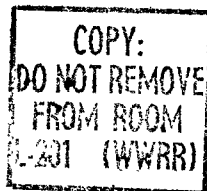


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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
18th meeting
held on
Thursday, 29 October 1981
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda)

later: Mrs. NOWOTIVY (Austria)

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AGENDA ITEM 61: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
(continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/36/20; A/SPC/36/L.4)
- (b) REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/36/46; A/SPC/36/L.5)

AGENDA ITEM 62: 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 (A/36/20) (continued)

1. Mrs. NOWOTNY (Austria) said that only intense international co-operation could provide the base for adequate measures to share the results of the exploration of outer space. Austria had always regarded the United Nations, particularly its Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as the most suitable forum for the institutionalization of that co-operation. The Committee had two main responsibilities: to serve as a frame for a continuing exchange of scientific and technical information and to elaborate the fundamental legal principles governing outer space activities. In the latter area, five treaties on outer space had already emerged from the Committee, each designed to preserve space as a predominantly peaceful environment in which the rules of international law were respected.

2. The Committee's excellent record had been made possible only through compromise, the exercise of political will and a firm belief in the importance of its work. It was in that spirit that the other items on its agenda would have to be tackled. In the year under review, the Committee had continued its discussions on direct television broadcasting by satellites and on remote sensing techniques. Progress towards the solution of those problems had been limited, and previous speakers had not hidden their disappointment over that fact. She pointed out, however, that only a constant review of positions and the maintenance of a constructive dialogue could narrow the areas of divergent views.

3. In the area of remote sensing new proposals had been submitted. In the year under review, special emphasis had been laid on the principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. The work accomplished was reflected in the two working papers annexed to the report. The differences of opinion had been being resolved and the work accomplished was clearly reflected in the working papers annexed to the Committee's annual report.

4. The Committee had embarked on a new problem, the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, and the Austrian delegation considered that the discussion of that question was timely and appropriate. As the number of satellites in space increased, the problem of the protection of the earth in case of the uncontrolled re-entry of space objects into the earth's atmosphere became more acute. The Working Group of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had concluded its deliberations on that subject, and Austria accepted its findings; for its part, the Legal Sub-Committee had begun consideration of the legal implications of the matter. The Austrian delegation had stressed in the past

(Mrs. Nowotny, Austria)

that the use of nuclear power sources for the energy supply of satellites justified the elaboration of specific legal norms. Although the working paper presented by Canada constituted a valuable starting point, it might be appropriate to consider safety aspects on a more general and comprehensive level so as to reduce the possibility of damage resulting from space missions.

5. As to the question of definition or delimitation of outer space, the Austrian delegation was prepared to join any consensus that might be developing on an issue that was linked to the question of the geostationary orbit.

6. With reference to the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which would take place in Vienna in 1982, she expressed the hope that it would increase public awareness of space technology and its applications and that the countries not in possession of that technology could derive benefits from it. She was concerned that the vacant posts in the secretariat of the Conference, which seemed likely to be a most important event, had still not been filled. She was concerned also that a new Expert in Space Applications had not yet been appointed.

7. Another matter for concern was the proliferation of the arms race in outer space, characterized by the emplacement round the earth of weapon systems capable of interfering with observation satellites and other space systems. The fact that the negotiations on the restriction of anti-satellite systems had not been resumed was an aggravating factor. There were therefore two options: to respect outer space as a strictly peaceful environment or to plant seeds for destruction and conflict in space. She trusted that the first option would be chosen.

8. She then introduced draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.4, on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, the sponsors of which had been joined by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Colombia, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and the United Republic of Cameroon, and draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.5, on the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the sponsors of which had been joined by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the Netherlands, Pakistan and the United Republic of Cameroon. Turkey had also joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.5.

9. Mr. LOISELLE (Canada) said that the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, planned for 1982, would be an important event in the sphere of co-operation in space activities. He expressed the hope that the spirit of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty would animate the Committee so that outer space would not be used for other than peaceful purposes. In the view of his delegation, the report of the Committee on Outer Space showed that little progress had been made on a number of points, one of which was remote sensing. He suggested that a close look should be taken at that question and areas should be identified on which useful work could be done by both Sub-Committees, such as the preparation of the catalogue of applications.

10. On the other hand, some progress had been made on the question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. There was already a technical basis on which the consideration of the legal aspects could begin. His delegation was confident that the

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(Mr. Loisel, Canada)

working group on that subject would soon be able to submit principles or guidelines that would ensure adequate protection for humans and the environment.

11. Turning to direct television broadcasting by satellites, he noted with disappointment that it had not proved possible to reach agreement on a set of principles on that subject. He trusted that agreement would be reached at the Committee's next session. His delegation was pleased that, for the first time, the draft resolution on co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space contained a reference to a time-frame for considering the adoption of principles for direct television broadcasting by satellites. His delegation was prepared to do everything in its power to help reach that goal.

12. Commenting on the preparations for the Outer Space Conference, he expressed his concern that the secretariat of the Conference had not yet been appointed, which was seriously undermining the preparations for the Conference and creating doubts as to whether it would take place. He urged support for the compromise proposal put forward by the Secretary-General of the Conference and expressed appreciation for his participation in it. He emphasized the danger of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space losing its relevance and its ability to function. Ways of dealing with that problem must be considered before the Conference opened.

13. Lastly, he expressed the appreciation of his delegation to the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to the Chairmen of the two Sub-Committees and to the staff of the Outer Space Affairs Division and announced that his delegation was pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution on the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

14. Mr. DOLEŽEL (Czechoslovakia) said that from the very beginning of human technology's penetration of the borders of the earth's atmosphere, the twenty-fifth anniversary of which would be commemorated in the following year, the United Nations had been concerned with peaceful co-operation between States in the use of outer space. The Organization had achieved a number of successes in the form of the conclusion of international treaties governing various aspects of the activity of States in the field of the peaceful use of outer space for military purposes, a category of treaties which represented a completely new branch of international law. Those treaties included, among others, the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and the 1977 Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques.

15. Czechoslovakia attached special significance to the thorough preparation of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. That Conference, which would comprehensively review all the important aspects of the uses of outer space and of peaceful co-operation between States in that field, should help to harmonize the views of States on those problems and stimulate the search for practical and constructive solutions. His delegation appreciated the preparatory work undertaken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees and trusted that the further preparation of the Conference would advance in a positive direction. His delegation also considered the conclusions reached in the report of the

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(Mr. Doležel, Czechoslovakia)

Preparatory Committee and in the statement made by the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the Conference to be well-founded. At the same time, his delegation could not but wonder at the attitudes of those delegations that persisted in their attempts to make their participation in preparations for the Conference, or on the Conference itself, contingent on irrelevant questions of a technical or organizational nature. They seemed to be using those questions to obscure their unfavourable attitude towards the Conference.

16. Czechoslovakia was interested in the smooth organization of the Conference, because it was among those countries that were taking an active part in the peaceful exploration of outer space. For 15 years, Czechoslovakia had participated in the INTERCOSMOS programme of international co-operation between socialist countries in the exploration and uses of outer space. The joint work by scientists of the socialist countries had accelerated scientific research and the application of its results in a number of fields, and to an extent that could never have been achieved by any country individually. The INTERCOSMOS programme, for which the Soviet Union had selflessly provided its ample experience and its advanced space technology, had achieved a recognized position in world space research. International crews had been launched into space under the joint exploration programme, in which cosmonauts from Czechoslovakia, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, Hungary, Viet Nam, Cuba, Mongolia and Romania had participated, side by side with their Soviet colleagues. The missions with international crews had been initiated on 2 March 1978 by Alexey Gubarev and the first Czechoslovak cosmonaut, Vladimír Remek. The results of the experiments carried out by those missions were clearly making a significant contribution to progress in the field of space science and technology, astronomy and astrophysics, space biology and medicine and the remote sensing of the earth.

17. Czechoslovak specialists had collaborated in the development of a programme of joint peaceful space exploration, both in the field of remote sensing of the earth by satellites and in that of manned flights. All the INTERCOSMOS satellites had contained Czechoslovak instruments. Czechoslovakia, in co-operation with Soviet scientists, had been the first socialist country, after the Soviet Union, to place its own earth satellite, Magion, in orbit.

18. Neither Czechoslovakia nor other socialist countries wished to keep their success to themselves, as was clear from the national papers submitted for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Those reports had been submitted on time, and States Members of the United Nations already had them at their disposal.

19. During 1981, a number of new important results had been achieved in the peaceful uses of outer space. The record-setting flights of the Soviet cosmonauts had shown that the era of permanent orbital scientific complexes had arrived. The number of States directly participating in peaceful space exploration had increased. Under the INTERCOSMOS programme, additional international missions had been launched with cosmonauts from Mongolia and Romania.

20. At the same time, another trend was becoming increasingly apparent: the plans and programmes of some States were aimed at misusing for military purposes, the results

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(Mr. Doležal, Czechoslovakia)

achieved, and at transforming outer space into a new arena for the arms race. The best answer lay in the proposal, submitted to the General Assembly at its present session by the Soviet Union, for the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space. Such a treaty would be in full conformity with the aims and purposes of the Charter of the Organization; moreover, it was not a measure for the distant future since, even now, a number of the weapons and weapon systems being developed were designed to be stationed in outer space for military purposes. In addition, it was no secret that the United States planned to utilize its reusable transport vehicle, the space shuttle, as an anti-satellite device to carry out inspections of foreign satellites in orbit, remove them from orbit and even transport them back to earth in the shuttle's cargo hold. There were even plans to establish military bases in outer space.

21. Under the circumstances, a definite end must be put to attempts to establish military superiority in outer space. Another round of the arms race, its space version, should not be permitted. It would be useful if the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Special Political Committee could help to solve that urgent problem.

22. For several years, the question of direct television broadcasting by satellites had occupied a significant place in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and of its Legal Sub-Committee. The fact that that question had not yet been resolved satisfactorily was, in Czechoslovakia's view, the consequence of the negative attitude of some States, mainly the United States of America, which continued to create obstacles to the achievement of favourable results.

23. The position of the United States did not respect the legitimate interests and needs of other States, their sovereignty or their national identity. Accordingly, Czechoslovakia fully supported the demand that every effort should be made to finalize the draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. In view of the current situation, the most suitable forum for the relevant deliberations was the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space itself.

24. At the same time, Czechoslovakia believed that codification efforts made by States in that field should not end with the elaboration of the above-mentioned principles. Immediately after completing the formulation of those principles, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should draft a legally binding international convention, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII), which had been adopted in 1972 and was entitled "Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting".

25. Other questions on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee also required active consideration. One of them was the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind inter alia questions relating to the geostationary orbit. A definition of outer space was necessary for the delimitation of the spatial scope of the validity of the outer space treaties hitherto concluded and, consequently, for the strengthening of international law. In that connexion, several delegations had pointed out that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees had until now been able to devote only marginal attention to that problem in their deliberations.

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26. In addition, the Legal Sub-Committee should deal with another growing problem. It was well known that there were increasing endeavours in some Western countries on the part of private capital to penetrate into outer space and to commercialize activities there still further so as to create a free market in data obtained by remote sensing of the earth and, in the next phase, even to take possession of the natural resources of outer space and celestial bodies. All that raised serious questions which should be addressed by the Committee and by its Legal Sub-Committee as soon as possible.

27. It must be appreciated that the activity of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had in recent years been marked by a favourable spirit and productive deliberations. That was demonstrated by the five international treaties concluded, four of which had already entered into force and had attracted a substantial number of States Parties. His delegation fully supported the appeal contained in the draft resolution on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

28. It was necessary to preserve all the conditions needed for the Legal Sub-Committee to continue its work successfully. The Legal Sub-Committee should continue to have four full weeks for its work. His delegation trusted that the Special Political Committee's deliberations on the item under consideration would lead to the adoption of constructive decisions for progress in that field which was so important for the entire international community.

29. Mr. SORENSEN (Venezuela) said that his country had achieved very important successes in telecommunications in the last two years. It now possessed two earth stations; one of them, commissioned a year ago, was considered to be among the most advanced of its kind in the world and could operate with the INTELSAT III, IV, and IV-A satellites and establish direct links with the Federal Republic of Germany, Spain, Italy and Panama. National planning of telecommunications for the five-year period 1980-1985 included provision for the construction of a third antenna for communication by satellites of the INTELSAT V and V-A generation.

30. The Venezuelan Space Commission was in charge of the global plan for establishing a satellite communication system throughout the country, and advised enterprises and organizations which were potential users of the service; and eventually the whole country would have telecommunications and television.

31. With regard to remote sensing of the earth and its legal implications, Venezuela advocated respect for the sovereignty of the country sensed, and believed that the following important conditions must be complied with: (a) data obtained by remote sensing must not be disseminated to third parties without the prior consent of the country sensed; and (b) the country sensed must have priority access to data concerning its territory. He hoped that the Scientific and Technical Committee would be able to agree on a criterion for the classification of data which would be acceptable to all, and would take into account the principle that it was for the country sensed to decide which data on its territory could be freely disseminated and which could be disseminated only to a limited extent or not at all.

32. With regard to principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct international television broadcasting, his delegation had co-sponsored the

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(Mr. Sorensen, Venezuela)

text contained in annex II to the Committee's report on its twenty-fourth session; and it reaffirmed its view that, in that type of broadcasting, it was essential to respect all the elements relating to national sovereignty, including the preservation of the national and cultural identity of all States. Such activities must be conducted in a manner compatible with the promotion of mutual understanding among States. They must not be added to the causes of friction and conflict which were already too numerous; on the contrary, direct television broadcasting by satellite should not only disseminate information but should also strengthen relations of friendship and co-operation among States and peoples.

33. His country was sorry that no agreement had been reached on that question at the Committee's twenty-fourth session, but it did not think that all possibilities of reaching an agreement had been exhausted. He hoped that the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session would be able to adopt a final decision on the subject, which had been on the agenda for nine years. As the overwhelming majority of the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space were hoping, that decision should be adopted by consensus. The consensus procedure must be maintained in arriving at decision on questions coming under the Committee's terms of reference. It was wrong to take votes which would divide members on issues such as legal questions, which required the concurrence of all Member States.

34. Another important subject was the possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. At the Committee's twenty-fourth session, his country had submitted a working paper on the protection of human life and preservation of the environment which, in general, was drafted on the same lines as the paper submitted on the same subject by Canada but mentioned in addition the responsibility of States for damage caused when objects equipped with nuclear power sources returned to earth. His country reaffirmed that it was determined to continue its efforts for the establishment of an appropriate legal order in that regard, since the matter was a delicate one in which the vulnerability of the developing countries was manifest to all.

35. With regard to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, his delegation thought that the absence of such a definition or delimitation was in fact necessary in connexion with the 1967 Treaty since, paradoxically, that Treaty was designed to govern activities in a region which was not defined or delimited. Whatever criterion was to be followed, any definition or delimitation must be acceptable for all States and must take into account their sovereignty and security interests.

36. With regard to the legal status of the geostationary orbit, his delegation wished to state once again that it was concerned at the indiscriminate use which was being made of that limited natural resource, which would become saturated if steps were not taken to regulate its use.

37. His delegation agreed with others which had repeatedly expressed their fears and reservations concerning violations of the 1967 Treaty; and it was therefore supporting the establishment of some kind of machinery to monitor strict compliance with that Treaty. Venezuela renewed its appeal to the international community that outer space should be demilitarized and reserved for peaceful uses which promoted the development

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and well-being of all mankind. Whatever the forum in which those questions should be considered, the Committee could take specific measures to that end, even if afterwards they might be subject to consideration in the Committee on Disarmament or the Disarmament Commission.

38. With regard to preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he said he hoped that the Conference would be a forum in which matters of concern to two thirds of the States Members of the United Nations, i.e. the developing countries, would be tackled effectively. The Conference must not be converted into a trade fair for the sale of products to the developing countries. It should provide a platform for strengthening international co-operation and solidarity. Since it was to last only for two weeks, it must not be transformed into a battle of words about feats performed in outer space, or into a mere catalogue of national experience, unless the applicability and viability of such experience for other countries could be demonstrated.

39. Venezuela had submitted as a Conference document its national paper entitled "Remote Sensors in the Intertropical Zone: The Venezuelan Experience". Its purpose was to stress the importance of the use of remote sensing and enumerate the benefits which it had brought to Venezuela; the paper also mentioned the obstacles which impeded the optimal utilization of remote sensing in developing countries located in the tropics and, lastly, indicated possible ways of removing them. His delegation hoped that the content of that national paper would somehow be reflected in the final document of the Conference.

40. His delegation felt particular concern at the fact that the necessary appointments to the secretariat which would take part in the preparation of the Conference had not been completed, which seriously jeopardized its success. For that reason, his country appealed to the Secretary-General to take immediate steps to make the necessary appointments in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

41. Lastly, Venezuela wished to express its gratitude to the Outer Space Affairs Division for the valuable work it had accomplished, its contribution to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the preparation of courses and seminars which mainly benefited developing countries, the preparation of the very useful documentation and its contributions to the preparatory work of the Conference. That area of United Nations activities should be fully supported by all Member States. The United Nations was the most suitable forum in which developing countries could keep abreast of the progress achieved in outer space by the industrialized countries and could express their concern about aspects of that field, which was daily assuming greater importance for the development of developing countries.

42. Mr. VAN VELL (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his country had a keen interest in outer space activities and was continuing to carry out its space activities within an international framework, both in the European Co-operative Programme of the European Space Agency (ESA) and in bilateral co-operation, particularly with the United States and France. In mid-1983 SPACELAB, the European Space Laboratory, would be launched into orbit, opening new fields of basic and technological research such as stellar phenomena, solar activity, the radiation reflected or emitted naturally by the earth's surface or its atmosphere, the influence of micro-gravity and the multiplication and growth of cells in

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(Mr. Van Vell, Federal Republic
of Germany)

a near-weightless environment. Mention should also be made of the successful flight of the Ariane rocket. In the field of satellite communications, his country was collaborating with France on the development of the TV-SAT broadcasting satellite. His Government was also continuing to participate in the preparation of an ESA Remote Sensing Satellite Programme.

43. With regard to the work carried out by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees, mention should be made of the progress achieved particularly in the exchange of information, which formed the basis for co-ordination in the field of space research and space applications. Furthermore, the continuation of the discussion of several complex questions, such as the technical and legal aspects of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, demonstrated the desire of all the members of the Committee to find solutions to those problems. In that regard, he emphasized the value of the principle of consensus applied by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies because it was of primary importance in finding mutually acceptable solutions in matters relating to outer space and to ensure their effective implementation. He expressed the hope that a consensus would eventually be achieved with regard to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee on the elaboration of draft principles governing direct television broadcasting by satellite.

44. Mention should also be made of the progress achieved by the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; his delegation hoped that the work already undertaken would be facilitated by the necessary appointments which had not yet been made.

45. Mr. LICHENSTEIN (United States of America) said that the achievements in outer space of an increasing number of countries constituted a proud chapter in the annals of human creativity. To mention just a few examples he cited the Ariane rocket launched by the European Space Agency, the satellites launched by India, Japan and China and the SALYUT/SOYUZ programme of the Soviet Union. He also mentioned the launching of the Space Shuttle Columbia and expressed the hope that that would be a landmark not only for the United States, but for all of mankind. The United States space applications programme continued to focus on national and global problems on land, in the atmosphere and in the oceans.

46. His Government believed that international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space could produce significant benefits for all countries. For that reason, his delegation trusted that the tradition of co-operation and consensus in the Committee would continue, particularly with regard to two important subjects: direct television broadcasting by satellites and the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

47. In that regard, it was regrettable that the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space failed to reflect the substantial progress made by the Legal Sub-Committee and the Committee itself on principles relating to direct television broadcasting by satellite. The official report notwithstanding, the Committee had achieved genuine progress towards a consensus on a set of non-binding principles to

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(Mr. Lichenstein, United States)

guide States in that area. Only one paragraph, that dealing with the critical issue of prior consent, which, therefore, involved the very foundations of freedom of expression, remained to be resolved. Nevertheless, the United States was optimistic about that obstacle being overcome through a healthy realism about direct television broadcasting by satellite and a healthy scepticism about any attempt to impose restrictions on free expression. Consensus could not and would not be achieved by departing from the principle of the free flow of information and the fundamental freedom of expression. In that regard, he recalled the remarks made by his delegation in the debate on United Nations information activities, since those remarks were also relevant to the subject under consideration.

48. His Government understood the legitimate concern about the impact of television on society and shared that concern. For that reason, his country had been and would continue to be prepared to work towards a set of non-binding principles on that subject.

49. The members of the Committee again seemed to have achieved a consensus on two draft resolutions, one on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/SPC/36/L.4) and the other on the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/SPC/36/L.5), of which his country had become a sponsor. He expressed the hope that both draft resolutions would be adopted by consensus.

50. The Government of the United States wished to place on record its interpretation of operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space" (A/SPC/36/L.4), believing that the appropriate forum in which to establish agreed principles on direct television broadcasting by satellite was the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Once the principles had been formulated, the General Assembly would be the appropriate forum for their adoption. The wording of operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.4 did not prejudice any action to be taken by the General Assembly at its next session, nor did it commit the Assembly itself to undertaking negotiations on the principles under consideration.

51. With regard to the preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the United States had consistently supported the principles of the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of all mankind. However, since the taking of the decision to hold the Conference in Vienna in August 1982, a major problem had arisen over attempts to subvert normal United Nations procedures for conference preparations. Neither the staff of the Conference secretariat nor the Chief or Deputy Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division had yet been appointed. The appointment of the most qualified person for the post of Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division had been blocked, which raised serious doubts as to the integrity of the United Nations personnel system and the right of staff members to equitable treatment. The impasse persisted despite the efforts of the Secretary-General of the Conference, who had attempted in good faith to find a solution to the problem and arrived at a compromise formula for the appointments in question. That compromise proposal, although it had the support of the United States and many other countries, unfortunately did not command the support of all countries, many of which were more interested in promoting narrow political objectives than in ensuring the success of the Conference.

52. The compromise proposal was designed to allow for more intensive planning of the

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(Mr. Lichenstein, United States)

Conference and at the same time to preserve the integrity of the United Nations personnel system. The Government of the United States wished to reiterate its firm view that unless the appointments proposed under the compromise formula were made, the United States would be unable to take part in the Conference. The appointments must also be made by the end of December of the current year at the latest in order to leave enough time for preparing the Conference.

53. Mr. MARTINEZ (Argentina) said that the Argentine Republic had participated in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space since its creation in 1957, at a time when space technology had still been in the realm of science fiction. Given its diversity of climate, its size and its relatively small rural population, Argentina expected to derive considerable benefits from its space research as far as education, communications, meteorology, agriculture, flood control and natural resources were concerned. Argentina had made great strides in the processing of data obtained by remote sensing. With the assistance of the United Nations, it had held seminars open to other Latin American countries on the transfer of technology for agricultural resource applications.

54. The delegation of Argentina welcomed the fact that, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 35/114, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had resumed its consideration of remote sensing by satellite. It also welcomed the adoption of the United Nations programme on space applications and, believing the role of the Expert on Space Applications to be of particular importance for the developing countries, it trusted that the Secretary-General would fill the vacancy without delay and appoint a new expert with the qualifications set forth in resolution 2601 (XXIV).

55. The Legal Sub-Committee had devoted itself with patience and a spirit of co-operation to the task of drafting the principles governing the use of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. However, nearly 10 years had elapsed since the adoption of resolution 2196 (XXVII) and no agreement had yet been reached on those principles owing to lack of political will on the part of a small number of States. The elaboration of such principles was necessary in order to ensure that direct television broadcasting did not jeopardize international co-operation and mutual respect among sovereign States. The delegation of Argentina trusted that the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session would be able to approve a set of principles developed on the basis of a consensus which reflected the willingness of a majority of States to pursue negotiations for one more year. If that consensus could not be reached, it would be for the General Assembly to take appropriate action.

56. As to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, the risks involved were of such magnitude as to warrant specific regulations and a careful analysis of the responsibilities it entailed. With regard to the geostationary orbit, Argentina considered that inasmuch as it was a non-renewable natural resource, which at the same time could not be exhausted but could become saturated, the adoption of some basic criteria to regulate its use was of paramount importance for future generations.

57. The delegation of Argentina placed great hopes in the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which it regarded as a valuable opportunity for all countries. The technologically advanced countries would

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(Mr. Martinez, Argentina)

be able to report on the progress they had made while the developing countries would be able to speed up their own development process by obtaining more information on the transfer of technology.

58. Mr. CALDERON (Bolivia) observed that the peaceful uses of outer space, on account of their very diversity and scope, posed considerable difficulties for States with inadequate economic resources and limited technological know-how and capacity. The concern of the developing countries to achieve better standards of living had led in countless cases to the indiscriminate and haphazard exploitation of their natural resources through lack of adequate planning for harmonious and orderly growth.

59. With a view to evaluating the natural resources available on its territory, Bolivia had instituted the programme ERST/BOLIVIA, for which it had access to the LANDSAT satellites. It had thus developed a geological map of the country and conducted surveys of its natural resources, particularly its mineral resources, with the application of imagery, land-cover and current land-use maps. That important work of research, data gathering and prospecting had been partly based on multilateral and bilateral co-operation.

60. Bolivia believed that alternatives could be formulated in the United Nations that were conducive to greater international participation by the developing countries so as to reduce the tremendous inequalities between the developing countries and the technologically advanced countries. It would also be very useful to provide support for the existing regional remote sensing centres. In addition, account must be taken of the special situation of those States which were not equipped with satellite networks and, in connexion with remote sensing applications, the right of access of the sensed State to the information must be respected.

61. Mr. YASH PAL (Secretary-General of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space) reminded the Committee that the Preparatory Committee had requested that six regional seminars should be held in connexion with preparations for the Conference. Since the budget allocated for that purpose had proved inadequate, he had decided to approach a number of Governments in order to raise more funds. He wished to thank Sweden and the Netherlands formally for their respective contributions of \$25,000.

62. Mr. KOLOSSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the remarks made in the Committee regarding the alleged blocking of staff appointments in the Outer Space Affairs Division, said that such appointments were the prerogative of the Secretary-General. Moreover, the participation or non-participation of a State in the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was for it to decide.

63. Mr. ARNESS (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he was glad to hear that the representative of the Soviet Union considered the pending appointments to be the prerogative of the Secretary-General. He expressed the hope that the USSR would practise what it preached.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.