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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MATHIAS (Portugal)

CONTENTS

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 55: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/35/20, A/35/46; A/SPC/35/4 and 5; A/SPC/35/L.10-12):

(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. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to several new documents before the Committee. Documents A/SPC/35/4 and A/SPC/35/5 concerned the composition of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; there were also three draft resolutions (A/SPC/35/L.10, L.11 and L.12).

2. Mrs. NOWOTNY (Austria) introducing the draft resolutions, said that the first (A/35/SPC/L.10) focused on the work done by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees during the past year and affirmed their mandate for 1981. Its text was largely self-explanatory. With regard to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, consultations among members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space over the past few weeks had resulted in an agreement to include in the agenda of the twentieth session of the Legal Sub-Committee an item entitled: "Consideration of the possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and to establish in connexion with that item a working group of the Sub-Committee (A/SPC/35/L.10, para. 6). No agreement had been reached on whether or not that new agenda item should be given priority but an understanding had been reached that ample time would be available for a thorough discussion of the item, to which a large number of delegations attached considerable importance. Paragraphs 7 and 8 referred to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and paragraphs 9 and 10 to the United Nations programme on space applications for 1981 and to continued co-operation with the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations.

3. Draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.11 related to the preparation and organization of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-82) and endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee (A/35/46).

4. Draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.12, which had been submitted by Austria on the basis of extensive consultations, dealt with the admission of new members to the Outer Space Committee and decided on its expansion to a maximum of 53 members.

(Mrs. Nowotny, Austria)

5. She expressed the hope that all the draft resolutions, which had been the subject of thorough negotiations, could be adopted by the Special Political Committee without a vote.

6. She informed the Committee that the delegations of Mexico, the Philippines and Romania wished to join the sponsors of draft resolutions A/SPC/35/L.10 and L.11.

7. Mrs. ELLIS (Venezuela) said that her country, like other developing countries, encountered difficulties with respect to the item under discussion due to lack of adequate information to enable it to derive full benefit from the new technology involved. In Venezuela, remote sensing was an important method of collecting physical and environmental data, but it had limitations with respect to its application in certain areas, at least at the present stage of technology. Specialized bodies in that country had been carrying out various research activities which would improve reception of radar images from various parts of the territory and the first topographical map of the Federal Territory of the Amazon, had been compiled from radar images of the area in 1972. Remote sensing had been used in Venezuela since the 1930s, when the aerophotographic service had been established. At present, a programme of aerophotogrammetry and remote sensors responsible for co-ordinating the application of that new technology was being carried out under the Ministry for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources. When the areas to be studied required more detailed information, information was also obtained by remote sensors, principally using multispectral cameras. Her delegation considered that priority should be given to the use of remote sensors for the observation of the earth from space, which should be used provided that the sovereignty of the sensed State was respected. The principles to be established should take into account the fundamental precepts of the sovereign rights of States and the principles governing relations between States. Consequently, before the territory of a sovereign State was sensed, the State to be sensed should be consulted. It should have priority access to the date obtained and participate in controlling their utilization. Principles must therefore be established which guaranteed the sovereign rights of States at the various stages of data collection, processing and dissemination.

8. Venezuela supported the organizing of training courses and seminars on remote sensing under the United Nations programme on space applications and welcomed the fact that a seminar on remote sensing applications and satellite communications in education and development was to be held in Argentina in April 1981. Her delegation also wished to support Argentina's proposal that a regional centre for the remote sensing of natural resources, which would be of great benefit to the training of personnel from the region, should be established in that country.

9. Her delegation also supported the elaboration of draft principles on artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. It was inadmissible that a State should transmit to the territory of another programmes which included elements that might deform its culture.

10. The geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource and principles should

(Mrs. Ellis, Venezuela)

be established to govern the activities of States so that the orbit should be used for the general good.

11. In conclusion, she expressed her country's interest in the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, for which it was preparing a national report.

12. Ms. FRANK (Netherlands) said that her country's national space activities had already been reported to the United Nations. The achievements of the Outer Space Committee since its inception were to a certain degree due to the businesslike way in which it conducted its activities. It was therefore regrettable that at its twenty-third session, there had been controversy on matters outside the scope of its work. Her delegation hoped that in future political problems not related to the work of that Committee would be discussed in the appropriate United Nations organs.

13. The Netherlands was greatly concerned at the threat posed by the ongoing arms race in outer space. Her country strongly appealed to the States concerned to resume the negotiations on the prohibition of anti-satellite weapons without delay in order that outer space should be maintained as a domain of peaceful development and international co-operation.

14. Her delegation was pleased that both Sub-Committees had continued their consideration of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and it commended the work done by the working group of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on related technical and safety aspects. Like many other members of the Outer Space Committee, the Netherlands thought that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue its elaboration of additional provisions governing specifically the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, as proposed by the Canadian delegation. Her delegation was pleased to note that agreement had been reached on the establishment of a working group to deal with the matter during the Sub-Committee's next session and was confident that an appropriate amount of time would be allocated to it for proper consideration of that issue, which the Netherlands considered to be of prime importance.

15. With regard to the question of direct television broadcasting by satellites, her delegation reiterated its unwavering support of the principle of the free flow of information, regardless of frontiers, which was embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and had been reaffirmed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Netherlands would actively pursue the goal of making that new technology beneficial to the technologically less developed countries and hoped that agreement on the principles governing the use of direct television broadcasting would soon be reached.

16. The Netherlands Government welcomed the significant progress made in the preparations for UNISPACE-82, the primary objective of which should be to serve the developing countries.

17. Mr. STARČEVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that space research had stretched the frontiers of human knowledge and opened up the prospects of human endeavours beyond what

(Mr. Starčević, Yugoslavia)

anyone could have imagined. Perhaps more important were the practical benefits to be gained from the unprecedented advances in space technology and their use in very varied fields. All States, and particularly the developing countries, should benefit from that technology, and the importance of international co-operation could not be over-emphasized. His delegation viewed with particular satisfaction the growing role of the United Nations, especially its Outer Space Committee, as a focal point for international co-operation, particularly with respect to the practical application of space science and technology in developing countries. Through its space applications programme, the United Nations ensured the increasing participation of a number of countries in space-related activities, as well as increasing benefits for them. Unfortunately, the differences in that Committee over the past year, which were partly due to underlying political motives, still existed and had prevented it from making progress. As long as the genuine political will to resolve the outstanding issues did not prevail, results could not be expected.

18. His delegation regretted that it had not been possible to resolve the problem of definition of resolutions and of dissemination of data obtained through remote sensing because in that field there were prospects for making direct use of the achievements of science to promote economic and social progress. The principle of the free dissemination of information must be tempered by that of safeguarding the sovereignty and legitimate interests of States, especially in the area of natural resources. It was understandable that the sensed State should have primary access to the data pertaining to its territory and that there might be some data it would not wish to have widely distributed. At the same time, the majority of States should have access to the results of remote sensing on an equal footing with the countries conducting the sensing. As long as remote sensing activities continued to be the privilege of a few countries, mistrust and difficulties would remain. That realization should lead to the establishment within the United Nations of an effective international system for remote sensing, analysis and dissemination of information.

19. Similar problems had prevented the Committee from reaching agreement on direct television broadcasting by satellites. Those countries that advanced the principle of the freedom of information as paramount were either those that broadcast programmes themselves or those that presented such arguments for well-known political reasons. His country endorsed the principle of the freedom of information in the true sense, but agreed that the principle of the sovereignty of States empowered a State not to allow direct broadcasting without its consent. There must be a system of agreements between the broadcasting and receiving States. Any other system would merely perpetuate and increase the current inequalities in the dissemination of information, the primary victims of which were developed and non-aligned countries. The establishment of the new international information order was sought in order to remedy that very problem.

20. Agreement on the definition and/or delimitation of outer space would solve the currently unresolved problem of the upper limit of the sovereignty of States in the space above their territories. If activities in outer space were regarded as activities in which all States co-operated and from which they all derived benefits,

(Mr. Starčević, Yugoslavia)

the problem would not be so urgent. However, particularly in view of the alarming trend towards the military use of outer space, security and economic considerations were becoming more pressing. In particular, his delegation wished to stress the need for urgent measures to prevent an arms race in outer space.

21. He expressd the hope that agreement on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space would prove possible and that legal norms could be established, to which all States should adhere.

22. The Yugoslav delegation was pleased to hear that most aspects of the preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space were proceeding in accordance with the original schedule.

23. Mr. JELONEK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that although the work of the Outer Space Committee and its two Sub-Committees during the past year had not culminated in the establishment of a further legal text to expand the body of existing space law, their discussions during their recent sessions had had fruitful results. For instance, in its capacity as Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE-82, the Committee had achieved substantial progress. That Conference would be an appropriate forum for the dissemination of information on the benefits to be derived from space research for the solution of terrestrial problems and would provide an opportunity for exchanging the latest scientific and technological findings and further enhancing international co-operation in space research and activities.

24. His delegation welcomed the establishment of a working group of the Legal Sub-Committee to discuss the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, with ample time to discuss the matter.

25. The Federal Republic's outer space activities over the past 12 months had, as before, been carried out in an international framework, both within the joint programme of the European Space Agency (ESA) and on a bilateral basis. The development of SPACELAB by a European consortium of firms was almost completed and the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) had ordered for its own use another flight unit of both SPACELAB and the instrument pointing system. A mission from his country concentrating mainly on material and process technologies under space conditions was currently being prepared. The European carrier rocket Ariane had functioned with the utmost precision on its initial flight in December 1979, although the same was not true of the second launch. In April 1980, the Federal Republic had signed an agreement with other European Governments on the production, launching and marketing of Ariane by an industrial enterprise to be known as Arianespace.

26. Work had been started on the development and construction of satellites for the European Communications Satellite System (ECS), to be operated by EUTELSAT, an organization of the European postal administrations, and on 29 April 1980, an intergovernmental agreement had been concluded between the Federal Republic and France on technical and industrial co-operation with regard to broadcasting satellites, under which test programmes would be carried out in both countries via two direct transmission satellites.

(Mr. Jelonek, Federal Republic of Germany)

27. His country was participating in the development of an ESA programme on remote sensing, to be co-ordinated with similar projects in other countries. In view of the picture transmission failure of the European meteorological satellite METEOSAT, particular importance was attached to the preparations for the launching of another satellite planned for the spring of 1981. It had been possible to extend the period of operation of the Federal Republic-United States solar probe HELIOS until 1981, in view of its good technical performance. ESA had also decided to start two other projects, and astronomy satellite called HIPPARCOS and a comet probe named GIOTTO. A project definition study was currently being prepared for a national radiography satellite, in which other countries had been invited to participate.

28. Mr. NORAN (Australia) said that, while perhaps the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was making only slow progress in an area of rapid technical developments and was reacting to events rather than keeping abreast of them, it should be remembered that the subject of outer space was technically and politically complex and that the rapid developments themselves were responsible for the slow progress.

29. However, there were encouraging signs and, if all members so wished, it would be possible to achieve the objective of ensuring that the use of outer space was confined to peaceful purposes and that the benefits derived therefrom were enjoyed by all.

30. His delegation had outlined the more important events in Australia's space programme during the 1980 session of the Outer Space Committee. However, he wished to point out that Australia was making increasing use of space technology, as could be expected of a country with a large area, a relatively small population and extensive natural resources, and the work of the Outer Space Committee would continue to be significant to his country, as its use of space technology grew.

31. The Australian Government was currently installing equipment to receive, record and process data from earth resource satellites, in particular the United States NASA series LANDSAT satellites. An Australian LANDSAT station would become operative shortly; since the area to be covered by LANDSAT included some of the territory of the countries to the north of Australia, after the station became fully operational requests might be received from those countries for coverage and imagery. In recent years, Australia had been making extensive use of LANDSAT data in a wide variety of fields, and the deployment of the LANDSAT station in Australia would considerably improve its use of the series.

32. Preparations for the development of a national satellite system, announced the previous year, were well advanced. That system would enable even the most remote areas of Australia to receive television broadcasts and would be an important factor in improving the national communications network.

33. Australia was also an active participant in a number of other satellite facilities, in particular INTELSAT, as well as in various meteorological systems.

(Mr. Noran, Australia)

Australia also co-operated in facilitating the space programmes of other countries, and in 1979 an agreement had been concluded between Australia and ESA to provide equipment and operators to assist in the launching and placement of ESA satellites. Moreover, Australia operated three major tracking stations for NASA.

34. Referring to those areas of the work of the Outer Space Committee and its two Sub-Committees which his delegation considered to be of the utmost importance in the rational and peaceful development of the benefits of outer space, he noted that the debate on the remote sensing of the earth by satellites had been useful in that better understanding had been reached on the various positions of delegations. Accordingly, it appeared that, given a spirit of compromise, it might eventually be possible to arrive at agreed principles. However, delegations would need to approach that subject in a more positive manner; perhaps efforts should focus on those issues where agreement seemed to be more readily attainable.

35. His delegation was somewhat disappointed at the minimal progress made in the Legal Sub-Committee in connexion with direct television broadcasting by satellites. However, the discussions on that subject had helped to clarify the difficulties some delegations had experienced with the various draft principles. His delegation hoped that in 1981, if delegations approached the issues in a constructive frame of mind, significant progress could be made in that connexion.

36. With regard to the launching and operation of satellites, existing international law required that adequate precautions should be taken to prevent harm to human beings and the environment as well as damage to States. However, there were no minimum standards for the safe use of nuclear power sources or other high-risk space objects in outer space. The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space currently had a good basis on which to pursue its study of the areas identified, and he expressed the hope that it could make constructive progress on that subject during the coming year.

37. Significantly, during the 1980 session of the Legal Sub-Committee, many delegations had emphasized the need to supplement, or at least strengthen, existing international law concerning nuclear power sources in outer space. His delegation believed that the Legal Sub-Committee should undertake a detailed study of the elaboration of adequate international regulations covering nuclear power sources and other high-risk space objects. Accordingly, his delegation fully endorsed the proposal to establish a working group of the Legal Sub-Committee, as was indicated in the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/35/L.10 (para. 6 (b)), and had been pleased to note that all members of the Outer Space Committee had agreed that the time needed for that purpose should be set aside in the Legal Sub-Committee

38. With regard to the preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he noted that, during the 1980 session of the Outer Space Committee, most of the organizational issues had been resolved. His delegation had been particularly pleased to learn that Mr. Yash Pal had been appointed Secretary-General of the Conference. In addition, he expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Austrian Government for having offered to host the Conference.

39. With regard to the benefits of the geostationary orbit, he said that countries such as Australia, which were becoming increasingly reliant on satellite

(Mr. Noran, Australia)

communications and sensing, considered that question to be particularly important. However, Australia hesitated to recognize any claim of sovereignty over that orbit, since such a claim could not be substantiated on any scientific or legal basis and would, in his Government's opinion, conflict with the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty. However, States must co-operate on that question, and rational, equitable consideration must be given to ways of ensuring that no country was excluded from utilizing the benefits derived from the geostationary orbit.

40. In connexion with the related question of the delimitation of outer space, he recalled that, as his delegation had stated in the Outer Space Committee, before that Committee could successfully embark on an effort to define the outer limits of the atmosphere, close consideration must be given to the scientific, legal and political factors involved. The question whether it was currently necessary to define the outer limits of the atmosphere should also be asked.

41. His delegation supported the suggestion that experts in the various technical fields of outer space activities should be invited to address the Sub-Committees of the Outer Space Committee. That would help to remedy the problem he had referred to earlier, by keeping members abreast of important technical developments, rather than leaving them to follow such developments.

42. The discussions in the Outer Space Committee and its Sub-Committees during 1980 had revealed a considerable duplication of work. Accordingly, his delegation supported the suggestion that a review of its working procedures should be undertaken with a view to streamlining its work and making it more efficient, and he urged that the Outer Space Committee should seriously consider that matter at its forthcoming session.

43. His delegation was a sponsor of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/SPC/35/L.10 and L.11; it supported the principles and guidelines contained therein and thus commended them to the Committee. His delegation also supported the formula embodied in draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.12 but, in its opinion, careful consideration should be given to that matter before any such step was taken.

44. Mr. TATAD (Philippines) said that continuing achievements in space science and technology gave an added urgency to increased international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The Soviet Union's success in keeping a man in space for 185 days and the United States space encounters with Venus, Jupiter and Saturn had familiarized mankind with outer space. His delegation welcomed such developments and also paid a tribute to the cosmonauts from Cuba, Hungary, Viet Nam and the Soviet Union for their successful joint space mission in the franework of the Intercosmos programme.

45. As a developing country, the Philippines attached particular importance to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Mindful of the benefits that could be derived from space science and technology, especially for the developing countries, the Philippines continued to participate in United Nations programmes and activities relating to outer space. His Government also continued to

(Mr. Tatad, Philippines)

play an active role in global weather research, particularly in programmes designed by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to mitigate the disastrous effects of typhoons. In that connexion, his delegation wished to commend those countries that had participated in the first phase of the WMO global atmospheric research programmes. The data gathered during the year-long global weather experiment should help to develop more efficient forecasts and warning systems. The population and economy of the Philippines suffered regularly from no less than 20 typhoons a year, and his country's interest in that experiment was thus understandable. It was eager to share, at the proper time, in the benefits derived from the effective utilization of the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite D in predicting weather phenomena, in the hope that it might eventually become possible to influence the direction and reduce the destructive capability of typhoons.

46. In the context of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, regional scientific co-operation, in particular through the use of the spare capacity of the Indonesian satellite PALAPA, had facilitated the task of modernizing and expanding the Philippines' communication systems. His country was also employing remote sensing in major research and application programmes in a wide variety of areas and was particularly interested in space science and technology.

47. His delegation fully supported the convening of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and welcomed the Austrian Government's offer to host the Conference. It also welcomed the appointment of Mr. Yash Pal as its Secretary-General. The Conference should provide a unique opportunity for the international community to explore ways of increasing co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, taking special account of the particular needs of the developing countries. Accordingly, his delegation believed that the Conference should include the representatives not only of States, but also of those organizations regularly invited to take part in the work of the General Assembly as well as all the interested organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations. Moreover, in order to ensure the best possible results, efforts should be made in the developing as well as the developed countries to attract public attention to the issues to be discussed during the Conference. In that connexion, the media should be encouraged to take part in the effort to achieve a global awareness of those issues and to make the Conference a subject of interest.

48. As a member of the Outer Space Committee, his delegation was aware of the complexity of the issues under consideration. Accordingly, it was not suprising that, except for the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, of which the Philippines had recently become a signatory, there had been a lack of appreciable progress on the issues under consideration.

49. With regard to the dissemination of data received through remote sensing, he reiterated his delegation's view that such data should be made available to the sensed State on a priority basis, in keeping with the principles of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources. Moreover, certain categories

(Mr. Tatad, Philippines)

of data, based on spatial resolution, should not be disseminated without the prior consent of the sensed State. In view of the divergent opinions expressed, both the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee should resume extensive consideration of that subject as a matter of priority.

50. With regard to the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, effective machinery should be devised to ensure that the rich cultural heritage, customs and traditions of countries were both preserved and fostered. Direct television broadcasting should be based on the principle of consultation and agreement among States. In order to reach a consensus on that vital question, his delegation supported the recommendation that the Legal Sub-Committee should resume consideration of that item during its coming session.

51. Turning to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, he briefly reviewed the work done in that connexion by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee during its previous session. The uncontrolled use of such power sources, without adequate safety measures, might have dangerous implications for mankind. Accordingly, his delegation supported the recommendation that both Sub-Committee should continue their work on that item with a view to supplementing existing international law with provisions relating specificzlly to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, since the existing legal instruments were inadequate. His delegation also supported the establishment of a working group of the Legal Sub-Committee to consider that matter in greater depth.

52. With regard to the geostationary orbit, his delegation continued to believe that, since that orbit was a valuable but limited natural resource, its benefits should be available to all countries, either directly or indirectly, irrespective of their technological capabilities.

53. In conclusion, he stressed that, if outer space was to remain the common heritage of mankind, it must be protected as such by an enforceable legal order that reflected the advances made in the exploration and use of outer space. In that connexion, those members of the international community which had not yet done so might currently wish to ratify or accede to the international treaties governing the peaceful uses of outer space. Moreover, a sincere effort should be made to prevent the arms race from spreading to outer space. Accordingly, the existing gaps in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty should be examined with a view to bringing that Treaty into line with the rapid technological progress in space science and effectively curtailing the development, testing and launching of weapons of mass destruction in outer space. The billions of dollars used in the development of such weapons could be diverted to programmes of direct benefit to the developing countries. In that connexion, his delegation was eagerly awaiting the report of the group of experts studying all the implications of establishing an international satellite agency to monitor arms control and disarmament activities. His delegation believed that the irreversible progress made in space science and technology should enhance the human condition by helping man to realize his full potential, rather than creating new threats to his continued existence.

54. Mr. ROY (Pakistan) said that, within the general framework of its purposes and objectives, the United Nations had been seeking to develop machinery to promote international co-operation in the exploration and uses of outer space for the benefit of all States, irrespective of their stage of economic or scientific development. The contribution made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space towards the establishment of guidelines and a framework for the orderly and peaceful uses of outer space was recognized by all. In that connexion, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the work of that Committee and of its Legal Sub-Committee had led to the adoption of several important international agreements and conventions relating to outer space. Moreover, the Outer Space Committee, together with its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, had been engaged in efforts to encourage international co-operation and to promote the practical application of space technology, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries.

55. As a member of the Outer Space Committee and also as a developing country, Pakistan would like to see the United Nations play a greater role in expanding peaceful co-operation in the field of outer space. His delegation continued to believe that a United Nations regulatory body should be created with a view to preventing lawlessness in outer space and ensuring that Member States used outer space and the facilities developed for space research exclusively for peaceful purposes. Moreover, technological knowledge and the benefits derived therefrom must be made available to all nations, large and small. While commending the role played by the United Nations space applications programme in promoting an awareness of the practical applications of space technology among the developing countries, his delegation wished to emphasize the need to mobilize further international co-operation in that field, in particular through FAO, WMO, ITU, UNESCO and UNDP The scope and content of the United Nations space applications programme should also be strengthened with a view to improving its effectiveness in meeting the growing requirements of the developing countries in the field of space technology.

56. Unfortunately, the Outer Space Committee's deliberations on the question of the applications of space science and technology and activities in outer space had remained inconclusive. The various legal and technical questions relating to the remote sensing of the earth by satellites had been reflected in the divergent views expressed in the Outer Space Committee. His delegation hoped that further discussion together with the studies to be prepared by the Secretariat would facilitate the work of elaborating an agreement on the classification of remote sensing data and on the principles regulating its dissemination. He reiterated Pakistan's view that sensed States should have full access to data pertaining to their territories and should be able to participate in remote sensing activities carried out by sensing States. The Outer Space Committee and its Sub-Committees must give priority to developing an international agreement directed towards the fullest possible application of remote sensing techniques, in particular for the benefit of the developing countries.

57. There had also been a lack of progress in the Outer Space Committee on the question of direct television broadcasting by satellites. While emphasizing the urgent need to conclude an international convention on principles governing such

(Mr. Roy, Pakistan)

broadcasts, his delegation agreed that such a convention should include provisions for adequate consultation and agreement between the States operating such satellites and the States receiving signals from them.

58. With regard to the question of the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, bearing in mind questions relating to the geostationary orbit, he expressed his delegation's hope that the two Sub-Committees would continue to study the different aspects of that important subject.

59. By the same token, the Legal Sub-Committee should continue to consider the question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space with a view to supplementing the existing provisions of international law and adopting new ones where necessary. Meanwhile, the Working Group of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should also continue its work on the subjects specified at its initial session.

60. His delegation looked forward to the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to be held in Vienna in the latter half of 1982. The Conference would provide a useful opportunity for an in-depth review of the current state of space technology and for the adoption of appropriate measures to ensure that the benefits of such technology were used for the well-being of mankind in general and for that of the peoples of the developing countries in particular. He expressed the hope that the discussions held during the Conference would also help to strengthen the co-ordinating role played by the United Nations in that important field. With regard to the composition of the bureau of the Conference, his delegation supported the view that it should be based on an equitable distribution among the various regions. It also hoped that, in appointing the senior members of the Conference secretariat, the paramount need for a global focus on outer space activities would be given due consideration. Accordingly, the participation of nationals from the developing countries, particularly those which had not yet had an opportunity to participate in the work of the secretariat, would surely enhance the Conference's productiveness.

61. In conclusion, he announced that Pakistan wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/SPC/35/L.10 and L.11.

62. Mr. MOUTARI (Niger) expressed the sympathy and solidarity of the Government and people of Niger to the Government and people of Algeria in connexion with the natural disaster that had occurred in the town of Al-Asnam.

63. The reports contained in documents A/35/20 and A/35/46 were extremely important from the standpoint of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The spectacular developments that had occurred in space science and technology since the launching of the first Sputnik in 1957 had opened new horizons to mankind but had also exposed peoples and States to potential dangers. Accordingly, international co-operation was more necessary than ever in order to ensure that mankind benefited from the possibilities offered by outer space and was spared the disadvantages inherent in those possibilities.

(Mr. Moutari, Niger)

64. For that reason, his delegation sincerely regretted the fact that little progress had been made on the question of the dissemination of data obtained from the remote sensing of the earth by satellites. As a Sahelian country which had long suffered the effects of drought, Niger was aware of the many advantages such technology offered mankind, in particular, the possibility of understanding and mastering ecological imbalances, thus helping to predict them and limit their catastrophic consequences. However, only a small number of States currently possessed remote sensing satellites and, accordingly, unlimited freedom in disseminating the data thus collected could have adverse consequences for the sovereignty of the weakest States. The solution adopted by the international community should permit those countries without satellite networks to have access to data concerning their territory; it should also respect their sovereignty. To that end, his delegation felt that three principles should be observed: first, the sensed State should have priority and unrestricted access to data of concern to it, since there was no scientific basis on which to preclude such a principle; second, the effective implementation of that principle required that the infrastructure needed to process such data should be installed in the sensed countries; lastly, the solution adopted must also guarantee the prior consent of the sensed State before any data concerning its territory were disseminated to third States or entities. In his delegation's opinion, only those measures could prevent the misuse of the data collected through remote sensing.

65. Direct television broadcasting by satellites also presented a contradiction: it could offer a far-reaching means of providing sound information and raising the cultural level of peoples, but it could also be a gigantic instrument for poisoning people's minds. Accordingly, his delegation felt that any solution to that problem should take into account the principle of the sovereignty and independence of States as well as respect for the cultural heritage of peoples.

66. His country was also concerned about the problem of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and, in its opinion, the international community must ensure that the necessary safeguards were respected. Because of the ever-growing number of flights into space, maximum guarantees must be provided with a view to protecting the earth from the uncontrolled re-entry of space objects. In that connexion, two ideas, inter alia, should be studied carefully: first, the establishment of a world-wide monitoring system to obtain the most accurate, detailed information on such re-entries and on the point of re-entry; second, the launching of a programme to train specialized teams in various countries, particularly in the developing countries, to deal effectively with such cases of accidental re-entry.

67. In general, the training and assistance efforts of the United Nations, particularly in the context of seminars and working groups, should be continued and strengthened. In that connexion, he thanked the Governments of Ethiopia and France for having offered to host United Nations seminars on remote sensing applications in education and development during 1981. Such seminars would surely promote the effective participation of the developing countries in the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

(Mr. Moutari, Niger)

68. With regard to the report of the Preparatory Committee for that Conference (A/35/46), he drew attention to the fact that although 11 years had passed since man had first set foot on the moon, the vast majority of the people in the developing countries were still unaware of the possibilities offered by space science and technology. Accordingly, his country sincerely hoped that the Conference would succeed in enhancing the public's awareness of space techniques and applications, with special emphasis on the needs of the developing countries. To that end, an effort must be made to ensure that the Conference did not become a meeting at which, as had been stated the previous year, the most advanced countries described their achievements, to the applause of the other countries which, lacking the necessary means, were reduced to the role of spectators.

69. He welcomed the fact that the question of the date and venue of the Conference had been settled, thanks to the spirit of co-operation shown by all members of the Preparatory Committee. He also expressed the hope that the General Assembly would endorse the recommendation that the Conference should be held in Vienna, and he thanked the Austrian Government for having offered to host the Conference. However, he regretted the fact that no solution had thus far been found to the question of the composition of the Conference secretariat, despite the conciliatory position adopted by the Group of 77 during the relevant discussions in the Outer Space Committee. His delegation continued to believe that there was no serious reason not to apply the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

70. In conclusion, his delegation warmly welcomed the appointment of Mr. Yash Pal to the post of Secretary-General of the Conference.

71. Mrs. JOKA-BANGURA (Sierra Leone) said that her delegation fully endorsed the proposals contained in the reports of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee. Space research had become very relevant to the advancement of developing countries. The importance to developing countries of remote sensing in a wide variety of fields and the use of artificial satellites in telecommunications and broadcasting could not be overemphasized. In view of that fact, the work of the Legal Sub-Committee on the elaboration of principles guiding the activities of States in remote sensing and the use of artificial earth satellites should be expedited. In conducting remote sensing activities, the sensing State should be obliged to inform the sensed State of those activities and should make all the data collected available to it. With respect to direct television broadcasting by satellites, she expressed the hope that delegations would display the necessary political will to reach agreement on the formulation of the appropriate legal principles.

72. In August 1980 at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the African Remote Sensing Council, the representatives of certain donor countries which had been supporting regional remote sensing centres had threatened not to support the creation of a technical sub-committee at the continental level in the belief that such a body would be ineffective and too costly. Her delegation expressed the hope that those donor countries would review their attitude towards the African Remote Sensing Council, especially the Technical Sub-Committee, which was very important in view of the fact that political decisions on space research had to be based on technical advice given by experts.

(Mrs. Joka-Bangura, Sierra Leone)

73. Further studies should be undertaken on the technical aspects of and safety measures in the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, but priority should be given to the study of the legal aspects of that question and the Legal Sub-Committee should have adequate time to deal with that matter. Her delegation felt that the delimitation of outer space could be dealt with in due course and that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should be given enough time to study all aspects of that question. Her country looked forward to the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the hope that developing countries would derive the maximum benefit from it. Lastly, her delegation associated itself with those delegations which had urged strict adherence to the principle of the use of outer space strictly for peaceful purposes and joined in sponsoring draft resolutions A/SPC/35/L.10 and L.11.

74. Mr. RANGA (India) said that his Government attached great importance to its domestic space programme and the co-ordinating work of the Committee in finding solutions to common problems. In July 1980, India had successfully launched a technological satellite, ROHINI Satellite I, by means of its own satellite launch vehicle, and was planning to launch an experimental geostationary communications satellite on an Ariane launch vehicle provided by the European Space Agency. His country had already launched two satellites from a Soviet cosmodrome for earth observation and was working on a project to launch a multipurpose geostationary satellite from the United States in 1981-1982. His Government hoped to launch a number of satellites during the 1980s using its own launch vehicles and the launch vehicle services of other countries. The Indian Space Research Organization planned to launch a semi-operational remote sensing satellite during 1984-1985. The National Remote Sensing Agency had a number of aircraft equipped for remote sensing and regional centres had been established to support a national network.

75. With regard to the report of the Committee, he said that the question of remote sensing of the earth by satellites should be discussed further. His delegation fully supported the work of the Secretariat in preparing a comprehensive catalogue on remote sensing. In view of the fact that the use of nuclear power sources in outer space was unavoidable, his delegation shared the opinion that all necessary precautions should be taken to ensure their safe use. Both Sub-Committees should continue to study that aspect of the subject with a view to drafting safety provisions. Work should continue on the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. In that regard, the interests of recipient States should be considered along with the concept of permissible spillover.

76. The section of the report dealing with the definition and/or delimitation of outer space showed that that matter had to be further discussed in the Committee in order to reach a consensus. His delegation supported the view that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should continue the consideration of the item dealing with space transportation systems in view of their important implications for future space activities. India attached great importance to the United Nations programme on space applications, which should be provided with adequate funds in order to enable it to make the benefits of technological development available to developing countries promptly and at an affordable cost.

(Mr. Ranga, India)

77. It was time to take appropriate steps to ensure that the peaceful exploitation of outer space was not impeded by its misuse for military purposes. No military activities should be introduced into space programmes on any pretext. The Committee could study possible steps to be taken and submit a report at the next session of the Special Political Committee.

78. In view of the potential of solar powered satellites, the United Nations bodies concerned could assist tropical and sub-tropical countries in Asia and Africa in setting up the necessary infrastructure for harnessing solar energy to supplement their other power sources. Lastly, his Government fully supported the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and noted with satisfaction the report of the Preparatory Committee for that Conference (A/35/46).

79. Mr. TOPCUOGLU (Turkey) said that the growth of science and space technology made the continuation of international co-operation in the field of the exploration and peaceful use of outer space all the more imperative. His delegation fully shared the view of the Chairman of the Special Political Committee that the international community must act in concert in order to shape the future role of space technology in human life. The report of the Outer Space Committee, while not conclusive, was nevertheless encouraging. Although only limited progress had been achieved, agreement could be reached on the remaining issues through a spirit of compromise. Increased efforts should be made to find an acceptable compromise concerning the question of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth by satellites. Such a compromise should take full account of the sovereign rights of the sensed States and should provide, inter alia, that prior notification should be given and the approval of the sensed State should be obtained prior to the initiation of remote sensing activities over its territory; the sensed State should have direct access to primary data concerning its territory and natural resources on a priority basis; and certain data relating to its territory and natural resources should not be disseminated to third parties without the approval of the sensed State.

80. In formulating draft principles governing the use by States of satellites for direct television broadcasting, the Committee should give special consideration to the interests of developing countries and fully respect the sovereign rights of receiving States. He expressed the hope that the Legal Sub-Committee would be able to make more progress in its work concerning the definition and/or delimitation of outer space. He reiterated his delegation's position that there was no firm basis for unilateral claims of national sovereignty over the geostationary orbit, which was part of the common heritage of mankind and should be utilized for the benefit of all countries, sepecially developing countries. The legal régime to be established in that regard therefore should guarantee equitable access for all countries.

81. His Government attached particular importance to the elaboration of safety standards to eliminate all possible harmful effects resulting from the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. In the formulation of internationally accepted guidelines in that field, the protection of the human and natural

(Mr. Topcuoglu, Turkey)

environment should be given the utmost importance. His delegation shared the view that existing legal instruments relating to outer space be supplemented. The Canadian paper submitted to the Legal Sub-Committee was a good starting point for discussions designed to formulate further international rules governing the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

82. Turkey shared the view of the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee that its summary records constituted an essential part of the work of preparing treaties and that future references could and should be made to that work with a view to studying, understanding and interpreting the treaties and principles to be elaborated. The importance of those records should, therefore, be taken into account by the General Assembly.

83. The report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was invaluable as a basis for the future preparation of the Conference. He noted with particular satisfaction that a consensus had been reached on many outstanding issues, including the venue, duration and date of the Conference. He expressed the hope that the Conference would explore and expand the possibilities for all countries, especially developing countries, to gain the greatest possible benefit from space technology. Lastly, his delegation urged strict observance by the space Powers of the disarmament provisions in the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies in order to maintain peace in outer space.

84. Mr. DYACHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the results of space exploration attested to the benefits which could be obtained from peaceful international co-operation in solving scientific and economic problems. In 1980 cosmonauts from a number of socialist countries had successfully carried out another stage of the Intercosmos programme by successfully completing space flights on board Soviet "SOYUZ" spacecraft and the "SALYUT-6" orbiting space station. The results of that work would benefit not only the countries of the socialist community, but all of mankind. Ukrainian scientists and specialists participated in programmes based on international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, including the Intercosmos programme. In co-operation with the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the academies of sciences of other Republics of the Soviet Union, Ukrainian scientific establishments had worked out a broad programme of space research and earth exploration by means of space equipment. Scientists from the Lvov Physics and Mechanics Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in co-operation with specialists from Austria, France, Sweden and the Soviet Union in the framework of the Intercosmos programme had participated in the "CAMBO-2" experiment studying the aurora magnetosphere by means of high-level drifting balloons together with ground, rocket and satellite observations and measurements. Specialists from the Botanical Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, who had carried out an experiment on the effects of space on plant cells, were currently reviewing the results of the Franco-Soviet Tsitos space biology programme. Ukrainian scientists were actively co-operating with scientific centres in France and other countries in the fields of space biology, physics, astronomy, and the manufacture of equipment. The results obtained had great scientific value and were of practical importance in furthering the economic development of the Republic's economy.

(Mr. Dyachenko, Ukrainian SSR)

35. With regard to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, his delegation supported the view held by the majority of the members of the Committee that direct television broadcasting to a foreign State should only be carried out on the basis of prior agreement with that State. That compromise formulation could serve as the basis for drafting principles concerning television broadcasting to other States. With respect to remote sensing of the earth by satellites, his delegation reiterated its position that the criterion of spatial resolution should serve as the basis for remote sensing. Data with a spatial resolution of 50 metres or finer should only be disseminated to a third party with the prior consent of the sensed State. His delegation noted with satisfaction the work of the Committee in the development of criteria for evaluating spatial characteristics. Such work contributed to a better understanding of the problem and made it possible to reach a consensus on the questions involved in the dissemination of primary data.

36. Lastly, he expressed the hope that in the near future, the Committee would be able to complete the draft principles on the use of direct television broadcasting by satellites and the principles concerning the activities of States in the field of remote sensing of the earth by satellites.

37. The CHAIRMAN announced that the delegations of Canada, Chile, Italy, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and the Sudan had joined in sponsoring draft resolutions A/SPC/35/L.10 and L.11, and that the United States had joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.10.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.