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New York



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda)

CONTENTS

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
- (b) REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

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
(continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

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
(continued) (A/36/20)

1. Mr. SINGH (India) said that the delay in filling the posts in the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) and in the Outer Space Affairs Division had obviously hampered the work of those bodies. His delegation hoped that the appointments would be made not later than 31 December 1981. It was also extremely important to fill the post of United Nations Expert on Space Applications, keeping in mind the relevant decisions of the General Assembly. His delegation had demonstrated its interest in the success of UNISPACE 82 by sponsoring the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/36/L.5.

2. India attached great importance to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space because international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space was essential both for the orderly development of space activities and for the well-being of the global community. It was trying to develop space technology with a view to improving the quality of life of its people. Its recent space achievements included two successful launches of ROHINI satellites and the launching of the APPLE, its first geosynchronous satellite. Following the success of the BHASKARA-I satellite, a similar satellite would soon be launched from a Soviet cosmodrome, and India was grateful for Soviet assistance on that project. Another major project was INSTANT-I; India appreciated the assistance it was receiving on it from the United States.

3. The question of remote sensing of the earth by satellites should continue to be discussed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and the lack of quick progress or the presence of divergent views should not discourage those discussions. His delegation supported the proposed programme of work for the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the Legal Sub-Committee and the Main Committee. If delegations showed the requisite political will, there was no reason why work on draft principles for direct television broadcasting by satellites could not be completed within the next year.

4. Full precautions must be taken to make the use of nuclear power sources in outer space safe, and the two Sub-Committees should continue to study that subject with a view to drafting safety regulations. The definitions and limits of outer

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(Mr. Singh, India)

space obviously had to be discussed further in the Main Committee in order to achieve a consensus. His delegation was glad that the subject of the geostationary orbit would receive further consideration in the Committee's work in 1982. Appropriate steps should be taken to prevent outer space from being misused for military purposes.

5. He commended the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and agreed that it would be increasingly difficult for it to provide significant service in future with the limited funds available. It should be expanded in order to respond more effectively to the needs of the developing countries.

6. Mr. BOLD (Mongolia) said that in the twenty years since man's first flight in space, outstanding successes had been achieved in the study and conquest of space. The results of space research were already making a great contribution to the social and economic development of peoples and increasingly influencing man's daily life and actions.

7. 1981 was the 60th anniversary of the Mongolian revolution, through which the country had gained its independence and started on the road to socialist development. Also in 1981, a Mongolian had made a space flight and successfully carried out a number of experiments together with Soviet cosmonauts. For the first time, the cosmonauts' rations had included preparations produced by Mongolian scientists from sea buck thorn.

8. The results of space research and the practical application of space science and technology had so far been shown to hold enormous possibilities for the socio-economic and cultural development of all peoples if used with due regard for the interests of all States and in accordance with generally accepted principles of international relations. The relevant United Nations bodies had done much in that field, particularly through the conclusion of important international treaties on the matter.

9. As it was the common heritage of mankind, outer space should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the good of mankind, but the danger of the militarization of space had sharply increased recently. His delegation therefore attached great importance to the discussion, at the Soviet Union's request, of the question of the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space. All peace-loving people would surely support the conclusion of such a treaty.

10. It was encouraging to note that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee had played very useful roles in the elaboration of principles regulating outer space activities and in ending disagreement on various matters. However, the results achieved were far from fully satisfactory, largely owing to the lack of political will on the part of some States, their refusal to consider the interests of others and their pursuit of their own narrowly nationalistic goals. Such an unco-operative position flouted the generally accepted principles of international relations: equity and respect for the sovereign rights of States.

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(Mr. Bold, Mongolia)

11. None of the developing or socialist countries could agree to the use without their knowledge and consent of data received from remote sensing of their natural resources by other States, much less by private companies. No country could agree to broadcasts by satellite from other States of television programmes into its territory without its control and agreement. Such actions would constitute flagrant intervention in the internal affairs of States and an infringement of their sovereignty. Those who persisted in their attempts to institute in outer space a system which favoured only their interests should recognize the unacceptability of such a system for other countries and reconsider their position. His delegation was convinced that only in such circumstances could agreement be reached on the unresolved problems.

12. The time had come to give serious consideration to delimitation of outer space; the proposal to set the limit at 100 to 110 kilometres above sea level seemed to his delegation entirely appropriate as an initial measure.

13. His delegation could not understand the demand of certain countries that the length of time allowed for the work of the Legal Sub-Committee be reduced from four to three weeks. It seemed that those countries were attempting to delay the adoption of decisions on the matters considered by that Committee, and his delegation hoped that the General Assembly would take an objective decision on the matter.

14. The preparations for the second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space were proceeding well, but further deferment of the appointment of its officials would have a highly adverse impact on those preparations and on the results of that important Conference.

15. Ms. FRANK (Netherlands) said that her delegation regretted that because of the complexity of the issue, the discussion of remote sensing of the earth by satellite had yielded no results in either of the Sub-Committees and that no consideration had been given to the Swedish working paper submitted to facilitate further negotiations on direct television broadcasting via satellites (A/36/20, Annex III). In her Government's view, the question of agreement between States concerning the establishment of an international direct television broadcasting satellite service was fully covered by existing technical regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and it saw no need to formulate requirements which went beyond those regulations. Although her delegation had supported the idea that the Legal Sub-Committee should again consider that subject, it would not object to its consideration by the Main Committee.

16. Serious consideration should be given to streamlining the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, including shortening the time allowed for its meetings. Her delegation was pleased that through its Working Group of Experts the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had successfully concluded its work. The Working Group had laid a good technical basis for safety regulations on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. Her delegation was pleased that the Legal Sub-Committee had begun to consider the legal implications of that matter, and believed that the current rules of space law should be supplemented to cover the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The Canadian document (A/AC.105/C.2/L.129) was a good basis for further discussion of that matter.

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(Ms. Frank, Netherlands)

17. With regard to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, her delegation hoped that all the necessary appointments would be made as quickly as possible. The Conference should be primarily directed at increasing scientific and technical exchanges between industrialized and developing countries to lessen the technological dependence of the latter.

18. In conclusion, her delegation wished to reiterate its deep concern over the threat posed by the ongoing arms race in outer space.

19. Mr. HUTCHENS (Australia) said that while his delegation saw some merit in the argument that the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space lagged behind technological developments, and its work was therefore not as relevant as some might hope, Australia recognized, at the same time, that the matters being considered by the Committee were of considerable technical complexity and that its decisions and the standards it set were of long-term significance and that it was therefore appropriate that it should conduct itself in a serious and deliberate manner.

20. His country, while not a major space Power, made extensive use of techniques developed from space exploration, particularly in the fields of remote sensing and communications. Remotely sensed data, obtained for the most part from the LANDSAT series of satellites, was received and processed within Australia and made available for purchase by interested organizations. Such data had proved to be of considerable value, especially in agriculture and the search for minerals. Considerable research had been conducted into the refinement of processing techniques with a view to widening the range of uses to which LANDSAT-supplied data could be put, but the relatively low resolution of such material had imposed a limitation on those uses. Users in his country hoped they would gain access to higher-resolution data in the near future but the costs of making such data available might affect the development and adoption of the necessary technology. A major concern in that respect was that of compatibility between systems. Given the high cost of establishing data-receiving and processing stations and the speed with which developments took place in the field, the failure of satellite launching States to make their systems compatible and complementary would seriously restrict the ability of other countries to benefit from the range of information that could be obtained.

21. His country had much in common with the developing countries and its experience suggested that there were many areas which were of great value to them; other areas showed considerable potential but its realization would require additional research. It had found, however, that such applications supplemented existing technologies rather than replacing them. Many countries had inflated expectations as to the benefits to be gained from outer space and a parallel inclination to disregard the value of more conventional and normally less expensive technologies.

22. The United Nations could play a useful role in helping developing countries make informed decisions on the use of space science and technology in their development and it was hoped that UNISPACE 82 would do much to help in that respect. His country would also like to see regional and specialized organizations, such as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), playing an active part in the development of outer space activities.

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(Mr. Hutchens, Australia)

23. On the question of direct television broadcasting by satellite, his delegation did not share the view that progress had been unacceptably slow. It believed that progress had been made and that it should be possible to complete the elaboration of a set of principles in the near future. His delegation would have preferred that work to have been done in the Legal Sub-Committee but had been prepared to join the consensus on referring the item to the parent committee. It strongly believed that with that item removed from its agenda, the Legal Sub-Committee would not need to meet for more than three weeks in 1982. The matter was now close to a conclusion and his delegation looked forward to a successful outcome in 1982.

24. His Government, having a particular interest in remote sensing, regarded it as appropriate that the matter had been considered again by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on a priority basis in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/14. It particularly welcomed the compilation by the Secretariat of a comprehensive remote sensing catalogue and hoped that the document could be maintained and updated so as to retain its usefulness for Member States, particularly developing countries. It might be advisable to concentrate on those aspects of the question where agreement would appear to be more readily attainable and to avoid dwelling on areas of known and repeated differences.

25. On the question of nuclear power sources, his delegation was gratified that agreement had been reached in a number of important areas and that the manner of handling the item in future had been settled.

26. His delegation, while recognizing the concern of a number of States that the present system of use of the geostationary orbit was inadequate and could result in the saturation and monopolization of the orbit by a small number of States, was hesitant to recognize any claims to sovereignty over the orbit. Such claims had no scientific or legal basis and would be in conflict with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activity of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. His country believed, however, that rational and equitable consideration should be given to ensuring that no country was precluded from utilizing the benefits provided by the orbit.

27. His Government would like to thank the Secretary-General of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the excellent preparatory work he had already undertaken and hoped that he would soon be provided with the personnel required to continue that important work. While not normally wishing to comment on Secretariat staffing questions, his delegation fully supported operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.5, which requested the Secretary-General to make all appropriate appointments as expeditiously as possible. It understood the controversy on that matter but did not understand the delay. The suggestion that "blackmail" was involved was too ludicrous to deserve comment.

28. The spirit of consensus had been thoroughly tested in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, but in the end the political will had prevailed. A consensus such as that contained in document A/SPC/36/L.4 included a whole package of compromises which, when one of them was removed, was in danger of disintegrating. His delegation had been happy to join the sponsors of the two draft resolutions before the Committee.

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29. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that the fact that outer space was serving as a theatre for another arms race was a source of serious concern. That militarization of space must be avoided and the use of anti-satellite systems absolutely prohibited. The stationing of destructive weapons in outer space should be prevented, the use of nuclear energy in outer space facilities regulated and spying in outer space avoided. Only laws could solve those problems and the United Nations, which was responsible for producing, establishing and ensuring respect for such legislation, therefore had an important role to play.

30. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space must propose a system of international regulation of the use of the geostationary orbit which would not be on a first-come, first-served basis. For that purpose, the two Sub-Committees and the Committee itself must have all the time they required, and the United Nations should further pursue its studies of the phenomenon of militarization. The subject of the delimitation and/or definition of outer space should also continue to be studied. His delegation would oppose any attempt to treat those two subjects separately, and considered the idea of an additional protocol to the treaty on outer space dealing with that matter to be of great interest.

31. Ecuador, which staunchly defended freedom of information, favoured consultations on an equitable basis with the captive audience countries below by the countries and powerful companies broadcasting television programmes by satellite. The receiving countries should not have to rely on switching off their television sets as the only means of exercising their freedom of choice. The principle of prior consultation with the receiving country, especially on television programming, should be established and the participation of that country's media should be facilitated.

32. Its right to receive without charge the results of sensing done by others and to be consulted before their transferral or sale to third parties should be spelt out likewise.

33. Only the United Nations should be empowered to compile and disseminate the data received from space, regulate communications, use outer space in the service of development, and expand the training which would narrow the overwhelming technological gap between the space Powers and other countries. Therefore, his delegation supported the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division. The secretariat of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be given all the staff and facilities it needed. Ecuador wished to make a contribution to the preparations for that Conference, and his Government was therefore sparing no effort in its preparations for the Regional Seminar on Space Applications to be held in Quito from 5 to 9 April 1982. Moreover, the Ecuadorian Parliament had taken a keen interest in outer space activities and prospects and had established a special section in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to deal with space policy, the launching of satellites by Ecuador or other countries and the use of outer space for national development goals.

34. Mr. REMEDI (Uruguay) expressed regret at the delay in the elaboration of the draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, particularly in view of the overriding importance of that subject for the international community, especially developing countries.

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(Mr. Remedi, Uruguay)

Uruguay supported the concept of the free flow of information at the international level as well as the right of all individuals to freedom of expression and to obtain, receive and impart information. Nevertheless, that concept should not be used by one group to infringe the rights of others. His delegation was prepared to support any initiative based on the prerequisite of consultation and agreement between the broadcasting State and the receiving State in establishing a direct international television broadcasting service by satellite. That formula would protect the sovereignty of States and promote authentic international co-operation based on mutual respect and would raise the educational level of peoples. If the next session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space did not yield positive results in that regard, the Special Political Committee should take appropriate action in accordance with the views of the majority of States.

35. The legal norms governing remote sensing of the earth by satellites should take into account the sovereignty of all States over their natural resources. Any activity which directly or indirectly infringed such sovereignty was a clear violation of the basic principles of international law. Remote sensing of the earth by satellites should be conducted on the basis of the principles of the prior consent of the sensed State, compatibility between the use of the data obtained by the State conducting the remote sensing and the legitimate rights and interests of other States, prior access of the sensed State to data obtained by remote sensing within its boundaries, and prior consent of the sensed State for the dissemination of data thus obtained to third States.

36. His delegation took note of the Working Group's reiteration of its conclusion that nuclear power sources could be used safely in outer space, provided that all the necessary safety requirements were met. Nevertheless, the Legal Sub-Committee should continue work on the elaboration of new provisions governing that field, taking into account the biological effects which radiation from nuclear power sources could have on human beings. Lastly, he expressed the hope that the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would demonstrate the potential benefits to be obtained in that field and promote the application of space technology for the purpose of development.

37. Mr. BUDAI (Hungary) said that his Government was greatly interested in the various forms of international co-operation on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and was trying, within the modest means available to it, to participate actively in them. Over the past year there had been new and significant developments in numerous scientific programmes at both the national and the international levels. There was ever-increasing and fruitful co-operation between the countries of the socialist community. Joint flights of international crews aboard the orbital research complex Salyut-6-Soyuz had been successfully completed within the framework of the "Intercosmos" programme, and between 1978 and 1981 there had been nine such missions. For the first time his own and other nations besides the Soviet Union and the United States had been able to participate in manned space programmes.

38. Achievements in outer space had focused attention on the need for effective international co-operation. The benefits resulting from the peaceful uses of outer space were most welcome but the danger of its use for military purposes

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(Mr. Budai, Hungary)

could not be overlooked. For that reason, his delegation fully supported the draft treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space submitted by the Soviet Union in document A/36/192. It hoped that the General Assembly would take prompt and effective action to curb inadmissible tendencies towards the militarization of outer space. His country warmly welcomed the convening of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which would provide participants with an opportunity to exchange results and experiences, to establish new fields for co-operation and to extend and strengthen their existing ties. The Preparatory Committee for the Conference had made significant progress and his delegation hoped that it would not encounter contrived obstacles and that the Conference secretariat would be enabled to continue its work.

39. The rigid attitude of certain delegations which seemed to have great difficulty in accepting and adhering to the principle of full respect for the sovereignty of States had prevented agreement on the adoption of the draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. The elaboration of such principles should be completed within the shortest possible period of time and would be a noteworthy step towards the strengthening of the international legal order and the progressive development of space law. Although no agreement had been reached on key issues relating to the remote sensing of the earth by satellite at the 1981 session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, his delegation was still hopeful that they could be resolved within the foreseeable future. It was encouraging that the Legal Sub-Committee would be able to devote more time at its next session to considering, on a priority basis, the legal aspects of the question and would thus be able to complete work on the elaboration of the draft principles governing remote sensing.

40. His delegation continued to support the constructive proposal submitted by the Soviet Union in 1979 on the delimitation of air space and outer space and hoped that the next session of the Committee would achieve concrete results on that important question.

41. Mr. MEIGESH (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that from the very start space exploration had been global in nature, affecting the interests of all mankind. For that reason, the exploration and use of outer space must be based on the broadest possible international co-operation. The countries of the socialist community, particularly within the framework of the "Intercosmos" programme, were making a significant contribution in that field. The joint experimental programme carried out on board the "Salyut-6" space station with the participation of scientists from the socialist countries had recently been completed.

42. Scientists and specialists from the Ukrainian SSR actively participated in that and other national and international programmes for the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. They were currently conducting work in such fields as space physics, astronomy, space material management and space biology. The Ukrainian SSR had conducted a joint research project with The Netherlands on the structure of the solar photosphere and had participated in Soviet space experiments with France, Poland and Viet Nam.

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(Mr. Meigesh, Ukrainian SSR)

43. The Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community unswervingly advocated the peaceful use of outer space. Much had been accomplished in that regard. A number of international agreements which limited the possible use of space for military purposes had been concluded. Nevertheless, the danger of the militarization of outer space was increasing. The conclusion of an international treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space, as had been proposed by the Soviet Union, would do much to prevent the militarization of outer space, which would constitute yet another phase in the arms race.

44. In view of its immense potential for disseminating information at the international level, direct television broadcasting must be used solely to promote the goals of peace and friendship, raise the educational level of peoples and bring the cultural treasures of mankind within the reach of the largest number of people. Space exploration must not be used as a psychological weapon to incite enmity and mistrust among States. That view must guide the work on the principles governing the use by States of direct television broadcasting by satellite. The speedy completion of work on the draft international legal principles governing remote sensing of the earth would do much to promote the use of that type of space research to strengthen international peace and security and enhance the living standards of peoples. Lastly, his delegation hoped that the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would be even more fruitful in the following year.

45. Mr. TAHINDRO (Madagascar) said that although his country, like many other developing countries, had as yet neither the technological capacity nor the financial means to participate fully in the exploration of outer space, it was nevertheless actively interested in practical applications of space technology.

46. His delegation regretted the absense of consensus in the Legal Sub-Committee on the formulation of draft principles governing remote sensing of the earth from space. In the examination of that problem the legitimate concerns of developing countries should be given full consideration, in particular with respect to prior notification of the sensed State, free access to data by the sensed State and prior authorization from the sensed State before data were communicated to a third party. The permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources extended to data and information on those resources.

47. His delegation was convinced that in the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting a balance should be struck between the interests of the receiving State, in particular the necessity to respect its sovereignty, and those of the broadcasting State. It was inadmissible that, in the name of freedom of information, the broadcasting State should endanger the political, social and cultural values of the receiving State. Adequate technical means should be found for dealing with the problem of overspill, so that States could avoid receiving undesirable broadcasts. His delegation welcomed the constructive proposals contained in the draft set of principles on that matter, which had tried to reconcile the principle of the free dissemination of information and that of the sovereignty of States and which could, with some improvements, lead to a compromise solution in the Legal Sub-Committee.

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(Mr. Tahindro, Madagascar)

48. His delegation believed that a "conventional" but empirical delimitation of outer space was more appropriate than a scientific delimitation. The proposal to establish a lower limit of outer space not higher than 100 to 110 kilometres above sea level seemed perfectly reasonable. The geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource and consequently the present practice of "first come, first served" risked, in the long run, to saturate it. An appropriate legal régime inspired by the notion of the common human heritage and respect for the legitimate concerns of the equatorial countries should govern the geostationary orbit. The United Nations should be able to play a role in regulating the use of the geostationary orbit taking account of the interests of all countries, in particular those of the developing countries.

49. His delegation took note of the conclusion of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee that nuclear power sources could be used safely in outer space, provided that all the necessary safety requirements were met. Nevertheless, even the most tried and trustworthy of devices were not entirely free from the possibility of accident, without any fault or negligence on the part of the launching State. His delegation also welcomed the working paper on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space presented to the Legal Sub-Committee by the delegation of Canada (A/AC.105/C.2/L.129). The proposals which it contained should, however, be supplemented by a provision obliging launching States to give immediate assistance to developing countries in case of accident. Satellites equipped with nuclear power sources should use earth orbits which were sufficiently high to allow radio-active materials to decay so that, in case of accident, they would re-enter at a lower level of radiation. The responsibility of the launching State under existing agreements should be fully enforced in the case of damage caused to another State.

50. His delegation was concerned at the growing militarization of outer space and appealed to all parties concerned to suspend military activity there so that space technology could be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. His delegation therefore welcomed the initiative of the Soviet Union in submitting its proposal on the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space contained in document A/36/192.

51. His delegation was pleased at the progress made in the preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and was convinced that it would achieve success with the international community and particularly with the public in the developing countries.

52. Mr. AYEWA (Nigeria) said that his country was particularly interested in the subject of the peaceful uses of outer space because of its potential contribution to the process of development. In that regard, he stressed the urgent need to complete the elaboration of the draft principles governing the conduct of States in the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes. The complexity and multiplicity of the uses of space science and its related technology in individual or co-operative endeavours testified to the significant growth in that field. He noted with satisfaction that the progress achieved in various national and co-operative space programmes, particularly projects of the European Space Agency, China, India, the United States of America and the Soviet Union. While that was an impressive record of achievement, he stressed that outer space should be

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(Mr. Ayewa, Nigeria)

explored and used as the common heritage of mankind. Those countries which were able to sustain viable outer space programmes should make the resulting benefits available to all other countries in the spirit of international co-operation and orderly development. Developing countries must be able to acquire and apply such technology to solve some of their immediate socio-economic problems. It was, therefore, a major responsibility of the United Nations to establish a mechanism to co-ordinate international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

53. His delegation stressed the importance of observing article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. The competitive military capacities of the two space Powers were continually undermining the requirement of the exclusively peaceful uses of outer space. The militarization of outer space violated the spirit of the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963 and the provisions of article IV of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and was inconsistent with international concern for peace and security.

54. Remote sensing of the earth by satellites had enormous potential for achieving development goals, but developing countries were extremely vulnerable to its possible abuse by countries which had that new form of technology. Any guiding principles on remote sensing must therefore take account of the need to safeguard and respect the basic and inalienable rights entailed by national sovereignty. It would be a constructive step if the Outer Space Affairs Division would strengthen the various regional remote sensing centres through increased technical assistance.

55. Although the question of direct television broadcasting by satellites had been discussed for ten years and agreement had almost been reached on a convention on the matter, a few countries continued to oppose the position adopted by the majority. His delegation agreed that one further attempt should be made in 1982, but believed that any draft principles on the matter must take account, inter alia, of the right and duty of States to consult and be consulted as well as the relevant ITU provisions. Sound and vision in broadcasting formed an integral whole.

56. With regard to the use of nuclear power sources in space, he said that although the general principles of the International Commission for Radiation Protection dealt with that subject thoroughly, the following requirements must also be met: information concerning the use of nuclear power sources must be provided, notification must be given prior to re-entry, assistance must be rendered to States affected and the radiation exposure levels must be indicated. The launching State must accept full responsibility for its space objects with nuclear power sources aboard and make good to the State affected any damage resulting from the disintegration of such objects.

57. The geostationary orbit was a natural resource for mankind, and his delegation could not accept the idea that available orbital slots in the sector which spanned the African land mass should be contracted out to satellites to the exclusion of those belonging to African countries. His delegation again proposed

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(Mr. Ayewa, Nigeria)

that the management of the geostationary orbit be assigned to a specialized body within the United Nations system.

58. Adequate preparations must be made for UNISPACE 82, and the Secretary-General must deal expeditiously with the appointment of its officers. He should also fill the outstanding vacancies in the Outer Space Affairs Division in due course, because that Division would make a contribution to the successful holding of the Conference.

59. Mrs. SALAZAR (Peru) said that space law should be oriented towards strengthening the ties of solidarity between the peoples of the world, rather than just solving conflicts of private interests or between States. The United Nations should promote international co-operation in that regard and encourage countries like her own to continue to carry out national projects in such fields as the training of personnel, the evaluation of resources and the environment, and communication by satellite. It was, therefore, necessary to increase both vertical and horizontal co-operation by means of training, advising and the transfer of resources in order to ensure the participation of highly qualified scientists and professionals from the third world in space research and the application of space techniques. Her delegation expressed satisfaction at the efforts of the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to reach agreement on the topics under discussion. It was regrettable that no agreement had been reached with regard to the elaboration of draft principles governing remote sensing of the earth by satellite. In the absence of such norms, remote sensing of the earth and the dissemination of the data thus obtained must be subject to the prior authorization of the sensed State, which must enjoy preferential rights with regard to access to such data. It was also disappointing to note that no progress had been made in the elaboration of the draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. Fresh efforts should be made to reach an agreement favourable to developing countries. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should also establish the scientific basis for an international instrument on the delimitation of outer space. In that regard, a consensus on the altitude level accepted by the majority should be reached. Her country considered the geostationary orbit part of the common heritage of mankind. The equatorial countries should enjoy a preferential right in its use. Furthermore, it was necessary to plan the activities of the technologically advanced countries to prevent the saturation of outer space, enable developing countries to conduct their own satellite communication programmes and provide them with the necessary technical assistance. In that regard, the studies of the physical attributes of the geostationary orbit should be brought up to date.

60. With respect to the risks caused by nuclear proliferation in outer space, her delegation stressed the need to study the possible danger caused by the use of outer space or any celestial body for the transfer or storage of radio-active waste material produced by the use of nuclear energy on the earth's surface. Her country looked forward to the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as a forum which would give further impetus to work in that field and emphasize the importance of international co-operation. Peru, which had submitted a national paper on the work to be undertaken by that Conference, was disseminating information on the Conference in its schools and research centres and was studying the possibility of issuing a stamp commemorating the Conference the following year.

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61. Mr. DAOUD (Iraq) said that it was evident from study of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that no progress had been made in overcoming previous differences on a number of important issues such as the delimitation of outer space and the extension of national sovereignty to the geostationary orbit. Scientific and legal principles must be elaborated to regulate the exploitation of the orbit in a just manner so as to protect the interests of all States equally.

62. The interest of his country in the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting was shown by its co-sponsorship of the draft set of principles on that matter.

63. Remote sensing of the earth by satellite must be based on sound legal principles and must be used to raise economic and social standards, particularly in the developing countries. It must take place with the consent of the sensed State and data must not be provided to a third party without the agreement of that State. All States must have access to that advanced technology in order to enhance the effectiveness of their meteorological services and increase their capacity to deal with natural disasters. His delegation hoped that there would be sincere co-operation on that issue and that those scientific discoveries would be used for educational purposes and to promote peace and national independence for all States.

64. His delegation hoped that the Committee's efforts would lead to results acceptable to all. It also hoped that the forthcoming Conference would succeed in carrying out the tasks entrusted to it and would be of service to mankind as a whole by strengthening co-operation and mutual understanding.

65. Mr. WYSE (Sierra Leone) said that for a small developing country like his own remote sensing of the earth by satellites was of particular importance in determining the extent of natural resources for developmental purposes. His delegation noted with satisfaction the progress made in that field, but regretted that general agreement had not been reached on the formulation of draft principles governing remote sensing of the earth from space. Such principles should guarantee that all data obtained by remote sensing must be submitted for consideration to the sensed State, which had the right to select the data to be released to other States, and that all remote sensing activities should be conducted in a spirit of co-operation with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries.

66. His country was totally opposed to the use of outer space for military purposes and appealed to the countries concerned, especially the super-Powers, to resume negotiations on that important subject in order to reach agreement on ending the arms race both on earth and in outer space. His delegation looked forward with great interest to the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In spite of the progress made in the preparatory work, his delegation appealed to the delegations concerned to reach an agreement on the appointment of the officers of the Conference so that the preparations could proceed with greater speed. Lastly, he expressed the hope that the two draft resolutions under consideration would be adopted unanimously.

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67. Mr. NG'ENY (Kenya) said that his country, while not having the resources or expertise necessary for involvement in space exploration, was nevertheless keen to make use of space technology for development and the exploration of its natural resources. Kenyan experts had been involved with others in applying remote sensing technology to the survey of his country's hydrological, geological and forest resources. The African Remote Sensing Council had selected Nairobi as the site for one of the three regional receiving and data-processing stations and one of the five training and user-assistance centres, and his country had participated in a number of programmes on remote sensing.

68. While recognizing the benefits arising from the application of remote-sensing techniques, his delegation would like to stress that the sovereign rights of the sensed country must be fully recognized and respected. No remote sensing should be carried out without the prior consent of the sensed State, it should have direct access to the primary data collected and should have the right to decide on the dissemination of data on its territory to other countries.

69. His country appreciated the efforts which had gone into the preparation of the negotiating text of the draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for international direct television broadcasting (A/36/20, Annex II), of which his country had been one of the sponsors. It was the view of his delegation that sufficient progress had been made on that question and that the draft principles should be adopted by the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. While believing in the free flow of information, his country also believed that that principle should not be used as a pretext for spreading political propaganda which could lead to misunderstanding and conflict, particularly among neighbouring countries.

70. His country had recently improved its capacities in the field of telecommunications.

71. His delegation viewed with concern the manner in which the geostationary orbit was being used and it considered that there was an urgent need to avoid saturation. It was the view of the equatorial States that they had a legitimate claim to sovereignty over the segment of the orbit located above their territories.

72. His Government was committed to continued support for the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and it appreciated the progress made in the preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

73. The CHAIRMAN announced that Czechoslovakia had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.4 and Bangladesh those of draft resolutions A/SPC/36/L.4 and L.5.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.