UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.105/PV.236
1 April 1982

ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 25 March 1982, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria)

General exchange of views (continued)

82-60348

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS (continued)

Mr. de NAZELLE (France) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, as this is the first time I have spoken in our Committee, I should like at the outset to express the pleasure of the French delegation at seeing you once more guiding our work. We are convinced that your competence, your qualities as a negotiator and your determination will again enable us successfully to complete the tasks before us and to respect our schedule, the importance of which you have quite rightly emphasized.

I should also like to thank the Chairmen of our two Sub-Committees, Professor Carver and Ambassador Wyzner, for the efforts they are making and our Rapporteur, Mr. Bueno, who has the responsible task of serving as Chairman of the Working Group of our Preparatory Committee.

Finally I should like to express our gratitude to Professor Yash Pal and his colleagues for the remarkable work they have done, which has resulted in the version of the draft report to the Conference submitted to us.

In the field of outer space, 1981 certainly marked an important stage in the efforts made by France and in the trust it has placed in international co-operation, which it has been pursuing within the framework of the European Space Agency as well as through agreements with many States. The year 1981 first brought us the certainty that we and our European partners had successfully established an effective international organization. Our launch-vehicle programme, from its very inception, has been in keeping with the European determination to acquire an autonomous outer-space transport capacity; but at the same time we have striven to make it serve all the users of outer space competively: that goal now seems a basic condition for the existence of a viable European space industry.

The development, completed this very year, of the manned Spacelab laboratory also seems a remarkable example of international co-operation whereby Europe has joined with the United States to place at the service of the world scientific community a powerful research facility taking advantage of the unique possibilities of the space shuttle; it is also an original technical venture, the success of which, expected in 1983, should affirm Europe's capacity to attain the quality level required for manned space flights.

(Mr. de Nazelle, France)

Concomitantly with this, the French outer-space industry has achieved or is at present developing a certain number of space application systems. These have the unique property of lending themselves to almost immediate global deployment, and our rule of conduct will be to keep them perfectly accessible to the world community of space users.

I should also like to underline that France is anxious to provide access to outer-space activities particularly for the developing countries, and in this respect it is greatly interested in the seminars held by the United Nations within the framework of its programme on space applications. France also served as host to one of the interregional seminars within the programme, in Toulouse in 1981.

France's scientific and industrial efforts in outer space, as the Committee has no doubt realized, are to be viewed in a twofold context: the implementation of practical projects, and the opening up of international co-operation. This twofold context well illustrates the spirit in which my country approaches UNISPACE-82. This spirit, Mr. Chairman, was yours when you stressed last Monday that our second Conference on outer space signalled for mankind the passing from the purely scientific era to the era of the most varied economic and cultural achievements, for the benefit of all. I think that prospects for the Conference are good. The preparatory work as a whole seems satisfactory. The broad international participation demonstrated by the large number of reports received by the secretariat, the interesting questions on the agenda and the advances made in the preparation of the exhibition seem to us to augur well for the Conference.

My delegation considers that the draft report of the Secretary-General is a valuable preparatory document which is exhaustive and contains a number of interesting and original ideas and points of view.

Of course, we have some comments to make. We consider in particular that the solutions proposed in the draft report are not always sufficiently pragmatic. They are sometimes rather too systematic and do not respond to the complexity and diversity of the problems raised. We shall make our proposals for amendments to the report as and when it is examined, in a constructive spirit and in order to enhance the effectiveness and speed of our work.

(Mr. de Nazelle, France)

I believe that that will be all the easier - and I should like to repeat this in concluding my remarks on this item - as we are aware that in this document we have a working instrument that is a good basis for negotiations.

Now I should like to say a few words about the various items on the agenda of this Committee.

In the elaboration of draft principles governing direct international television broadcasting by satellite, progress was made last year but difficulties remain. We well understand some of the concerns which influence the positions of all parties. We personally hope that an agreement is possible and that it will be forthcoming. I shall confine myself to saying that we attach overriding importance to the principle of the free circulation of ideas, which is part of the political tradition of our country. That is why we could not approve a compromise text which would not guarantee the exercise of that principle.

(Mr. de Nazelle, France)

Regarding remote sensing of the earth, I would remind representatives of the traditional position of my delegation, which is highlighted by two concerns: first, placing this technology at the service of development and international co-operation by very broad and non-discriminatory dissemination of remote sensing data and by provisions ensuring the continuity of the service; secondly, to take the necessary precautions regarding the communication of data which are considered sensitive.

While the discussions held in Geneva last February on remote sensing did not lead to any significant developments, the discussions held there on the possibility of completing the international law governing the use of nuclear-energy sources in space were of great interest. The Legal Sub-Committee will undoubtedly have to do a great deal of work before it reaches a conclusion that would be acceptable to all States, but the work undertaken on the question of assistance to States already allows us to glimpse results. No delegation challenged the fact that the greatest possible degree of assistance should be given to a State affected by accidental re-entry of a satellite bearing a nuclear-energy source. No State opposed recognition of the sovereign right of the victim State to ask the State of its choice for the assistance required by the situation created by such an accident. We are pleased that agreement has already been able to be reached on those principles.

The Legal Sub-Committee can very usefully continue its discussions on determining whether the existing rules are sufficient to guarantee that the victim State will receive just compensation for the damages incurred. Such a step is perfectly consistent with its mandate and has the merit of posing the problem the practical scope of which is undoubtedly the most important. My delegation therefore views our future work in this field with optimism. Moreover, this is a field in which we can do useful work within a reasonable amount of time.

(Mr. de Nazelle, France)

One of the tasks of the Outer Space Committee is to reflect about the law that should regulate the activities of States in space. Now, it cannot fulfil its role satisfactorily if the rules that it adopts follow too far behind the development of space activities. Thus, in so far as it is possible, the international law we are trying to establish should precede the facts.

In order to attain that objective, our Committee must, in our opinion, do away with sterile debates: that is to say, we must seek a new orientation in our study of the delimitation of outer space and of the definition of space activities, taking into account the question of the orbit of geostationary satellites. Fifteen years of discussions have yielded no results and have led to a deadlock. My delegation believes that prolonging such a situation can only adversely affect the work of the Legal Sub-Committee.

Thus, it was in order to lift us out of the rut in which we find ourselves that my delegation proposed at Geneva that the Legal Sub-Committee apply itself to a part of its mandate that has been rather neglected up to now and study the definition of the expression "space activity". The field of application of space law which, let us recall, governs many terrestrial extensions of those activities, may be circumscribed by the definition of this expression as much as by seeking a conventional delimitation of outer space.

Let us thus turn resolutely in that direction and let us temporarily leave the unattractive shores of the geographic approach. Of course, consideration of this question does not mean that we should abandon that approach or other topics traditionally included under that specific agenda item. But the time has come for our Committee to recommend to its Sub-Committee that the latter explore more closely a course that has been somewhat neglected up until now.

(Mr. de Nazelle, France)

In conclusion, let me say that this year our session is of special importance since we are meeting for a double purpose and are preparing for a conference which will in a manner of speaking consecrate the opening up of space activities to all. Our agendas are heavy. We are relying on your effectiveness, Sir, and on that of Mr. Bueno and our Secretariat as well as on the assistance of Professor Yash Pal and his colleagues to adhere to our schedule, and we should like to assure you that the French delegation intends, for its part, to strive to deal with essentials in our examination of the issues and thus to gain time.

Mr. BODDENS HOSANG (Netherlands): Let me first of all, Sir, express the satisfaction of my delegation at seeing you once again presiding over of our Committee. We also wish to extend our appreciation to the other officers of this Committee and of both Sub-Committees, as well as to the members of the Secretariat and in particular the Conference secretariat for UNISPACE-82. We are of the opinion that in redrafting the final report of the Conference, Professor Yash Pal and his staff have performed their task with skill. Although we still need time to study some details more carefully, I can say that the document as its is in general acceptable to our delegation.

Very soon the Netherlands Government will present to Parliament a memorandum on the Netherlands policy concerning the use of space research and technology in the 1980s. According to that memorandum, the main goal of the Netherlands space policy for the 1980s will be the stimulation of the use of space applications for the needs of user groups, both national and international. A complementary goal will be to increase the chances for Dutch space industry in operating on the world market.

With a view, on the one hand, to the potential that has been built up in science and industry and, on the other hand, to financial constraints, my Government wants to spend approximately 90 million guilders a year at the 1980 price level - that means about 36 million US dollars - for the achievement of these policy goals.

(Mr. Boddens Hosang, Netherlands)

The European Space Agency (ESA) offers opportunities for the achievement of the policy goals mentioned earlier within the existing financial constraints. The long-term policy plan of the ESA places emphasis on application-oriented programmes in the fields of telecommunications, remote sensing and space transportation. The Netherlands will participate selectively, placing priority on telecommunications programmes, remote sensing programmes and launcher development.

Furthermore, participation in international consortiums and organizations for the exploitation of space applications, such as the use of METEOSAT, participation in EUTELSAT and INMARSAT or participation in Arianespace and similar consortiums, will be actively stimulated.

Another option for us would be continuation of national satellite programmes. Those programmes offer national industry opportunities to carry system responsibility. However, since a new scientific satellite, a successor to our Infra-Red Astronomy Satellite (IRAS) would not be sufficiently market-oriented to justify the expenditure, a future national project would have to be an application-oriented project, such as telecommunication or remote sensing. Such a project, however, is not included in our present policy. Application projects directed towards marketing turn-key systems require large investments. For the Netherlands, with almost no home market, such investments cannot be justified.

(Mr. Boddens Hosang, Netherlands)

Interest in remote sensing in the Netherlands is also stimulated by the possibilities it may open for developing countries. The Government realizes that for optimal use of the potential of remote sensing techniques a lot of research has to be done. Theory and practice will have to be developed in order that users can receive adequate answers to their specific questions. Problem areas are the relation of object to sensor and the translation of data into operational answers. A lot of know-how has been built up in the Netherlands in the past years. I may just mention the Netherlands International Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences, which has world-wide fame in the field of training. That potential should serve as a basis for a national remote sensing programme for the development towards operationalization of remote sensing techniques, with a view too to the specific needs of the developing countries. The programme is also directed, on the one hand, towards commercialization of remote sensing surveying services and, on the other hand, to be a support of the European Space Agency (ESA) programme. Work will concentrate on the creation of a package of services comprising translation of the practical problem into physical data that can be collected by means of remote sensing, the collection of data, possibly by third parties, and the translation of the data into specific answers adapted to the local situation.

Besides placing emphasis on application programmes, the Netherlands recognizes the important achievements in the scientific field, including those by Dutch astronomers. We support the science programme of ESA at its present level. Furthermore, by participating in the microgravity research programme, researchers in the fields of fluid physics, material sciences and life sciences will be given the chance to explore the new possibilities offered by Spacelab.

A few moments ago I mentioned the Netherlands International Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences. The Institute was founded in 1951 on the recommendation of a United Nations cartographic conference. Its main objective is to provide education and training for participants from developing countries. In the 30 years of the Institute's existence, more than 5,500 people from over 145 countries have participated in its various courses. About 80 per cent of them originated from developing countries. Most of the Institute's courses are at the post-graduate level. Moreover, the education and training programmes are geared towards practical applications and problem-solving. The subject areas covered by the Institute's programmes include various broad fields, such as aerial photography, photogrammetry, natural resource surveys, integrated surveys for development planning and implementation, mineral exploration and cartography.

(Mr. Boddens Hosang, Netherlands)

Remote sensing applications are included as a basic element in many of the courses. In addition, special short courses and seminars are organized at the Institute or in co-operation with others abroad. Several of the courses are co-sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Furthermore, the Institute is linked to the United Nations University.

The main funding for the Institute comes as a subvention from the Netherlands Government as part of the budget for development co-operation. Among the sources for fellowships for participants from developing countries are the United Nations and its related organizations.

The Institute has been executing agent for the Netherlands Government in the establishment of several educational and training centres in the fields of aerial survey and remote sensing applications. I may mention in this connexion the Centro Interamericano de Foto-interpretación in Bogota, Colombia, the Indian Photo-Interpretation Institute in Dehra Dun, India, now under the responsibility of the Indian National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, and the School for Photogrammetric and Cartographic Operators in Bandung, Indonesia. It has also been involved in the establishment of the Regional Centre for Aerial Survey Training in Ile-Ife, Nigeria. The Institute has also played its part in major co-operative programmes with several universities abroad: Gadjah Mada University in Jogyakarta, Indonesia; the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; universities in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, and others, with important remote sensing components.

The Institute has been registered as a consulting organization with the World Bank and affiliates, the Commission of the European Communities, the European Development Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and so forth. The Institute, moreover, has regularly provided experts for various training seminars organized under the aegis of the United Nations, FAO or UNESCO in all parts of the world. The Institute has played an important role in the preparations for the UNISPACE-82 Conference, notably in drafting the major part of the background paper on education and training and in the preparatory seminars held in 1980 to 1982.

I have given this information on the Institute since my delegation believes that it can in many respects play an active role in the follow-up activities of UNISPACE-82, for example in giving support to regional and national institutes

(Mr. Boddens Hosang, Netherlands)

in various regions, together with its already existing sister-institutes in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and in the education and training of fellowship holders under the United Nations space applications programme, the organization of seminars, curriculum development, and so forth.

My delegation will, of course, be very happy to provide more information if so requested.

Mr. DASHTSEREN (Mongolia)(interpretation from Russian): Last year an important part of the joint ventures by the socialist countries in the context of the INTERCOSMOS programme was completed with the successful flights into outer space of international teams, with the participation of Mongolian and Romanian cosmonauts. Data obtained from the many scientific and technical experiments carried out during those flights enriched our knowledge about the properties and phenomena of outer space and the atmosphere, as well as the surface of the earth, knowledge which will be of great importance in the development of the economies of the countries that participated in the programme.

In our country last year we completed the great bulk of the work of drawing up thematic maps of the natural resources of the entire territory of the country on the basis of space photographs.

This year is a special one for all of us: mankind will be marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the launching of the first artificial earth satellite, which ushered in a new age - the space age. In August this year the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will be held. This will doubtless be an important milestone in man's activities in outer space.

News recently travelled round the world about the successful soft landing on the surface of Venus of apparatus from Soviet spacecraft: VENUS-13 and VENUS-14. I should like to take this opportunity heartily to congratulate the delegation of the Soviet Union and the Soviet scientists and designers on this significant new achievement.

(Mr. Dashtseren, Mongolia)

The rapid development of space technology and its growing utilization in many fields relating to the social and economic development of peoples have given rise in our Committee to new scientific, technological and legal questions which require answers and make urgent the solution of questions which have been on our Committee's agenda for many years.

However, notwithstanding the consistent efforts of the overwhelming majority of Committee members, because of the obstinate reluctance of a few to take account of other ways of resolving controversial issues and elaborating appropriate principles to govern the activities of States in respect of the peaceful uses of outer space, the work is much too slow and has often been deadlocked.

The position of the Mongolian People's Republic on the main issues on the Committee's agenda and those of its two Sub-Committees which require legal settlement has been repeatedly stated and it remains unchanged - unchanged because it is based on generally recognized principles of international relations: principles of equality, mutual advantage of States, respect for their legitimate interests and sovereign rights, irrespective of their size and level of development.

Mongolia, like many other countries, cannot agree that data relating to natural resources and economic and military potential obtained by remote sensing be used by other States or private companies as they deem fit and to damage vital interests. We also believe that no State would agree to its people being subjected without its knowledge and agreement, to television broadcasts from another State via satellite.

We feel it necessary to note that the thrust and content of the propaganda now being sent out over the mass media by the very countries which are seeking uncontrolled television-satellite broadcasting point to the probability of negative consequences resulting from this "freedom" of action.

Our delegation sincerely believes that this small group of countries will at the current session of the Committee demonstrate the necessary political will, taking into account the positions of the overwhelming majority of the Committee's members, and that we shall be in a position to adopt the well-known principles that have been drawn up by 16 countries.

(Mr. Dashtseren, Mongolia)

I should like to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that the development of space technology, the creation of essentially new types of space transportation systems and the real prospects for development in this field make the delimination of airspace and outer space a priority item on the Committee's agenda. We believe that any further postponement of a solution to this question would entail the danger of serious incidents of violation of the sovereign rights of States to their own airspace. In this respect, our delegation views the well-known proposal of the Soviet Union regarding the demarcation as soon as possible of the boundary between airspace and outer space at a height of 100 to 110 kilometres from the earth's surface as being a first step towards the definitive solution of this question to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

In this brief statement our delegation would like to touch on another important question relating to outer space.

Serious concern at the growing tendency to extend the arms race to outer space is now being voiced ever more frequently. We fully share that concern, because it is real. In this connexion, we welcome the General Assembly's decision to transmit this important item to the Committee on Disarmament for its consideration, since we feel that discussing it out of the context of other problems relating to the curbing of the arms race and disarmament can hardly yield any concrete results. We are convinced of this by the way negotiations have gone in the past on disarmament issues; it became quite clear that all questions connected with the arms race and disarmament would better be considered as a whole, because they are closely interrelated. Hence, our delegation considers inappropriate - or at least premature - the proposal by certain delegations that our Committee should consider the problem of the militarization of outer space. I think that this Committee and its Scientific and Technical and Legal Sub-Committees will not be suffering from a lack of items to discuss.

Those, in brief, were our comments relating to our Committee's work.

(Mr. Dashtseren, Mongolia)

Very little time is left to us before the start of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space -- the most representative international forum in this field. One of the main tasks of this session - the last one before the Conference - is the adoption of the draft report of the Conference. As a result of the active participation of many delegations during the session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee held in January this year and thanks to the great amount of work done by the Secretary-General of the Conference, Professor Yash Pal, and his staff, today we have in our hands a much-improved version of the draft report of the Conference. We express our gratitude to Professor Yash Pal and his staff for the great efforts they have expended in reworking this highly important document. Nevertheless, our delegation is compelled to express regret at the fact that our amendments were not fully taken into account. They are of principal importance for us and we shall doubtless be speaking about them during the discussion of the draft report in the Working Group.

Mr. KRYSTOSIK (Poland): Mr. Chairman, the Polish delegation is gratified to see you again presiding over the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its twenty-fifth session, and over the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Knowing your diplomatic skills, experience and dedication, we are fully convinced that in the course of our meetings we shall be able to move forward again in further implementation of the Committee's mandate. Our tasks are ambitious and difficult. Yet if we succeed in fulfilling them - and I hope we finally shall - our satisfaction will be most profound.

The peaceful conquest of outer space has seen a series of admirable achievements, like the epoch-marking feat of the first cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin; Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon; the Soviet space stations; the United States space shuttle, and many others. They started with the launching of the first Soviet SPUTNIK, 25 years ago. One can recall the historic character of that event, and to realize its importance one need only look back on the road travelled on the way to the peaceful uses of outer space.

Since the twenty-fourth session of our Committee, we have witnessed further significant achievements in the process of implementation of national programmes, as well as those resulting from programmes of international co-operation like the INTERCOSMOS programme.

We have particularly in mind the recent soft landings of the Soviet space probes VENUS-13 and VENUS-14. The colour photographs, taken for the first time, of the neighbouring planet's surface and on-the-spot analysis of extracted soil aboard those space vehicles once again confirmed the great achievements of Soviet space science and technology and the contribution of the Soviet Union to the treasury of accomplishments of mankind.

My delegation wishes also to extend its congratulations to the delegations of those countries whose achievements have contributed to the development of space science and knowledge of outer space. We laud the further success achieved in the programme of Columbia space missions.

Speaking at the previous session, I stressed that these astounding developments open up new horizons to humanity and new possibilities to improve the quality of life for all nations. At the same time, they constitute a historic challenge for the peoples of the world at large and for the work of this Committee. Today this challenge is greater than ever.

(Mr. Krystosik, Poland)

Today one cannot but point to the dangers stemming from the visible trend in certain quarters to move the heightened arms race into outer space also.

Poland considers that the international community should take appropriate measures to prevent such a development. In our opinion the proposal put forth by the Soviet Union for the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space was a timely and much-needed initiative and another example of a consistent policy to curb the arms race, to strengthen peace and international security and to develop friendly and mutually beneficial relations. The broad support with which that proposal met was reflected in the revelant resolution adopted by the General Assembly. Now it is necessary to begin practical steps and to start negotiations that would lead towards drawing up the text of the treaty. We consider that its successful conclusion in future would have a beneficial impact on the international atmosphere.

This challenge should be successfully met both in the field of space technology, for which the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee bears responsibility, and in the field of space law, whose formulation and development is the task of the Legal Sub-Committee. We take note of the reports of and work accomplished in the Sub-Committees and in their respective Working Groups.

Among the pressing problems still remaining on the agenda of the Committee are the principles governing direct television broadcasting by satellites; the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space; and the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit. My delegation has on numerous occasions made known its views in that respect. There are, however, certain things that we consider worth stressing again, particularly since in the light of the rapid pace of the development of space technology their importance is growing constantly.

We view with great concern the fact that some States continue to maintain a policy of taking advantage of outer space for activities that adversely affect the sovereignty of other States and, indeed, constitute interference in their domestic affairs. The position of those States is an obstacle on the road towards the working out of principles governing direct television broadcasting by satellites - principles that could be adopted and accepted by all States.

(Mr. Krystosik, Poland)

That position cannot but testify to the unwillingness of those States to reach an agreement in this respect and their orientation towards the possible unrestricted exploitation of outer space, with ill intentions.

My delegation wishes once again to reaffirm its strong support for the Soviet delegation's proposal envisaging recognition of space over 100 to 110 kilometres above sea level as outer space in the legal meaning.

In our opinion, the question of the geostationary orbit is a separate, complex issue. We share and reiterate the views of those delegations which consider that the geostationary orbit constitutes an integral part of outer space. The question of defining and/or delimiting outer space is of both theoretical and practical importance and should be dealt with on a priority basis.

My country has always taken a keen interest in a mutual international exchange of experience and achievements in the peaceful exploration of outer space. Last year we emphasized that a number of research institutes and laboratories associated with the Space Research Centre participate in the Polish space programme, which, in the main, is based on the INTERCOSMOS international co-operation programme. We described the scope of Poland's national scientific space programme. It covers such important fields as space physics, satellite geodesy, space biology and medicine. In permanent routine operation are such space-related facilities as the gound-based satellite station for geodetic and geodynamic purposes at Borowiec and the space communications station at Psary - both included in the INTERCOSMOS system.

(Mr. Krystosik, Poland)

These activities are being continuously developed. Both are seen as the contribution of Polish science to, and its participation in, world-wide efforts directed at peaceful uses of outer space in the interest of mankind and its peaceful development. Hence, we maintain active membership in many international organizations related to activities in outer space and Poland participates in a wide international exchange of scientific information.

My delegation is convinced that international co-operation is an essential prerequisite for achieving our common goal and ensuring optimum benefits from the exploration and peaceful use of outer space. It was precisely for those reasons that Poland came out strongly in support of the convening of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

We are prepared to make a constructive contribution to the ultimate success of this Conference. We shall spare no effort to ensure that the Conference works in the direction of mapping out a programme for the future development of the peaceful exploration of outer space. Our scientists, the Polish Academy of Sciences and all of us see this great event as an international forum to share experience and exchange opinions and to deepen contacts and co-operation - a valuable contribution to all efforts directed at the betterment of the international atmosphere.

In conclusion, I should like, on behalf of my delegation, to commend the Secretary-General of the Conference, Professor Yash Pal, and his colleagues from the secretariat of the Conference. Their work for the success of all of us is highly appreciated.

At this final stage of the work of the Preparatory Committee, my delegation is ready to make its contribution to ensure the achievement of the noble goals and objectives and the discharge of the mandate trustfully vested in the Committee.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ MEDINA (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish) Mr. Chairman my delegation would like to congratulate you, Professor Yash Pal and Minister Carlos Bueno on the dynamic and successful leadership of the work of the Outer Space Committee and the fruitful outcome of preparations for UNISPACE 82.

For the past 25 years, we have been meeting here year after year in the United Nations to record the progress and ponder the goals of the scientific and technological development of the conquest of space. And year after year we have seen how the boldest concepts born on the drawing board, the most intricate technical calculations and the most sophisticated ideals of scientists have so quickly been translated into splendid reality.

Merely a few hours ago we witnessed with amazement the launching of the Colombia shuttle, the programme of widest scientific scope so far. We were impressed by the unique tasks accomplished a few days ago in space by SALYUT 6 and VENUS 14 and only a few weeks ago by the brilliant achievements of European scientists and Asian experts, who, in an impressive demonstration of technological self-sufficiency, have taken a very active and lofty part in the space race. These extraordinary events show that there seem to be no limits to the creative imagination of scientists and no barrier to the boldness of astronauts.

However this spectacular technological development sometimes seems to go beyond the confines of law and threaten the equality of peoples and bring into question the traditional values of international solidarity and co operation. We cannot view in any other manner what is happening with many tasks on our agenda and with the work done within the subsidiary bodies of this Committee.

We have returned from Geneva with the rather sad feeling of having seen failure. There has been no significant progress on items vital to the developing countries, dealing with the safeguarding of their sovereign rights their natural resources and their future role as full-fledged participating members of the international community.

For example, the question of the prior consent of the countries affected by remote sensing does not seem to have taken the path towards consensus.

(Mr. Rodriguez Medina, Colombia)

At a time when national legislations are seeking to protect the individuality and privacy of the person, why should it not be possible to protect the resources and dignity of States?

Direct television broadcasting - a subject to which we have returned at this session - is deadlocked at a time when actions being taken in this field are creating situations which may become irreversible in the near future. Thousands of antennae are already on the market. Other thousands are beginning surreptitiously to receive indiscriminate satellite signals. Meanwhile, the international community has not reached agreement on respecting the sacred right of the receiving countries to choose the message being televised.

The principle of responsibility, one of the most sacred of positive law, does not find any echo among the legal communities of the great Powers, and the developing countries are trying - in vain - to define and delimit responsibility in these controversial areas.

Thus, we are faced with the dangerous concept which served as justification for more than one medieval conquest: namely, what is not forbidden is permitted.

And all that is in addition to the monopolistic use of the geostationary synchronous orbit, where economic interests are pitted against technology saturating wide and valuable segments of a limited natural resource that ought to be regulated by law, taking into account the interests of all countries, but primarily the developing nations, and the legitimate rights of the equatorial States.

Hence we are in a very difficult, controversial climate. We seem to be taking part in a bidding game in a forum of countries which need one another in the search - together, if not united - for a brighter future for the present generation and, unquestionably, for succeeding generations. This will not do; we cannot have an international climate fraught with misgivings and suspicions born of accommodation and secrecy. In this forum, where diplomats, jurists, technicians scientists and idealists meet periodically, there is no room for meanness and selfishness.

Hence we are hopeful about Vienna. We fervently pray that this opportunity will not be lost to recover this solidarity that has been set aside and also this co-operation that is in crisis. We hope, further, that it will be a propitious time to renew our faith in juridical harmony, equity and justice.

(Mr. Rodriguez Medina, Colombia)

Mankind as a whole, with its various races, cultures and resources, has produced a wealth of knowledge and the potential for development which can be seen in the advanced nations. Civilization is the product of everyone. Man, who discovered and made use of the wheel, has also successfully launched the first rocket. The extensive migratory flow of talent, labour capital and trade has forged these great Powers.

Given this record, civilization is not and cannot be the exlusive heritage of one nation or a few nations. It is mere elementary justice that those who have thus contributed to these achievements should aspire to -- appropriate and effective international co-operation. Furthermore to the poverty gap of tragic proportions today must soon be added the technological gap, which will have dramatic impact.

(Mr. Rodriguez Medina, Colombia)

International co-operation cannot be a pretext in this respect. It must effectively be seen as a sincere demonstration of the greatly needed solidarity among our peoples. This is true of all the programmes in which the international community and the United Nations are engaged, especially in the field of the exploration and exploitation of outer space, where the inequalities are quite clear. We are convinced that all the members of our space family view the situation in the same way and that the Committee will act accordingly.

The major Powers, which have splendidly demonstrated their capabilities by meeting the challenge of the infinite frontier, will undoubtedly be able to meet the challenge of true solidarity in co-operation. Then, and only then, will that co-operation become the passport that will truly accredit their astronauts as the envoys of humanity on an immortal mission.

Mr. MULLER (Hungary) (interpretation from Russian): Mr. Chairman, allow me to express my sincere joy at seeing you presiding over the work of this session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I am sure that the work done by you thus far and your great experience will do much to promote the success of this session.

My delegation is profoundly aware of the importance of the tasks facing this session. We shall not be merely evaluating last year's activities in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space, activities that have been extended to the whole world, we must also bend every effort to ensuring that the Conference to be held in Vienna in August of this year is prepared as well as possible and that it is successful.

Allow me briefly to sum up the activities of my country in 1981 in the field of outer-space research. In 1981, as indeed before then, those activities were on the whole carried out within the INTERCOSMOS programme for co-operation in outer-space research. Last year it was focused mainly on an evaluation of the scientific programme of the first Hungarian space flight. I think members know about it and therefore I want only to say that the co-ordination of activities in space research and the use of the results of such research was based on close co-operation among a number of

(Mr. Muller, Hungary)

Hungarian State bodies. In our country outer-space research activities are administered by the National INTERCOSMOS Council to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Competent ministries and national organs are responsible for harnessing the results of this research to the economy.

Allow me briefly to summarize our activities last year. Within the limits of our possibilities, we participated in all the special programmes falling within the purview of the Scientific and Technological Sub-Committee. We should like to name some of them.

I have already said that in 1981 we continued our evaluation of the scientific programme of the first Hungarian space flight. I should like to revert to the results obtained during the COSPAR Conference. Our research into medical biology also extended to outer-space-radiation biology, protection against radiation, and space physiology. The thermoluminiscent dosimeter of the Pille type developed for the first Soviet-Hungarian joint space flight which Bertalan Farkas took on board SALYUT-6 and with which he took successful measurements was left on board the station to carry out further research. Hungarian researchers, together with their Soviet and Bulgarian colleagues, examined response reactions of man's balance mechanism to unusual stress. On the basis of the research done we reached the practical conclusion that in determining the human organism's aptitude for space flights it is essential to take into consideration sensitivity to optical vegetative stress.

In the field of research into natural resources and environmental protection, an important event in our activities was the launching of the satellite with a data collection system on board. The complex control nodules and the special computers that carried out and prepared the launch functioned without a hitch, as did the receiving station.

In the field of meteorology, in 1981 we systematically received cloud pictures from NOAA-6 and NOAA-7, and we sometimes received pictures from METEOR satellites. Since September we have been systematically receiving pictures from METEOSTAT also. We are using these data for the forecasting of daily weather and for meteorological reports for airlines. Many of the photographs taken are being kept in archives for research purposes.

(Mr. Muller, Hungary)

In reviewing the activities engaged in last year, more detailed information on which is contained in the report Hungary has submitted to the Secretariat, we should like to emphasize that all our work proceeds from broad-based international co operation in which a decisive role is played by the INTERCOSMOS programme. We also think that the work being done within the international organization INTERSPUTNIK is extremely important, and we feel that the service being provided by that organization is very important. In addition our researchers have been sent to work in the Soviet Union on training programmes, and they have visited member countries of the INTERCOSMOS programme. They have also spent time in the United States of America and in a number of Western European countries, including France and the Federal Republic of Germany.

We held an international conference in Budapest on "Workshopping dynamical astronomy" and the second International Seminar on Investigating the Upper Atmosphere was held in the town of Baja. I should like briefly to inform members about activities under way in Hungary to prepare for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

In September last year we submitted a Hungarian national report, and I believe that countries have that report available to them. It contains an overview of the work we have done. It speaks of our goals and opportunities in the field of space research. We think that at the plenary meetings of the Conference we can provide information on the latest results of our work since the preparation of our report.

(Mr. Muller, Hungary)

We have begun studying material and reports drafted by other countries and by the United Nations Secretariat. We think that a study of these documents could enable us better to familiarize ourselves with the goals and positions of the countries that will be participating in the second world Conference and thus we would be in a better position to make our contribution to producing the final document, in accordance with the interests of peoples and so that the best possible use can be made of outer space for peaceful purposes.

We should like to inform the Committee that our postal service will this year issue a special series of stamps honouring the twenty-fifth anniversary of space research. We have also organized competitions in Hungarian high schools, on the initiative of the Secretary-General of the Conference. At the present time the work submitted in the competition is being examined and we hope that the most successful Hungarian entries will be sent to the United Nations Secretariat before 1 April.

I should like to inform the Committee that we intend to participate in the exhibition organized in the Messepalast, in Vienna, during the Conference. We feel that the exhibition will provide a good opportunity for telling the whole world about instruments and equipment developed in our country under the INTERCOSMOS programme and successfully used in recent years on board spaceships and in the training of cosmonauts.

In conclusion, I should like to make some comments on the nature of the Conference.

We feel that at this Conference attention should be primarily focused on discussing scientific and technical questions, so that in subsequent years international co-operation in the field of space exploration and peaceful research may be given a new impetus. On the basis of those considerations, our delegation will mainly consist of scientists and we intend to focus attention on questions relating to science and technology. We feel that the Conference should not take decisions on political, legal and other matters relating to the structure of the United Nations bodies which deal with international co-operation in the field of the conquest of space· we need to expand co-operation by way of a new programme. This position of ours will also define our approach to the draft of the final document of the Conference. We are convinced that a final document of this nature will have a positive impact on co-operation between countries in the field of outer-space research.

Mr. ODA (Japan): Mr. Chairman, first of all, on behalf of my delegation, I should like to express our delight at seeing you guiding the work of this Committee. I am confident that under your able leadership the Committee will be successful in fulfilling its important responsibilities. I should also like to express my deep gratitude to Professor Yash Pal and his staff for their tireless efforts in revising the draft report of UNISPACE-82.

Further, I am pleased to have this opportunity heartily to congratulate the United States on its third successful launching of the space shuttle Columbia, which at this very moment is accomplishing its numerous tasks.

As this will be the final session of the Preparatory Committee before UNISPACE-82 is convened, I should like to limit my remarks today to some general comments on the revised draft report of the Conference.

My delegation is of the view that at UNISPACE-82 the current state of space science and technology should be reviewed and, after various choices and difficulties in the use of space technology have been identified, a framework of possible international co-operation and the future role of the United Nations should be thoroughly discussed in order to ensure that the fruit of space application will benefit mankind.

However, with regard to the specific problems taken up in the revised draft report, we believe that at UNISPACE-82 efforts should be made not to devise suggestions or recommendations hastily; rather, the background that produced those problems should be carefully studied, as well as the details and course of deliberations which have been undertaken in a number of forums, such as this Committee and various specialized agencies.

At this time I should just like to mention that we have some difficulty regarding the descriptions and recommendations, in the revised draft report, on such matters as the use of the geostationary orbit, remote sensing, satellite communications and direct broadcast satellites, which are being studied by various organizations, including the two Sub-Committees of this body and the International Telecommunication Union. We also have some difficulty with the new organizations that it is proposed to set up, such as the centre for outer space, the task forces of experts, and the space information services.

(Mr. Oda, Japan)

As for these proposed new organizations, we believe that in view of the prevailing world financial situation it is extremely difficult to seek additional financial resources and we are inclined to regard a modest strengthening of the present Outer Space Affairs Division as sufficient for the time being.

Furthermore, we are of the view that UNISPACE-82 should not in any way prejudice or pre-empt deliberations being undertaken in other forums on such questions as the use of the geostationary orbit, remote sensing, satellite communications and direct broadcast satellites. We also believe that if any recommendation or conclusion on these questions were to accord any privileges to certain States only, that might hinder the smooth promotion of the outer-space activities of other States.

Before concluding I should like to state that we intend to make detailed comments on the above-mentioned matters in the Preparatory Committee and its informal working group.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Mr. TAKEI (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)): Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for allowing me to address this Committee on behalf of UNESCO.

UNESCO's involvement in space application programmes is based upon its profound awareness of the fact that space technology has spectacular potential and offers innumerable possibilities for bringing benefits in the social, scientific, education and cultural contexts to human society. UNESCO has been making considerable efforts to apply up-to-date space technology to further its aims of contributing to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations in the fields of science, education and culture.

Since as long ago as 1960, the promise of space communication for the benefit and in the interest of all mankind has been a strong concern of the General Conference of UNESCO. UNESCO convened a meeting of governmental experts in 1969 to examine various international arrangements with a view to promoting the fullest possible use of satellites for the free flow of communication, the rapid spread of education and greater cultural exchanges.

The declaration of guiding principles on the use of satellite broadcasting proclaimed by the UNESCO General Conference in 1972, as well as the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) of UNESCO, established in 1980, has stimulated the acceleration and expansion of its space communication programmes.

UNESCO has been an international forum for discussions concerning undertakings relating to satellite broadcasting and has acted as executing agency for a project funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) aimed at strengthening programme production capacity for satellite broadcasting. It has sent a number of expert missions to various developing countries to assist them in examining the feasibility of satellite communications.

(Mr. Takei, UNESCO)

A symposium on regional and international mechanisms for the dissemination and exchange of information took place in Paris in the autumn of 1981. As a result of that meeting, a mission was sent to INTELSAT in Washington to discuss the use of satellite facilities by developing nations. A tentative agreement was reached on an experimental project for use of those satellite capabilities by third-world broadcasters and press. That project was among those receiving some funding from the IPDC meeting that took place in Acapulco in January 1982.

The interest of UNESCO in remote sensing of the earth is mainly connected with its programmes concerning the natural environment and its resources. The applications of space remote sensing and conventional (airborne) remote sensing techniques are being promoted and conducted in operational projects within the framework of UNESCO-sponsored international programmes such as the Man and the Biosphere Programmes (MAB), the International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Interregional Project on Research and Training leading to the Integrated Management of Coastal Systems and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). In addition, UNESCO has been sponsoring a number of regular post-graduate training courses in the corresponding fields and has promoted a series of activities on remote sensing applications in the form of symposiums, seminars, workshops and ad hoc training courses, in collaboration with national and international institutions.

With a view to alleviating some of the problems in education which the African Member States are facing, UNESCO has tackled programmes related to a satellite-based delivery system for educational messages.

The First African Regional Seminar on Satellite Broadcasting Systems for Education and Development was held in Addis Ababa in 1973. To follow up its recommendations, UNESCO organized another seminar on regional co-operation for education and development in Africa using space communication, in

(Mr. Takei, UNESCO)

co-operation with ECA and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The seminar successfully provided an opportunity for sharing knowledge and experiences relating to satellite broadcasting and encouraged co-operative regional action to evaluate, experiment with or plan satellite uses for education and development.

Finally, I should like to draw the attention of the Committee to the efforts made in this area by UNESCO, which has published a number of technical papers on satellite applications in the field of communications and education.

The CHAIRMAN: We have now concluded our consideration of agenda item 3.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.