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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. EL-CHOUFI (Syrian Arab Republic)

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

AGENDA ITEM 48: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 49: PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING (continued) (A/34/20; A/SPC/34/L.10 to 12)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the three draft resolutions, tabled as documents A/SPC/34/L.10, L.11 and L.12 respectively.

2. Mr. BARTON (Canada) welcomed the central role played by the United Nations, through the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in the formulation of policies in an area where, in order to keep pace with developments, the technological impact of new discoveries had to be anticipated, that is, the future had to be dealt with. It was only through co-operation among nations that it would be possible to succeed in doing so, in the spirit of the 1967 Treaty on the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, which proclaimed outer space as the province of all mankind.

3. He briefly reviewed some Canadian space activities during the year: a pilot project for direct-to-home television broadcasting, the first anywhere, using a communications satellite developed in Canada, ANIK-B, pilot projects in telemedicine and tele-education, demonstrations of low-power direct broadcasting and telephony trials in Australia using the joint Canadian-American communications Hermes satellite, utilization of the LANDSAT programme, signing of a memorandum of understanding with France and the United States for the establishment of an experimental satellite-aided search and rescue project (SARSAT), in which the USSR would also be participating, and conclusion of a co-operative agreement with the European Space Agency.

4. Turning to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/34/20), he said that the past year had been a relatively productive one and that progress had been made in several important areas, although in other areas there had been no movement.

5. In remote sensing, no progress had been achieved in discussions on the classification and dissemination of data, although the developing countries had accepted a Canadian proposal for the preparation of a catalogue on the applications of remote sensing technology. Elsewhere, Canada, which had prepared a new draft set of principles in collaboration with Sweden to regulate direct broadcasting by satellite, regretted that the draft had not achieved a consensus and that progress in the area remained blocked. Canada was certain soon to have an operational direct-to-home satellite television broadcasting service and it was essential for the body of principles governing that field to be completed without delay.

(Mr. Barton, Canada)

6. On a number of issues, however, the Committee had made considerable progress, particularly in the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The experts of the Working Group approved by the Committee the previous year had exchanged useful technical information and reached preliminary conclusions on the conditions for safe use of such power sources. Since much work remained to be done, the Group had recommended studies in selected aspects of the subject be undertaken and that a second session be held. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had endorsed the recommendation and Canada too strongly supported it. The Committee had demonstrated its usefulness as machinery for the preparation of policies responsive to technological innovation, and should be congratulated on having taken a decision to begin discussion of the various legal aspects of the issue.

7. He noted with satisfaction that the Committee had finally completed the drafting of a Moon Treaty, which reiterated the principle laid down in the 1967 Treaty on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the moon and other celestial bodies would be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. The draft Treaty would explicitly prohibit any threat or use of force, and would mean that the benefits derived from the exploitation of the resources of celestial bodies would be equitably shared by all parties. An international régime reflecting the principle of the common heritage of mankind would be established when exploitation of those resources became possible. His country would support the draft resolution on the Moon Treaty and hoped it would be supported by a large number of countries. Given the heavy workload awaiting it in the next few years, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was recommending that the second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space be held late in 1982. Its purpose would be to provide all Member States of the United Nations, in particular the developing countries, with the opportunity to become familiar with space technology. The preparatory process, especially the regional seminars which would focus on the needs of the developing countries, would be of great importance. His delegation hoped that all Member States would actively support the recommendations contained in the draft resolution on the Conference.

8. On the need to re-examine the Committee's structure and operations, he considered it a useful exercise for the latter to reappraise its activities and he hoped that the discussion on that matter would be continued in the months to come.

9. He congratulated the expert on space applications and the officers of the United Nations programme on the very useful work they had done despite the programme's very limited budget.

10. In conclusion, he indicated that his delegation would co-sponsor the omnibus resolution on the peaceful uses of outer space, the resolution on the Outer Space Conference, and the draft Agreement governing the Activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, which would be submitted to the Special Political Committee by the representative of Austria.

11. Mr. FUJITA (Japan) said that the year 1979 had been a very successful year for space exploration and for the peaceful uses of outer space. The United States had achieved remarkable results with the mission of Pioneer II to Saturn, as had the Soviet Union, whose cosmonauts had spent a record time in space. Other countries, too, had registered significant successes. In the new era that was dawning, international co-operation would be more essential than ever.

12. For its part, Japan had launched an experimental communications satellite and a scientific satellite and was working towards the launching of other vehicles, including a marine observation satellite (MOS-1), two communications satellites (CS-2a and CS-2b), a geostationary geological satellite (GMS-2) and an experimental communications satellite (ECS-b). A ground station built by the National Space Development Agency of Japan was in full operation and was receiving from LANDSAT telemetered data which it was providing to numerous users.

13. Turning to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/34/20), he expressed his satisfaction with the results achieved. He shared the satisfaction expressed by other delegations about the draft Agreement governing the Activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, the text of which was to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and final adoption during its current session. In the opinion of his delegation, it was one of the most significant achievements of the Committee since 1974, when it had completed the draft Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, one of the four international instruments on outer space already in force. It was a source of satisfaction to his delegation that the Committee had, with commendable assistance from the Legal Sub-Committee, once again shown proof of its active contribution by completing the draft Agreement in such a brief space of time. It contained a number of important principles, which would be legally binding and would be effective in promoting greater co-operation among States for further progress in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. It was his delegation's earnest hope, therefore, that it would be unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

14. Another area in which the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had made considerable progress was in preparation for the second United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. Both by fostering space science and technology and by promoting international co-operation, the conference would bring great benefit to all participating countries, and particularly to developing countries. The Committee, in its capacity as the preparatory committee for the conference, had held numerous discussions which had resulted in detailed proposals and recommendations for the title, agenda, time and venue of the conference, as well as its preparation and organization (A/34/20, paras. 84-115). His delegation endorsed the Committee's recommendations, and hoped that the General Assembly would approve them unanimously.

15. Turning to remote sensing of the earth by satellite, his delegation noted that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had been unable to resolve certain key issues, such as the classification and dissemination of primary data and the establishment of a panel of experts on remote sensing. His delegation had some difficulty in agreeing to a classification of primary data, as it was

(Mr. Fujita, Japan)

not fully convinced of the need for such a classification, nor of the technical basis on which it would be carried out. Furthermore, it was convinced that the unrestricted use of the information obtained was the best way to ensure maximum benefit from such activities, and therefore found it difficult to accept the idea that the dissemination of such data required the consent of the sensed State. The purpose of developing remote sensing technology was to use it more widely for the benefit of all mankind. The legal implications of the problem had been actively discussed at the previous session of the Sub-Committee, but a number of crucial issues remained unresolved. On those issues too, Japan maintained the view that remote sensing activities should not require consent, as they did not involve the acquisition by the sensing State of natural resources belonging to the sensed State, and therefore could not be construed as a violation of the latter's sovereignty. Needless to say, any State party to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty which was conducting activities in outer space was bound to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the international scientific community and the public at large, of the results of its activities.

16. With regard to direct television broadcasting by satellite, detailed discussions had taken place at the previous session of the Legal Sub-Committee on the text of the draft principles elaborated so far, as well as on the version jointly proposed by Canada and Sweden. The differences of views among delegations had blocked a consensus on the key draft principle, entitled "Consultations and agreement". That was perhaps unfortunate, but it was common knowledge that the problem faced by the Legal Sub-Committee lay at the very heart of the contentious issues involved in international direct television broadcasting services. Indeed, his delegation had been encouraged by the constructive and intensive nature of the Sub-Committee's discussions. For its own part, his delegation had repeatedly expressed its view that the problem at issue, one of the most difficult outstanding problems connected with direct television broadcasting services by artificial satellite specifically directed at a foreign State, could only be resolved on the basis of the so-called "consultation formula", and not on the basis of the "prior consent formula". Taking into account the provisions of the relevant instruments of the International Telecommunication Union and other pertinent factors, his delegation still believed that the best way to solve that highly delicate problem was through full consultations between the parties directly concerned, with due regard to the draft principles agreed upon. It fully supported the Committee's recommendation that at its next session, the Legal Sub-Committee should continue to deal as a matter of priority with the elaboration of the draft principles. His delegation hoped that the Sub-Committee would make real progress in that direction, taking full account of the discussions which had taken place on the subject of the Canadian-Swedish proposal and other proposals submitted at the previous session.

17. With regard to the section of the report entitled "Programme and activities of the United Nations relating to outer space", his delegation appreciated the important role of the United Nations programme on space applications, particularly in the field of remote sensing for the benefit of developing countries. He therefore hoped that the programme for 1980, as proposed by the United Nations expert to the previous session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee,

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would be endorsed. In that respect, he wished to add that the Japan International Co-operation Agency had been conducting training programmes on remote sensing for specialists from the ESCAP region, the most recent of which had been held in August.

18. He would like to comment briefly on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and the activities of the Working Group which had been established by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its last session to consider the technical aspects and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. In its report (A/AC.105/238, annex II), the Working Group concluded that nuclear power sources could be used safely in outer space, provided certain safety considerations outlined in the report were met in full. Naturally, it had been unable to complete consideration of that difficult question at its first session, which had lasted only a week it had agreed that further studies should be made on four subject areas, and had called for contributions by interested Member States and international agencies. His delegation fully supported the recommendation that the Working Group should meet for one week during the next session of the Sub-Committee. It also welcomed the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to recommend that the Legal Sub-Committee should include in the agenda for its next session an item entitled "Review of existing international law relevant to outer space activities with a view to determining the appropriateness of supplementing such law with provisions relating to the uses of nuclear power sources in outer space". In that connexion, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had recently invited Member States to submit their views concerning existing international law relevant to outer space activities, as recommended by the Committee in paragraph 52 of its report. His delegation hoped that as many Member States as possible would communicate their views to the Secretary-General. His delegation was convinced that efforts aimed at further developing space activities, while reducing to a minimum the risks involved, would require the widest possible support and understanding. The valuable work towards that end which had been done during the year by the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat was sincerely appreciated.

19. Mr. BOYADJIEV (Bulgaria) said that he would like to congratulate the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Chairmen of the two Sub-Committees and the Rapporteur on the work that had been accomplished. The year 1979 had been particularly fruitful in space activities for Bulgaria. The country's participation in the "Intercosmos" programme had been further expanded, based on the principles of fraternal co-operation and mutual assistance. The Bulgarian space programme was particularly concerned with the manufacture of special equipment for use in outer space, which had been installed on board almost all Intercosmos satellites launched since 1972, and almost all geophysical rockets in the "Vertikal" series. On the basis of those achievements, Bulgaria had become the eighteenth member of the family of space States, according to the United Nations classification system. Bulgarian scientists were continuing their active participation in such international programmes as "Big Chord", "Dynamics", and "Atmosphere". Bulgarian space scientists were particularly proud of the record-breaking 175-day space flight of the Soviet cosmonauts, Vladimir Lyakhov

(Mr. Boyadjiev, Bulgaria)

and Valery Ryumin, aboard the Salyut-6. Four Bulgarian experiments and one Soviet-Bulgarian experiment had been carried out during the mission.

20. A number of basic experiments and other valuable observations of the earth had been carried out through remote sensing of the earth with the Bulgarian "Spectrum 15" camera. The Bulgarian-Soviet "Pirin" experiments illustrate the continuing development of Bulgarian chemistry, physics and metallography. The Soviet cosmonauts had also conducted a series of experiments in space medicine with the help of the Bulgarian "Sredetz" equipment for psycho-physiological research. For the People's Republic of Bulgaria, which was now engaged in an intensive programme of space research to mark the 1300th anniversary of the creation of the Bulgarian State highlighted by the launching of a new satellite in the "Intercosmos" series, the Bulgaria 1300, 10 April 1979 would be enshrined in letters of gold. That was the date of the flight of the first Bulgarian cosmonaut aboard the Soyuz 33 space ship, accompanied by the Soviet cosmonaut, Nikolai Roukavishnikov. His delegation wished to express its gratitude to the Soviet Union and its people, without whose fraternal and selfless assistance that remarkable flight could not have been made. The People's Republic of Bulgaria was also developing its bilateral co-operation in space research with many other countries: India, Greece, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States, Italy, etc. On the occasion of the recent tenth anniversary of the launching of the first Intercosmos satellite, his delegation wished to thank Cuba, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Romania, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and Viet Nam for their participation in the launching of the twentieth satellite.

21. His delegation noted with satisfaction that, after eight years of efforts and as a result of the constructive approach of a number of delegations, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had been able to work out the final draft of a treaty on the moon and other celestial bodies. The main task now, as called for in paragraph 66 of the Committee's report (document A/34/20), was for the General Assembly to, at its current session, approve the draft Agreement governing the Activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies and open it for signature.

22. His delegation considered it very important for all States to become parties to existing international agreements in the field of outer space. As many as possible States should accede to the four major conventions regulating the peaceful uses of outer space in the interest of all countries and for the benefit of mankind which had laid the foundation for a just legal order in that field. The 1967 Treaty, for instance, was a basic instrument of space law; it had been recognized for 12 years but it had been ratified by only slightly more than half the Member States of the United Nations. It was high time that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Sub-Committee examined that situation and identified ways of inducing all States to accede to all the agreements now in force.

23. The Outer Space Committee, as the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space pursuant to

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paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 33/16, had done constructive work. The agenda proposed for the Conference included, as it should, both scientific and technological questions and questions of global significance. His delegation supported the Soviet proposal made at the sixteenth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and reiterated at the twenty-second session of the Outer Space Committee, that the Conference should be held in Moscow.

24. His delegation attached major importance to the elaboration of principles which would guarantee that States used artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting in the interests of peace, mutual understanding and co-operation among States. The use of such satellites must comply fully with the generally accepted principles of international law, namely respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as with article 6 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.

25. With regard to remote sensing of the earth by satellites, his country, as a party to the Convention on the Transfer and Use of Data Obtained by Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, signed on 19 May 1978 in Moscow, was using remote sensing methods to solve specific problems. That Convention could serve as a basis for the drafting of the relevant rules, especially with regard to data classification and dissemination. The legal framework for remote sensing of the earth was defined by the principle of the inalienable sovereignty of States over their natural resources.

26. The question of the definition and delimitation of outer space, which also involved the question of the geostationary orbit, should be resolved on the basis of the working paper (A/AC.105/L.112) submitted by the Soviet delegation to the twenty-second session of the Outer Space Committee, which contained draft provisions for a resolution by the General Assembly on those two issues.

26a. His delegation hoped that the Special Political Committee would adopt unanimously a resolution aimed at creating the necessary political and organizational conditions for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees to be able to work effectively. His country stood for a peaceful cosmos, and for international co-operation in the exploration and exploitation of outer space so that advances in knowledge could serve all mankind.

27. Mr. DÖLLING (Sweden) recalled that 1979 marked the tenth anniversary of the landing of the American Apollo XI astronauts on the moon. Although outer space activities had become increasingly concentrated on the practical uses of space technology, the scientific investigation and exploration of outer space and the earth's solar system continued, as was evidenced by the Pioneer expeditions and by the endurance records for manned space flights by the crews of Salyut-6. His delegation was pleased that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had at last been able to submit to the General Assembly the final text of an agreement on the moon and other celestial bodies. The most important principle established

(Mr. Dölling, Sweden)

by that agreement was the recognition that the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies were the common heritage of mankind and that an international régime should be established to govern the exploitation of those resources. The agreement also prohibited the militarization of the moon and other celestial bodies and the use of force against them or in respect of orbits around them and trajectories to them. His delegation was in favour of the adoption by the General Assembly of the proposed text for an agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies.

28. In 1978, the special session devoted to disarmament had agreed that measures should be taken to prevent an arms race in outer space. It seemed appropriate to ask what had been done to follow up that recommendation. The growing importance of space technology for all countries in telecommunications, earth resources management, etc., made it imperative for the international community to demand that measures be taken to maintain outer space as a domain of peaceful development and international co-operation. He understood that the two major space Powers were discussing the prohibition of so-called anti-satellite systems. That was to be welcomed as a first step, but it should be noted that the international community as a whole had an obvious right and responsibility to participate in the formulation of measures concerning disarmament in outer space. The 1967 Treaty prohibited the placement of weapons of mass destruction in outer space, but it also emphasized that space activities should be carried out in the interest of maintaining international security and promoting international co-operation and understanding. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed the proposal made by the Italian delegation to the Committee on Disarmament, and noted with interest that a group of experts had been asked to study the implications of the establishment of an international satellite agency for the monitoring of arms control, disarmament agreements and crisis areas.

29. His delegation hoped that the new international space organization, the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), established in July 1979 would soon overcome the initial difficulties that it had encountered, so that it could start its work without further delay.

30. Sweden's space budget had been increased substantially and the financial resources allocated to space activities would be approximately doubled over the next few years. Sweden was a member of the European Space Agency and co-operated with a number of countries in the scientific and technological field. It believed that the main purpose of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be to stimulate a wider use of space techniques and to increase the possibilities for a greater number of countries to enjoy the benefits of space technology, giving the highest priority to the special problems of developing countries. In that context, the Conference should be considered as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and should lead to the adoption of concrete measures to strengthen the capacity of countries to make use of space technology. The competent specialized agencies should be invited to take an active part in the preparatory work and in the Conference itself. His delegation welcomed and supported the recommendations of the Outer Space Committee on the agenda, preparations and organization of the Conference, and its recommendation that the Conference should be held in the second half of 1982.

(Mr. Dölling, Sweden)

31. At the most recent session of the Legal Sub-Committee, Sweden and Canada had presented a "clean text" of the principles which should govern the use of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting in an effort to arrive at a final compromise. Unfortunately, it had not been possible to reach an agreement, but he hoped that it would be possible to do so when the Sub-Committee met in 1980.

32. With regard to remote sensing of the earth by satellite, which was being discussed by both the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee, his delegation believed that all aspects of that question should continue to be studied. International co-operation, perhaps through an international agency and giving all countries an opportunity to participate in remote sensing activities, was the best way to ensure that the benefits of that technology were shared by all and to avoid possible abuses. The risk of growing inequality between States with different levels of economic and technological development must be avoided. Remote sensing data should therefore be as freely accessible as possible in order to prevent the growing dominance of sensing States. The developing countries should be provided with adequate assistance so that they could interpret and make use of such data, and the United Nations Space Applications Programme should be strengthened to meet that need.

33. His delegation was gratified by the outcome of the first meeting of the Working Group established by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to study technical aspects and safety problems related to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. It was also pleased that the Legal Sub-Committee would be embarking on a review of existing space laws the following year with a view to determining the need for supplementary legal provisions for the use of nuclear power sources.

34. His delegation attached great importance to the equitable access of all countries to the geostationary satellite orbit. ITU played a vital role in that connexion, in that it provided machinery which regulated the functional use of the geostationary orbit and of radio frequencies. That machinery was based on the principle that the orbit must be used efficiently and economically so that all countries or groups of countries had equitable access to it. The question of the geostationary orbit had also been raised at the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) which was now taking place in Geneva.

35. Mr. CARAZO (Venezuela) observed that significant progress had been made in two areas. The first was the draft Agreement governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, contained in annex II to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. His delegation believed that, although it did not cover every eventuality as exhaustively as an agreement of that nature should, the text of the draft Agreement was none the less balanced. It supported the draft and believed that it should be opened for signature as soon as possible.

The other area in which progress had been made was that of preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer

(Mr. Carazo, Venezuela)

Space, to which he attached particular importance. In his view, the provisional agenda proposed for the Conference was satisfactory to the developing countries. His country hoped that consideration of the item entitled "Applications of space science and technology" would take into account the interests of countries which, without embarking on ambitious space programmes, wished to acquire new space technology in order to apply it to development. The Conference should therefore give priority to questions of interest to the developing countries and not content itself with evaluating the progress made at the technical and legal level over the past 14 years. The Conference should aim to strengthen international co-operation in all areas among all States, and between States and international and governmental organizations.

36. With regard to remote sensing of the earth by satellites, his delegation believed that remote sensing activities should be open to participation by the largest possible number of countries, and that the developing countries should receive the necessary assistance in that area. At the legal level, the draft principles governing remote sensing must respect the sovereign rights of States and not undermine the principle of non-interference. The dissemination of remote sensing data must be subject to the prior consent of the sensed State, which not only had a say in monitoring the use of the data obtained but also had priority access to them. His delegation was particularly concerned that governments and transnational corporations might be able to use information about developing countries' natural resources, which had been obtained by remote sensing improperly, in violation of the principle of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources. The draft principles governing remote sensing of the earth should therefore include rules on data collection, processing and dissemination.

37. The formulation of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting had made little progress, and must be given priority at the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee. His country advocated the free and balanced exchange of information and believed that any future rules governing direct television broadcasting by satellite must respect the sovereignty and cultural identity of States.

38. His delegation shared the concern expressed by some other delegations with regard to the use of the geostationary orbit for purposes of defining or delimiting outer space. It recognized that all States had a right to enjoy the benefits to be gained from the use of that orbit on the basis of rules which would dispel the prevailing confusion on the subject.

39. He believed that the Committee should continue to study the question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. He supported the activities of the Working Group on that subject, in particular its study of the effects of radiation on populations and the environment and of methods for improving the forecasting of re-entry phenomena. In that connexion, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should have mentioned in its report the proposal, made by the Italian delegation to the Committee on Disarmament that an additional protocol should be added to the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

(Mr. Carazo, Venezuela)

40. In view of the hurricanes which had recently devastated the Caribbean region, his delegation also attached great importance to the forecasting of natural disasters and had given close consideration to the report of the World Meteorological Organization on its tropical cyclone project (A/AC.105/245).

41. He wished to thank the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee and the Chairmen of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee for their valuable work. His delegation supported draft resolutions A/SPC/34/L.10, L.11 and L.12 and hoped that they would be adopted by consensus.

42. Mrs. NOWOTNY (Austria) said that her country had always considered the United Nations, and in particular the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be the most appropriate forums through which to channel and institutionalize international co-operation in space activities. The Outer Space Committee had been instrumental in the elaboration of legal principles governing outer space activities and in the further development of legal norms governing the manifold aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space. At its most recent session, the Committee had been able, on the basis of the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, to complete the elaboration of the draft Agreement governing the Activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, its most important step in the codification of international outer space law. As a result of such an agreement, the use of the natural resources of celestial bodies and outer space, which might relieve some of the immense pressures now facing mankind due to the limited resources of the earth, could take place in a predominantly peaceful environment, in an orderly fashion, in accordance with international law, on the basis of international co-operation and mutual understanding and in accordance with previously agreed procedures. Only in those circumstances would the whole of mankind be able to benefit therefrom.

43. Her delegation fully endorsed the detailed recommendations on the organization and agenda of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Given the attitude of the general public, one of the first objectives of the Conference must be to change the public's ideas about space activities and to better acquaint it with space technology and its applications, the space environment and the wide range of possibilities which it offered. The Conference should also review the present state of space science and its future possibilities, with special focus on the benefits which countries without highly sophisticated technologies might derive therefrom. It was obvious that such a review could best be made at global level with the participation of all countries, both suppliers and users, and of the relevant international institutions and agencies.

44. Now that mankind was able to conduct regular flights into orbit and set up large structures in space for manufacturing or research purposes and the number of communication and sensing satellites was constantly increasing, the problem of protecting the earth in the case of uncontrolled re-entry of space objects into the atmosphere was becoming particularly acute. The Committee and its two Sub-Committees had addressed themselves to the question of the safety of outer space activities and had produced some tangible results. At its next session,

(Mrs. Nowotny, Austria)

the Legal Sub-Committee would include in its agenda a new item entitled "Review of existing international law relevant to outer space activities with a view to determining the appropriateness of supplementing such law with provisions relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space". Her delegation trusted that the ensuing discussion would contribute to the safety of future space operations.

45. Her delegation was disappointed that the Committee had not reached agreement on a set of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. In her view, the proposals submitted by the Swedish and Canadian delegations constituted a constructive approach which should enable the Legal Sub-Committee to resolve the question when it took it up again.

46. With regard to remote sensing of the earth, her delegation hoped that the discussions in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee at the forthcoming session would make it possible to narrow still further the areas of divergent views.

47. Her delegation was prepared to take a flexible attitude with regard to the matter of the definition and delimitation of outer space, and would be in a position to join in any consensus which might develop. At the same time, it should not be forgotten that the issue was linked to the question of the use of the geostationary orbit. In that regard, and taking into account the ever-increasing number of satellites, her delegation shared the view of those which urged more thorough consideration of the optimal utilization of, and equal access to, the geostationary orbit, with a view to formulating understandings to ensure the most efficient and economical means of using that orbit.

48. Analysis of the last three issues she had mentioned made it clear that only limited progress had been made: the points which remained unresolved were the most difficult ones, where the positions of various States were the most pronounced and the most divergent. Her delegation felt that States should now demonstrate the political will to surmount narrowly defined national positions and reach compromise solutions which would be generally acceptable.

49. In view of the rapid development of space science and technology and the growing number of countries participating in those developments, there was an increasing need for international regulation in the field. It was therefore imperative that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should reach agreement on several outstanding issues. Space technology, which by its nature surpassed national boundaries, clearly showed that supranational problems called for supranational solutions. Only within the framework of the United Nations would it be possible to ensure utilization of space science and technology for the benefit of all States.

50. On behalf of the sponsors, her delegation introduced three draft resolutions in documents A/34/SPC/L.10, A/34/SPC/L.11 and A/34/SPC/L.12. The first draft resolution (A/34/SPC/L.10), entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space", focused on the work done by the Committee on the Peaceful

(Mrs. Nowotny, Austria)

Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees, and renewed their mandate for the following year. Draft resolution A/SPC/34/L.11 related to the preparation and organization of the second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Finally, draft resolution A/SPC/34/L.12 dealt with the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies, the text of which had been completed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space during its twenty-second session. She announced that Ireland had become a sponsor of draft resolutions A/SPC/34/L.10 and A/SPC/34/L.11, and that Nigeria had become a sponsor of the three draft resolutions A/SPC/34/L.10, A/SPC/34/L.11 and A/SPC/34/L.12.

51. Mr. IPSARIDES (Cyprus) said that his delegation wished to express its appreciation to the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Chairmen of the two Sub-Committees for their valuable work. It also wished to congratulate Argentina and India on their space programmes, and to emphasize the great importance attached by his country to the further development of the Soviet INTERCOSMOS programme and to the space achievements of the United States.

52. His delegation expressed its profound satisfaction with the conclusion by the Committee of the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies. Adoption of that draft agreement by the General Assembly would enable the international community to develop the natural resources of celestial bodies in accordance with an international régime, for the benefit of all mankind.

53. The question of the peaceful uses of outer space not only posed scientific technical and legal problems, but also made mankind aware of the need to infuse a new spirit into human relations and to reduce differences and tension among nations.

54. His delegation unconditionally supported draft resolution A/SPC/34/L.11 on remote sensing of the earth, and hoped that the Legal Sub-Committee would hasten its work on the elaboration of draft principles to govern remote sending activities. With regard to the legal implications of remote sensing, his delegation reiterated its view that the sovereignty of the sensed State over its natural resources must be respected, and that the sensed State must have continuous access, on a priority basis, to the data and information obtained by the sensing State.

55. His delegation considered that there was a pressing need to reach agreement on regulations to ensure safety with regard to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and supported the recommendations of the two Sub-Committees on the subject.

56. In his delegation's view, the geostationary orbit should be used in a rational and judicious manner, and a satisfactory régime should be established for its use. It therefore supported the idea of the definition and delimitation of outer space.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.