocket on the best possible terms, through the ARIANESPACE company. The creation of SATELCONSEIL, a French space engineering enterprise, would enable interested countries to benefit from French technology. Mention should also be made of the long-standing co-operation between France and the USSR with respect to both scientific experiments and manned spaceflights.
22. Productive co-operation with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) had enabled the CNES to complete the ARGOS data collection system with which the United States NOAA "A" satellites were equipped. If that technique was successful, it was hoped to be able to place the SARGOS search and rescue system in the framework of the international SARSAT programme, in co-operation with NASA and the Canadian Ministry of Communications. France had also participated in a number of experiments carried out aboard United States space vessels, in particular VOYAGER I and VOYAGER II.
23. His Government attached great importance to providing numerous countries with access to space technology and its applications. It was therefore continuously developing its joint activities with African, Latin American and Asian countries. It should be noted that from its first operational phase, the European launcher would help to meet the needs of the developing countries. For example, the Indian telecommunication satellite APPLE would be launched by Ariane on its next test flight. His delegation also welcomed access of the developing countries to the benefits of remote sensing and telecommunications and provided training and fellowships to many nationals of those countries. France also co-operated closely with the United Nations training seminars and welcomed all the improvements made in them.
24. If the Outer Space Committee reached a consensus on the right of sensed States to have access to data acquired through remote sensing, means must be found to enable every country to benefit from those data, especially the data collected from its territory.
25. Although France hoped for a flexible régime for direct television broadcasting by satellite, it considered that attention must be paid to the concerns of the receiving countries. Existing ITU provisions would be of help in that respect. In view of the technological constraints connected with the delimitation of outer space and the geostationary orbit, mistakes could be avoided at the current stage only by the exercise of prudence.

(Mr. Marcus, France)

26. His delegation was pleased that it had been possible to work out the compromise formula contained in draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.10 concerning the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. It went without saying that the corresponding provisions would be faithfully implemented, including those delineated during the current discussion.

27. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-82) would be of particular importance to the developing countries and would mark the transition from a period of scientific exploration of space to one of practical application of the progress made. If the Conference was to live up to expectations, it must be very carefully prepared and the choice of the Secretary-General of the Conference and his deputies was an essential factor. He welcomed the appointment of Mr. Yash Pal of India as Secretary-General but regretted that his deputies had not yet been designated. The best solution to that problem would be to appoint representatives of the three principal space Powers - the USSR, the United States and the European Space Agency - as recommended at the Outer Space Committee's June 1979 session. As a contribution to the preparations for that Conference, the French Government was organizing, in co-operation with the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations, an interregional seminar for representatives of European and African States to be held at Toulouse in April 1981.

28. It seemed reasonable to expand the membership of the Outer Space Committee as proposed in draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.12, which proposed more equitable geographical and linguistic representation of States interested in space matters without enlarging the membership too much. His delegation could therefore support all three draft resolutions before the Committee, and it hoped that the Committee would be able to adopt texts of such importance to the future of United Nations work on the peaceful uses of outer space without a vote.

29. Mr. MARRERO RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) said that his delegation's participation in the discussion on the item on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space was of particular significance at a time when a young Cuban from a poor black family had just become the first cosmonaut from the Latin American continent. That was no mere accident of history. The research cosmonaut Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez was a product of the socialist revolution and of international co-operation among the socialist countries in the peaceful uses of outer space under the Intercosmos programme, which was a practical proof that men and peoples could live and work united and in peace on the earth and outside it when linked by bonds of respect and solidarity. The joint Soviet-Cuban flight in SOYUZ-38 had been a scientific achievement of great historical significance and deep political significance. Twenty-seven research programmes had been completed, most of which concerned the Cuban economy, the preservation of health in outer space and the continuation of research to create the best possible living and working conditions in outer space and had covered four important branches: medico-biological, physical-technical and psychometric experiments, and the exploration of the earth. That programme of international co-operation would continue to benefit space science. His delegation wished to congratulate the Soviet Union, whose cosmonauts had made the longest space flight aboard SALYUT-6 and the brother Republics of Viet Nam and Hungary, whose cosmonauts had also participated in flights under the Intercosmos programme.



(Mr. Marrero Rodriguez, Cuba)

30. Many different forms of co-operation were possible in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, the success of which largely depended on the strengthening of international détente, peace and security. The Cuban delegation attached great importance to the Outer Space Committee's work and to the results which could be expected in the near future, particularly at UNISPACE-82. The development of space science and technology should help the developing countries to improve their economies, culture and society in general.

31. An international agreement should be established setting forth specific principles for direct radio and television broadcasting from artificial earth satellites in addition to the existing technical provisions established by ITU. All States should have equal rights to benefit from the natural resources involved in satellite broadcasting whenever and wherever they wished on their territories. His delegation also supported the principle of sovereignty with respect to any type of broadcast information contrary to the interests of the developing countries. No State had the right to broadcast to another State against the will of the receiving State. Those dangerous practices were usually defended on the pretext of the free flow of information and free dissemination of ideas, but luckily an increasing number of States - and even international organizations like UNESCO - had shown that such communication might be a form of cultural and educational recolonization that was even more pernicious and subtle than traditional colonialism because of its highly sophisticated technology. It would be very naïve to suppose that satellite broadcasts by those States were not designed to promote the existing inequitable status quo and to brainwash listeners and viewers. His delegation would prefer those broadcasts not to cross the frontiers of a receiving State but if that was inevitable for technical reasons, the prior consent of neighbouring States that might be affected must be obtained. Cuba also favoured the signing of bilateral agreements for the exchange of programmes by satellite, on the understanding that the rights of third parties would be protected. The frequency bands allocated to satellite broadcasting must be utilized in accordance with the plans worked out by international conferences to which ITU member States had been invited. It was essential that any international convention governing the use of satellites for direct television broadcasting must contain, inter alia, adequate provisions to preserve the cultural identity and sovereignty of States, so that the co-operation would consist of a genuine scientific and technological transfer and not be used as a Trojan horse. A satisfactory convention should contain provisions allowing greater scope for transmissions related to the education and culture of under-developed countries.

32. Any principles agreed upon by the Legal Sub-Committee to govern remote sensing of the earth should safeguard the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources. A good basis for that work could be the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, to which his country was a party. The sensed State should have free access to the information obtained over its territory and that information should not be communicated to a third State without the consent of the sensed State, in view of the possible economic and other prejudice involved. The responsibility of ensuring that that principle was respected by all the juridical and physical persons involved should fall on the States and international

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(Mr. Marrero Rodriguez, Cuba)

organizations connected with space activities. Maximum dissemination of the data obtained through remote sensing would benefit not only the State concerned but also the whole of mankind.

33. His country was pleased to see some progress in the preparations for UNISPACE-82 and was sure that the Conference would deal not only with the relevant technical, scientific and legal questions but also with the practical aspects related to economic development, education, communications, protection of the environment and meteorology.

34. Mr. KASIIA (Kenya) said that his delegation attached great importance to the application of remote sensing techniques to surveys of natural resources and the environment. The developing countries would like to have greater access to the science and technology of remote sensing. The United Nations must continue to play a greater co-ordinating role in the work of remote sensing systems by promoting further international co-operation in that field. Adequate education and training facilities in all aspects of remote sensing should be provided, particularly to developing countries. His delegation welcomed the establishment by FAO of its sensor for remote sensing application; Kenya hoped that it would be strengthened to accommodate the particular needs of developing countries in the essential fields of education and training. While recognizing and appreciating the benefits to be derived from the application of remote sensing, Kenya would also like to stress the sovereign rights of States in dealing with one another on those measures. The sovereign rights of the sensed country should be fully respected and no remote sensing should be carried out without the prior notification and consent of the sensed State. It should also be the right of the sensed State to have direct access to the primary data so collected concerning its territory and natural resources and to decide whether or not the data relating to its territory should be disseminated to third countries.

35. Kenya believed in freedom of information and direct television broadcasting by satellites could increase the flow of information, but that principle should not be used to cover the spreading of political propaganda, which would only lead to misunderstandings and thus encourage conflicts and disputes, particularly among neighbouring countries.

36. The definition and delimitation of outer space and outer space activities required further study and the Outer Space Committee should continue its discussions and consultations on that matter.

37. Kenya, an equatorial State, considered that equatorial States had a legitimate claim over the segment of the orbit located above their territories. The geostationary orbit was linked to the earth because its existence depended solely on its relations with the gravitational phenomena generated by the earth and so must not be considered part of outer space.

38. His delegation hoped that the main purposes of the forthcoming UNISPACE-82 would be to reach agreement on peaceful uses of outer space and to keep outer space free from any military activities. The aim of the Conference should be to find ways and means of using space technology for the peaceful development of all countries.

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39. Mr. HUSSAIN (Iraq) said that, as a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Iraq had taken part in efforts to carry out the tasks assigned to that Committee, and he expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the adoption of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies by consensus in the General Assembly (resolution 34/63).

40. All international co-operation in outer space must be based on the principles of equality, mutual understanding and respect for the sovereignty of all States, for their independence and for the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs. Such co-operation must also be in conformity with accepted rules of international law, first and foremost the Charter of the United Nations, and with existing agreements on outer space. All the draft principles discussed by the Outer Space Committee should be considered to be international contractual work in nature, since their legal status depended on that nature, regardless of the title they were given.

41. With regard to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, his delegation believed that the geographical delimitation of outer space and air space, which was an almost impossible task, was not an absolutely definite criterion on the basis of which to distinguish between air and space activities and therefore between two types of legal rules and concepts. Accordingly, it was necessary to use objective, functional criteria as a basis for the definition of space activity and that definition could then supplement the criteria used in the delimitation of outer space.

42. With regard to the geostationary orbit, his delegation believed that the extension of national sovereignty to that orbit entailed practical and legal difficulties. In view of the importance and specific nature of the geostationary orbit, which limited its use, practical and legal foundations must be established for its equitable exploitation in order to protect the interests of all States, especially the developing countries. He expressed the hope that the Outer Space Committee would soon achieve positive results in that area.

43. As had been indicated by the representatives of other developing countries, his delegation believed that remote sensing of the earth by satellites should be carried out in the interest of the economic and social development of all States, especially the developing States. That technology should not be misused in violation of the sovereignty of States, and the data thus obtained should be disseminated to third States only with the consent of the sensed State.

44. His delegation also felt that the primary purpose of direct television broadcasting by satellites should be to promote international co-operation in the cultural field and that it should only be used with the prior consent of the receiving State. He expressed the hope that the Outer Space Committee would complete the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/66 (para. 6 (a) (ii)).

45. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's appreciation for the results achieved by the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE-82 and he supported its

(Mr. Hussain, Iraq)

recommendations. Moreover, his delegation welcomed the appointment of Mr. Yash Pal as Secretary-General of the Conference.

46. Mr. BACH BAOUAB (Tunisia) said that agenda items 55 and 56 were of crucial importance to the international community because of the many direct implications they had for relations among States. The development of space technology had opened up important possibilities, which often had unexpected repercussions on the exploration and use of outer space. In some instances, the data collected through remote sensing had helped to improve the well-being of mankind. Valuable data were also being collected on the mineral resources of the earth and the oceans. Accordingly, his delegation attached great importance to the convening of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the main objective of which would be to give special attention to space activities directed towards the social and economic development of mankind, particularly that of the developing countries.

47. The data collected through space technology should be used to help the developing countries to assess their resources; the developing countries should also use such technology in their effort to achieve social and economic development that was consistent with their national needs.

48. His delegation was still concerned by the lack of progress and the persistent differences of opinion in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee with regard to the regulation of the remote sensing of the earth by satellites. It agreed that remote sensing was important for the developing countries and that principles governing such activities must be drafted as a matter of urgency. In fact, remote sensing could be of great benefit in studying natural resources, meteorology, oceanography and agriculture. However, such activities could also threaten the sovereignty of States over their natural resources. It was necessary to recognize, as a matter of principle, that the sensed State should be consulted in advance and that it was entitled to priority access to data concerning its territory. Moreover, the dissemination of such data to third parties should be the subject of prior consultations. In that connexion, the Second United Nations Conference should seek to draw up a specific code of conduct for the promotion of close international co-operation in such activities. Accordingly, his delegation supported the proposal for the establishment of an international body under the auspices of the United Nations to direct and operate remote sensing programmes that would provide optimum benefits to Member States.

49. His delegation believed that special attention should be devoted to the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. However, it regretted the fact that the Legal Sub-Committee had not been able to make appreciable progress towards the adoption of a final draft on such an important question and it feared that, unless such principles were specifically codified, direct television broadcasting could be misused to the detriment of the sovereignty of States. In order to preclude the possibility of such a situation, consultations between the broadcasting State and the receiving State must guarantee respect for the sovereign rights of the receiving State and must prevent any interference in its internal

(Mr. Bach Baouab, Tunisia)

affairs. In any case, the principle of the free flow of information should not authorize technically advanced States to use satellites to disseminate to other States television programmes that might affect their cultural identity. Moreover, such a practice would constitute a flagrant violation of the receiving State's sovereign rights and obvious interference in its internal affairs. Logically, and in a spirit of healthy co-operation, the receiving States affected by such broadcasts should have the right to hold prior consultations for the purpose of reaching an acceptable solution which took account of their basic interests. With a view to fruitful and equitable international co-operation, the receiving State should be able to participate in the planning and producing of programmes of interest to it. In short, it was important to ensure that the principle of freedom of information was compatible with the sovereignty of all States and with the right of the receiving State to preserve its values and its own cultural identity.

50. The threat of an extension of the arms race into outer space was becoming increasingly real as a growing number of special military observation satellites were being launched into orbit. No country was shielded from the activities of such satellites. His delegation shared the concern expressed by the representative of Sweden in connexion with the perfecting of anti-satellite systems with a view to a war in space. In its opinion, the United Nations would be irresponsible and would lose its credibility if it continued to hold negotiations on the various aspects of disarmament in other forums, but failed to react as outer space became an arena for rivalry having unpredictable and dangerous implications.

51. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's hope that, at the coming United Nations Conference on Outer Space, the international community would firmly endorse the peaceful uses of outer space and would lay the foundations for a new era in which the advantages of space exploration and technology would be used to the benefit of mankind as a whole.

52. Mr. KALINA (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation attached great importance to the use of outer space for peaceful purposes and advocated strict adherence to the principle of international co-operation in that field. His Government wished to express its satisfaction at the 185-day space flight record set by the Soviet cosmonauts, and the continued success of the flights of international cosmonauts within the Intercosmos programme. He noted with special gratification the recent flights made by Hungarian, Vietnamese, and Cuban cosmonauts with their Soviet counterparts. The Czechoslovakian satellite MAGION, which had been launched in October 1978, was continuing to supply valuable scientific data obtained by remote sensing of the earth, which was part of his country's contribution to socialist co-operation in the Intercosmos programme. Information obtained from satellites was processed at a special centre in Czechoslovakia and was used to further the development of various fields of the national economy. Assistance and data supplied by the Soviet Union enabled Czechoslovakian scientists and specialists to make use of up-to-date methods in numerous branches of space research. His delegation stressed the effectiveness of co-operation among the member countries of the Intercosmos programme and the growing importance of co-operation between the

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Soviet Union and India, France, Sweden and Austria, as well as the active participation of other countries in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

53. His delegation endorsed the work done by the Committee and its two Sub-Committees over the past year. The Committee played a very prominent role in promoting international co-operation between States. Its success in resolving complex issues demonstrated the effectiveness of the policy of considering the positions of individual countries and groups of countries in taking decisions. His Government supported the proposal of the Soviet Union to include a new item on the maintenance of the health and vital activity of participants in manned space flights of long duration in the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. That Sub-Committee should also continue its consideration of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. It was not yet time for the Legal Sub-Committee to deal with that matter since there was no need at that stage to elaborate new provisions of space law in that field. Furthermore, it was gratifying to note that an acceptable compromise had been reached on that subject.

54. His delegation welcomed the fact that the complex issues regarding the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had been resolved. He expressed the hope that the Conference would take stock of the results of space research and the achievements of science and technology over the intervening quarter of a century, discuss the use of space technology in a number of important fields, and determine the possible future direction of space activities, particularly scientific and technological research, and the roles to be played by international organizations, especially the United Nations, in the exploration and use of outer space.

55. Lastly, his delegation had joined in sponsoring draft resolutions A/SPC/35/L.10 and L.11.

56. Mr. OUEDRAOGO (Upper Volta) expressed his delegation's condolences to the delegation of Algeria in connexion with the catastrophe that had recently occurred in Al-Asnam.

57. He reminded the Committee that a remote sensing centre was located at Ouagadougou, Upper Volta, and that his country could offer considerable help in bringing mankind the benefits of the remote sensing of the earth by satellites. Moreover, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, a seminar had been held at Ouagadougou from 9 to 23 January 1980 to describe the potential applications of remote sensing to the States of the region.

58. However, with regard to the work of the Outer Space Committee, he said that his delegation regretted it had not been possible to reach an agreement on the questions relating to remote sensing and direct television broadcasting by satellites. His Government was in favour of freedom of information, but it was important to ensure that, through technological progress and superiority, such freedom was not used to conceal efforts to undermine the sovereignty of States which had no recourse against such activities. Accordingly, his delegation believed that the sensed State should have priority and unrestricted access to

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data concerning its territory and that the prior consent of the sensed State was necessary before any data concerning it could be transmitted to a third party. His delegation also felt that, in the case of direct television broadcasting, a formula must be found to safeguard both freedom of information and the values of each nation.

59. With regard to the proposals made in connexion with the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, his delegation felt that they should be examined carefully, with special emphasis on international participation and co-operation. By the same token, every necessary measure must be taken to ensure that the use of nuclear power sources in outer space met the necessary safety conditions and was not directed towards military objectives.

60. Referring to the question of space transportation systems, his delegation congratulated the delegations that had achieved remarkable progress in that sphere.

61. As to the programme and activities of the United Nations carried out through international co-operation, he expressed his delegation's appreciation for the efforts made by international organizations in that context and reiterated its belief in the need for international co-operation in that field. Moreover, it welcomed the convening of the Second United Nations Conference in 1982 and thanked the Government of Austria for its offer to host that Conference. His delegation also welcomed the appointment of Mr. Yash Pal as Secretary-General of the Conference. He expressed the hope that there would not be just a few active participants and a great many spectators at the Conference but that the Conference would produce a sense of renewed enthusiasm and fraternity as well as a desire to share in the destiny common to all mankind.

62. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's hope that the Outer Space Committee would achieve considerable progress during its forthcoming session, and he stated that Upper Volta wished to become a member of that Committee.

63. The CHAIRMAN announced that Bolivia wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/SPC/35/L.10 and L.11.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.