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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 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/SPC/34/L.10-12)

1. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that the preparation of a draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies represented a certain degree of progress. It was encouraging to note that that instrument provided not only that the exploration and use of the moon should be the province of all mankind but also that they should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degrees of development. The States parties to that agreement should likewise undertake to use the moon exclusively for peaceful purposes and not to place in orbit around the moon any object carrying nuclear weapons.

2. The United Nations should make sure that all States, particularly the developing countries, benefited from the natural resources of the moon and should, to that end, redistribute the information derived from every space mission and establish an international régime for the use of such resources.

3. With reference to the definition or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, Ecuador noted that in the 1967 Treaty there were certain lacunae, so that its article II could not be applied to the geostationary orbit. The international community should therefore amend the wording of that Treaty before proceeding to formulate any definition or delimitation of outer space.

4. On the basis of the principles underlying article XI, paragraph 7, of the agreement on the moon, Ecuador reaffirmed its right as a sovereign equatorial country to a segment of the geostationary orbit and stressed that it was essential in that connexion to bear in mind the needs of the developing countries, which had not been able to take part in the appropriation of that orbit because of lack of technical resources. As to those segments of the orbit which were not within the jurisdiction of the equatorial countries, they constituted the common heritage of mankind. The United Nations system should regulate precisely the use of any geostationary orbit in order to protect the sovereign rights of equatorial States while at the same time taking into account the need to ensure that technological development took place for the benefit of all. Ecuador had repeatedly requested that the Secretariat should pursue the study of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit.

5. With regard to remote sensing of the earth by satellites, his delegation wished to reiterate the need to seek the prior agreement of the country observed, whether for the purposes of observation itself or for the purpose of using the data obtained which were the property of the sensed country and could not be communicated to third States without its express consent. It would also be desirable to establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international

(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

body which would regulate all remote sensing activities, having regard in particular to the interests of the developing countries. The United Nations should also continue its studies on the degree of resolution and strengthen the co-ordination functions of future operational remote sensing systems.

6. With regard to the use by States of artificial Earth satellites for the purposes of direct television broadcasting, a question which was related to the new world information order, an international set of rules should be adopted as quickly as possible in order to reconcile freedom of information with the need for prior consultations with the receiving country, whose national sovereignty must be respected and with the rights of every citizen. The accidents which had occurred in recent years showed that the use of sources of nuclear energy in outer space should also be regulated.

7. Ecuador insisted that not only the scientific and technical but also the legal aspects of space questions should be considered at the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which should not be transformed into a meeting where the more advanced States paraded their successes, applauded by the countries which, for lack of resources, were reduced to the role of spectators. While he welcomed the progress made in space technology, thanks in particular to the flights made by the United States and the Soviet Union, Ecuador noted with alarm a growing militarization of space activities, which should continue to be an instrument of peace. It had therefore followed with keen interest the work of the group of experts set up to examine the technical, legal and financial implications of the establishment of an international monitoring satellite agency, a body which would make it possible for the international community to monitor the implementation of disarmament agreements.

8. Ecuador likewise supported the recommendations concerning international co-operation with respect to the peaceful uses of outer space and the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

9. Mr. DAILLET (France) said that his country attached paramount importance to the development of the peaceful uses of outer space, as attested by the fact that its expenditures in the space field had increased in 1978 by more than 50 per cent as compared with 1977. He noted in that connexion that about two thirds of those expenditures were for bilateral and multilateral programmes, for France wanted efforts and progress in that field to be made within the framework of close and effective international co-operation. Thus it was co-operating actively with projects directed by the European Space Agency, particularly those relating to the METEOSAT weather satellite, the ECS European communication satellites, the INMARSAT Programme and the preparation of SPACELAB payloads. France had also played a major role in the programme for the development of the European ARIANE launcher - it was contributing more than 60 per cent of the financing - which would make it possible to place payloads considerably in excess of one and a half tons in geostationary orbit. The commercial success of ARIANE was already assured - the manufacture of a first series of six operational launchers had been ordered by INTELSAT - and it should be still further advanced by the establishment of the specialized ARIANE-Espace company. That European launcher would mark the end of the existing monopoly in heavy rockets and would help to meet the needs of the developing

(Mr. Daillet, France)

countries from the earliest stages of its use; for example, the Indian "APPLE" telecommunications satellite project would be part of the payload of the third ARIANE launching.

10. France was also co-operating with the Federal Republic of Germany in connexion with the SYMPHONIE experimental telecommunication satellite. Those two countries would also co-operate in launching a direct television broadcast satellite.

11. France had also co-operated with the Soviet Union, and within the next few years, probably in 1982, a French astronaut would be placed in a Soviet space station. France was working with the United States on the ARGOS system for finding and collecting data and the experiments conducted on the VOYAGER I and VOYAGER II interplanetary probes. Lastly, France in co-operation with Sweden and Belgium, was working on a SPOT earth-sensing satellite project which would make it possible to place in orbit, beginning in 1983, remote sensing satellites having a sensing power equal to that of United States and Soviet non-military vehicles. It could also be expected that countries other than the United States and the Soviet Union would soon be able to orbit observation satellites having sufficient resolution to play a part in monitoring disarmament agreements or following crisis situations. That element should be taken into consideration when the proposal for an international monitoring satellite agency submitted by France was considered.

12. The existing conflict between the great principles of freedom and non-appropriation on the one hand and national sovereignty on the other was hampering in varying degrees the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

13. Remote sensing of the earth had an enormous potential for producing beneficial effects, including the rapid and low-cost identification of the sources of the developing countries. The training and assistance efforts made by the United Nations through its seminars and working groups should therefore be encouraged. Those efforts, in the opinion of his delegation, constituted a form of United Nations activity in that field to which priority should be given.

14. With regard to the question of direct television broadcasting, he observed that the uncontrolled broadcasting of television programmes to the territory of third States could be regarded by those States as a threat to their cultural identity. France felt that a middle way should be found which would protect the rights of both the receiving and the broadcasting countries. Direct television broadcasting should be used as an additional means of developing exchanges between cultures and thus becoming a factor of mutual understanding and peace.

15. The problem of the delimitation of outer space should be examined seriously and carefully, for it amounted to the fixing of a boundary between two kinds of law.

16. The geostationary satellite orbit constituted a scarce and limited natural resource which should be utilized in the best possible way. Problems of regulation arose in that connexion, in particular with regard to the allocation of frequencies.

(Mr. Daillet, France)

17. His delegation was gratified at the decision to hold in 1982 a United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and welcomed the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon which had been elaborated and adopted by consensus by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. France wished to make it clear that the provisions contained in article III, paragraph 2, of that draft simply recalled the principle of the prohibition of the threat or use of force, as enunciated in the United Nations Charter.

18. He recalled the proposals his delegation had made with regard to the organization of the Outer Space Committee's work. The two Sub-Committees should hold their sessions simultaneously, in order that they might hold consultations and benefit from each other's expert knowledge. It might also be possible to eliminate the general debate that opened the sessions of those Sub-Committees, in order to save considerable time and resources, and thus to meet the concern expressed by the Secretary-General. France wished to emphasize the need to improve the Outer Space Committee's methods of work, since such a reform might prove decisive for that Committee's ability to deal with the important tasks it would have to undertake in the coming years.

19. Mr. GARCIA (Brazil) observed that the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies had been approved at the cost of major political compromises. That agreement, the culmination of a long process which had begun with General Assembly resolution 2779 (XXVI), represented the best feasible result, and his delegation had therefore joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/34/SPC/L.12. He recalled that in June 1979 the Outer Space Committee had agreed by consensus that article I, paragraph 1, and article XI, paragraph 1, extended the concept of common heritage of mankind to all celestial bodies in the solar system other than the earth and to their natural resources. That decision by the Outer Space Committee had been included in paragraph 62 of its report and was mentioned in draft resolution A/34/SPC/L.12.

20. The Outer Space Committee had also made a series of recommendations concerning the agenda, preparation and organization of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It had reached agreement on the form of the Conference, its rules of procedure and its final report; the date for the Conference had been fixed as 1982, but the Outer Space Committee had been unable to agree on its venue. If draft resolution A/SPC/34/L.10 was adopted, the Preparatory Committee would present a recommendation on the subject to the General Assembly at its next session. As a sponsor of that draft resolution, Brazil favoured holding the Conference in a developing country.

21. Space activities today were beyond the sphere of the experimental, but in many fields the activities of some States, and even of some corporations, in outer space had not yet been regulated. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was responsible for international co-operation in space matters, must act to ensure the extension of the rule of law to space.

22. Brazil favoured the adoption of the necessary measures to ensure the peaceful and ecologically sound use of outer space, and it believed that the development of

(Mr. Garcia, Brazil)

new weapons for use in outer space was contrary to the spirit and letter of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

23. The definition and delimitation of the concept of outer space was a problem whose solution was long overdue. His delegation hoped that the Outer Space Committee would be able to make further progress in the examination of that problem, particularly with regard to the question of the geostationary satellite orbit. All users should take account of the special character of that segment of space, and an international régime for its exploitation must be developed in the Outer Space Committee.

24. The Outer Space Committee had been able to reach general agreement on some aspects of the problem of direct television broadcasting by satellite. At the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee and of the Outer Space Committee it had not been possible, despite the efforts of a number of delegations, to reach consensus on the key question of the need for prior agreement between the broadcasting and receiving States or their broadcasting agencies. His delegation believed that all States had the duty to respect and protect the sovereign rights and legitimate interests of receiving States, including their right to preserve their cultural identity. Television broadcasts produced by a technologically advanced culture could transform the cultural life, institutions and social organization of a nation. The diversity of cultures enriched all nations, and that diversity would be endangered if cultures which were technologically less advanced but no less valuable were threatened with disappearance.

25. The two subsidiary bodies of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space were now engaged in developing a set of principles relating to remote sensing of the natural resources of the earth and its environment, but a few key issues remained unresolved. Remote sensing had many advantages. However, States engaged in remote sensing operations were able to obtain at a very reduced cost information that sometimes not even the sensed State had in its possession, and the international community should ensure that the sensed State would have prompt access to data relating to its natural resources, without any discrimination and on a priority basis, and that the dissemination of such data to third parties would be subject to the consent of the States concerned. Technological factors must not be invoked to justify the contravening of principles of international law such as the permanent sovereignty of all States and peoples over their natural resources and their inalienable right to dispose of their natural resources and of information concerning those resources. Today, when space activities had become operational, their legal implications should be examined on the same basis as their scientific and technical aspects. No human endeavour of such complexity and magnitude could be conducive to the ultimate goals of the United Nations without an adequate legal framework.

26. Mr. TOPÇUOĞLU (Turkey) said that over the past 25 years, considerable progress had been made in the field of remote sensing of the earth's resources, environmental control, navigation, communications, astronomy, geophysics and meteorology, as well as in the elaboration of fundamental legal principles for

(Mr. Topçuoğlu, Turkey)

governing those activities. The spirit of co-operation encouraged by the United Nations had contributed greatly to those advances. On a modest scale, Turkey was keenly interested in space techniques and related questions, and its national space programme had been continued during the past year. The Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council had organized a number of meetings of scientists on the various aspects of space research and space activities. In the field of remote sensing of the earth by satellite, a group of Turkish scientists was working on the preparation of a map of the country's ore resources and on a project for the application of remote-sensing techniques to geology, agriculture and forestry. Those techniques were also used to solving various hydrogeological problems and determining the placement of dams to be built in various parts of the country. As a part of the INTELSAT network, a Turkish ground station had been put into operation by the Ministry of Communications in April 1979. A programme of research on the total electron content of the ionosphere had been completed, through the evaluation of data obtained from the ATS-6 satellite.

27. Returning to the report of the Outer Space Committee, he said that his delegation welcomed the preparation of the draft agreement relating to the moon and other celestial bodies, which demonstrated the fruitful co-operation that had taken place within the international community and constituted a framework for future legislation to be adopted in that field. It hoped that the draft agreement would be adopted unanimously by the General Assembly.

28. His delegation supported the Preparatory Committee's recommendations on the organizational aspects of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which, if adequately prepared, would further international co-operation in that field and help the developing countries to improve their technological capabilities.

29. With regard to direct television broadcasting by satellites, his delegation regretted that no tangible progress had been achieved in that field. In his view, the draft text submitted by Canada and Sweden should serve as a basis for a compromise solution. Any new ideas and suggestions compatible with the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States would also be welcome.

30. As for the question of remote sensing of the earth by satellites, Turkey hoped that the joint efforts of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Committee would result in a workable solution that would safeguard the economic interests and legitimate rights of all countries. Lastly, his delegation hoped that the three draft resolutions submitted to the Committee, one of which it was co-sponsoring, would be adopted by consensus.

31. Mr. MENSAH (Upper Volta) said that the need for a codification of laws governing outer space and space technologies was clear to everyone, since space activities concerned the entire international community, as testified by the problems stemming from the return to earth of SKYLAB. In that regard, the way in which the United States technicians had been able to guide the re-entry of the space laboratory was to be commended.

(Mr. Mensah, Upper Volta)

32. His delegation paid a tribute to the Legal Sub-Committee for having completed the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies, the text of which his country would study closely. The Sub-Committee should pursue its work on direct television broadcasting by satellites, the definition of outer space and the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space. With regard to the last point, his country was of the view that the sensed State had a prior right to the information gathered relating to it and that such information should not be transmitted to a third State without the former's consent.

33. The technique of remote sensing of the earth by satellites was of special interest to the developing countries because it favoured a synoptic and synthetic approach to a number of natural phenomena: for example, it made it possible to understand the evolution of certain ecological imbalances which particularly affected the African continent, and thus to forecast and to curb their disastrous consequences. In that regard, he noted that the African remote-sensing programme instituted under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Africa had become operational and in September 1978 it had been provided with a legal framework through the adoption of the instrument setting up the African Remote-Sensing Council, which had been signed so far by 13 member States and was now in force.

34. The Ougadougou Remote Sensing Centre, during the first phase of its development plan, was organizing user training and assistance programmes, filing existing images, constructing reproduction installations and assisting in the interpretation of data by LANDSAT. Under the second phase, it was planned to set up a receiving station for direct reception of LANDSAT data and those of other satellites such as METEOSAT. The regional function of the Centre had been formalized by the setting up of a regional management committee responsible for undertaking consciousness-arousing missions - to all countries covered by the Centre urging them to accede to the instrument setting up the Council, and for drafting a programme budget to be submitted for consideration and approval by the member States. Thus far, the Centre had been fully funded by Canada, France, the United States and the Upper Volta in the amount of over $10 million, but since the participation of the first three countries would gradually diminish, it was important that the African States members of the Council should assume their full financial responsibilities. The Upper Volta, for its part, would spare no effort to ensure the Centre's success. It hoped that the Centre would enjoy the unreserved support of international co-operation, which would thereby be responding to the appeal of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for increased assistance to the remote-sensing programmes of the developing countries.

35. Mr. KACHURENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, in 1979, his country had submitted a report on its space activities at the national and international levels. Ukrainian specialists had conducted a number of experiments with scientists of the Soviet Union and other countries: Soviet, French, Austrian and Swedish scientists and engineers had collaborated in the SAMBO-2 project and the Ukrainian SSR was participating in the Franco-Soviet SIRIN experiment. Research was also being carried out in co-operation with Australian and United Kingdom specialists.

(Mr. Kachurenko, Ukrainian SSR)

36. His delegation noted with satisfaction that progress had been achieved in developing international space law, as testified by the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies, which had been initiated by the Soviet Union in 1971. Under the agreement, the moon must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes; any threat or use of force or any other hostile act on the moon was prohibited; and States parties must not place in orbit around the moon objects carrying weapons of mass destruction or place or use such weapons on or in the moon. The moon's natural resources were described in the agreement as being the common heritage of mankind. The General Assembly should approve that agreement so that it could be opened for signature and ratified by all States.

37. Notable progress had been made in preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which would be called upon to assess space achievements and to indicate the means of furthering international co-operation in that field. His delegation supported the USSR proposal that the Conference should be held in Moscow in August 1982.

38. The question of the legal regulation of direct television broadcasting from space was becoming increasingly urgent. The Ukrainian SSR, like many other States favoured a wider dissemination of information with a view to strengthening mutual understanding among peoples and contributing to the mutual enrichment of different cultures. To that end, it had taken an active part in the elaboration and adoption in 1978 of the UNESCO Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racialism, Apartheid and Incitement to War. However, space television could be used, in violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, to infringe the sovereignty of States and to promote interference in their internal affairs. It was therefore necessary to respect the agreements concluded between the broadcasting State and the receiving State. The prior consent of the receiving State, stipulated in an instrument of international law, should form the basis for the principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting.

39. Mr. DASHTSEREN (Mongolia) said that the notable advances in the conquest of space, such as the flights of international crews composed of astronauts from Czechoslovakia, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union, the 177 days spent by two Soviet astronauts aboard the Salyut 6 and the voyage of Pioneer 11, showed that space could serve the cause of peace, strengthen understanding among peoples and induce them to unite so that it might remain the heritage of all mankind. Continued co-operation in space depended largely on the maintenance of international détente, which had become a vital factor in international relations.

40. Co-operation among the socialist countries in space matters was built on the multilateral INTERCOSMOS programme, which went back to 1967 and on such instruments as the 1976 Agreement on co-operation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and the 1971 Agreement on the establishment of an "Intersputnik" international space telecommunications system. For example, as part of the

(Mr. Dashtseren, Mongolia)

INTERCOSMOS programme, Mongolian future astronauts were training in the Soviet Union at the Yuri Gagarin Centre. The Mongolian People's Republic actively participated in space research and worked with scientists from the socialist countries in a number of fields (geodesy, meteorology, direct television broadcasting, remote sensing). For example, research was proceeding on the interaction between high energy cosmic rays and the earth's magnetic field; earth stations periodically observed artificial satellites collecting geodesic and geophysical data which were then processed by rocket experts participating in the INTERCOSMOS programme. Other experts were studying the physical phenomena occurring on the sun's surface; weather, television and telecommunications satellites were regularly used. Moreover, under an agreement between the Mongolian People's Republic and the Soviet Union, there was a plan to undertake the remote sensing of the territory of Mongolia between 1981 and 1985 and a data processing centre was being built for that purpose. There was a further plan to establish a geodesic network by using triangulations and sounding balloons.

41. His delegation was pleased to note in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that its work had led to the preparation of a draft Agreement governing the activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies which, it hoped, would be adopted by the General Assembly at its current session and opened to signature by all States at an early date. The Committee had made considerable progress in the preparation of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. His delegation was confident that the Member States of the Organization would accept the Soviet proposal to convene that Conference in Moscow.

42. Remote sensing played an important part in the exploration of natural resources and the study of the environment, but it required the elaboration of principles regulating the activities of States in that field. In that connexion, his delegation attached special importance to the principle of respect for the total and permanent sovereignty of States and peoples over their natural resources without prejudice to the principle of freedom to undertake the scientific exploration of outer space. However, remote sensing data should not be disseminated without the prior consent of the sensed State. It was a pity that work in that field was making little progress owing to the negative attitude of certain delegations which were refusing to take into account the interests of the overwhelming majority of States, namely the developing countries.

43. His delegation attached special importance to the preparation of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting because the question was related to the sovereignty of States. Consultations should be held and agreements reached among the States concerned on the issue of direct television broadcasting by satellite. With regard to the use of nuclear energy sources, the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had done useful work. However, the objective was not to restrict the use of nuclear energy sources to space research, but to work out safety measures for using those sources and strictly adhering to those measures. His delegation supported the Soviet proposal on the definition and delimitation of outer space. It regarded the geostationary satellite orbit as an integral part of outer space which should not be under the sovereignty of the various States.

44. Mr. KALINA (Czechoslovakia) said that the conquest of space, which had implications in almost all fields of human endeavour, was destined to affect the whole structure of international life and therefore international co-operation was the only instrument capable of reconciling divergent interests. He expressed admiration and joy for the successful conclusion of the "space odyssey" of the Soviet space crew Liakhov-Riumin, who had proved that man could live and even work in a hostile environment. The Czechoslovak delegation noted with gratification, that flights of international crews were continuing under the INTERCOSMOS programme as, for example, the joint flight of the Bulgarian-Soviet crew Rukavishnikov-Ivanov, another in the list of earlier flights with international crews that had included astronauts from the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the German Democratic Republic.

45. Czechoslovakia now had its first satellite in outer space, "Magion", which performed research of the ionosphere and magnetosphere. In remote sensing of the earth from satellites, a new centre for the evaluation of remote sensing data had been established in Czechoslovakia in co-operation with the socialist countries with the aim of applying the data to various areas such as agriculture, geology, forestry and environmental development. International co-operation in outer space was carried on, on the basis of international law. The Committee had substantially contributed to the creation of space law. The four existing outer space treaties had thus far played an important part in encouraging international co-operation with a view to making the benefits resulting from space achievements accessible to all nations. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed the completion of the work on the Agreement governing the Activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies. The completion of that endeavour was proof that where there was the political will, even the most difficult and sensitive issues could be resolved. The Moon Agreement contained the concept of the common heritage of mankind, thus recognizing the need for broad international co-operation in outer space of all countries irrespective of the level of their development. His delegation had not altered its position on the other items on the agenda of the two Sub-Committees (Legal, and Scientific and Technical), not on the question of the definition of outer space nor on those of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from outer space or the draft principles on direct television broadcasting by satellite.

46. The Czechoslovak delegation warmly welcomed and supported the invitation by the Soviet Government to hold the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in Moscow during the second half of 1982. At that Conference, priority should be given to the question of the definition of the limits of outer space since there appeared to be a substantial measure of agreement on many important elements. Once the work on the Moon Treaty was over, the Legal Sub-Committee could revert to the difficult issues involved in direct television broadcasting from space and remote sensing and make some progress in those fields.

47. Mr. PULI (Ghana) said that the reward to mankind resulting from the conquest of outer space was incalculable and that it was therefore absolutely necessary to ensure orderly exploration and exploitation of its resources to the advantage of the entire international community.

(Mr. Puli, Ghana)

48. His delegation was pleased to note that work on the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies, on which opposing views had been held by Member States, had been successfully completed. The Ghanian delegation had in the past expressed the view that the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies should benefit all countries equitably in order to allow them to develop according to the principles of equality and the right to a better quality of life; it was therefore happy to note that the draft agreement recognized that those resources were the common heritage of mankind.

49. His delegation attached great importance to remote sensing of the earth by satellite, which could be extremely beneficial to the developing countries and help them, in particular, to locate their mineral resources and to improve their agriculture through meteorological forecasts. In that connexion, it was important to strengthen international co-operation and to make the data collected available to all countries, while protecting the rights of the sensed State to the information gathered and the dissemination of certain types of information. The Legal Sub-Committee should therefore continue, as a matter of priority, the search for agreed principles related to remote sensing.

50. The Ghanian delegation was satisfied with the work done by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in its capacity as Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It expressed the hope that the Conference would increase the awareness of the general public regarding space technology and applications and that it would place emphasis on the needs of developing countries in that relatively new field. Those countries should be given every assistance in preparing for the Conference, so that they would be able to participate effectively.

51. The United Nations programme on space applications had been implemented satisfactorily, but should be extended in both content and scope in order better to respond to the needs of the developing countries.

52. His delegation wished to thank all Governments which had assisted in the holding of seminars on space applications, particularly to assist the developing countries. It regretted that the Legal Sub-Committee had been unable to finalize the draft text of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. Despite the immense cultural and educational value of direct television broadcasting by satellite, there was no doubt that certain kinds of broadcast could be harmful and that receiving States should be able, without prejudice to the right to information, to exercise control over the broadcasts transmitted to their countries. His delegation hoped that it would be possible shortly to draft a text on that question to which Member States could agree.

53. Mr. GHAFOORZAI (Afghanistan) said that his delegation appreciated and supported the efforts of the United Nations concerned with the peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of all mankind, and particularly those aimed at developing principles of international law applicable to space activities. In that

(Mr. Ghafoorzai, Afghanistan)

connexion, it was important not to legalize or give recognition to space activities which might be contrary to the general interest or lead to monopoly situations.

54. With regard to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/34/20), his delegation noted with satisfaction that the Committee had given priority to consideration of questions relating to the remote sensing of the earth by satellite and that it had recognized the need to provide assistance to the developing countries, particularly with regard to education and training. The United Nations programme on space applications and the remote sensing centres of FAO and CNRET could play an important role in that connexion. Remote sensing of the earth should be governed by specific rules which would ensure respect for the principle of freedom as well as for the sovereignty of States.

55. Since the Great April Revolution, the Afghan Government had spared no effort to raise the standard of living of the population and in that connexion the establishment of a national television broadcasting system would be particularly beneficial in the areas of education, agriculture and health and would also increase international and political awareness. The Afghan delegation therefore attached particular importance to the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting.

56. The question of the safety of use of nuclear power sources in outer space was of vital importance, and his delegation endorsed the decision of the Outer Space Committee that further studies should be made in that regard (para. 46, subparas. (1) to (4)).

57. With regard to the draft treaty relating to the moon, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the draft agreement recognized that the moon and its natural resources constituted the common heritage of mankind and should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

58. Lastly, with regard to the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, it was to be hoped that all Member States would participate more actively in the preparatory work and in the Conference itself in order to ensure its success.

59. Mrs. NOWOTNY (Austria) said that the English title of draft resolution A/SPC/L.12 should be amended to read "Agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies", so as to bring it into line with the title of the draft agreement concerning the moon.

60. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Niger had become a sponsor of the three draft resolutions submitted to the Committee on the two items under consideration.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.