United Nations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION
Official Records *

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
19th meeting
held on
Thursday, 1 November 1979
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

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

later: Mr. FIGUEROA (Argentina)

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79-58023

Distr. GENERAL
A/SPC/34/SR.19
7 November 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.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-L.12)

1. Mr. MAHMOOD (Pakistan) observed that the United Nations provided a unique mechanism for finding and promoting co-operative peaceful approaches to man's exploration and exploitation of the potentials of the cosmic system. For the past 20 years, it had been engaged in laying down guidelines and providing a framework for the peaceful use of outer space; during that time, it had made commendable progress, including the adoption of several major international agreements on outer space and the recent drafting by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of an agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies. Article XI of the draft agreement was particularly important, for it affirmed that the moon and its natural resources were the common heritage of mankind and provided for the establishment of an international régime governing the exploitation of those resources. Article III was equally important, for it urged that all States Parties should use the moon exclusively for peaceful purposes. His delegation hoped that the draft agreement would be endorsed by the General Assembly at its current session.

2. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had also made progress in organizing the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, convened by the General Assembly (resolution 33/16) in view of the rapid developments which had taken place in the scientific and engineering fields of space technology in the years since the First Conference and which called for a corresponding evolution in the political and legal response. His delegatin endorsed the recommendations made by the Committee in its capacity as Preparatory Committee for the Conference, in particular those relating to the convening of the Conference in the latter half of 1982 and to its provisional agenda. The Conference would provide a useful opportunity to take stock of the present state of space technology and its applications and would help to improve existing institutional arrangements so that the benefits of space technology could be enjoyed fully and safely by all countries, in particular the developing countries.

3. His delegation hoped that the Conference would help to strengthen the co-ordinating role of the United Nations in the field of outer space and, in that connexion, reiterated its proposal that an International Space Agency should be set up, on the pattern of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to act as a United Nations regulatory body for ensuring that Member States used outer space and space research facilities solely for peaceful purposes and that the benefits deriving from present and future advances in space technology were maximized, in particular for the developing countries.

4. Unfortunately, the Committee's efforts in other areas had not been so

(Mr. Mahmood, Pakistan)

regarding. So far, no agreement had been reached on the technical and legal questions involved in remote sensing of the earth by satellites. His delegation hoped that further discussions, and additional studies by the Secretariat, would help to achieve agreement on the need for classification of remote sensing data and on principles regulating the dissemination of such data. Sensed States should have full access to the data on their territories and be able to participate in remote sensing activities undertaken by the sensing State. In order to do so, they must have the necessary ground facilities to receive and process the data thus collected. Priority consideration must be given to the elaboration of an international agreement aimed at ensuring the fullest possible application of remote sensing techniques, particularly for the benefit of developing countries.

5. With regard to the use of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, his delegation agreed that the international convention governing such broadcasts should include provisions to ensure that there was adequate consultation and agreement between States operating such satellites and States receiving signals from them. The conclusion of such a convention was particularly urgent now that operational direct broadcast satellites had become a reality. The Legal Sub-Committee should also continue to give close attention to the definition and delimitation of outer space, bearing in mind questions relating to the geostationary orbit, in order to ensure proper implementation of the legal instruments governing outer space.

6. With regard to the use of nuclear power to propel satellites in outer space orbits and the corresponding responsibility of the launching State, the Working Group established to consider that issue had concluded that nuclear power sources could be used in outer space, provided that the safety considerations outlined by it were met in full. The experience of COSMOS-954 and the threat which it had posed to human and animal life, showed the need for further study of that matter with a view to enforcing foolproof safety standards, defining the responsibilities of launching States and devising international emergency arrangements for search, recovery and clean-up operations in the case of an accidental fall of such a satellite.

7. It was essential that the benefits deriving from the latest technological developments in space applications be accessible to all countries. The United Nations space applications programme had to some extent helped to give the developing countries increased access to space applications, but lack of resources had placed serious constraints on its activities. The content and scope of the programme must be strengthened through the allocation of increased funds.

8. His delegation had become a co-sponsor of the three draft resolutions now before the Special Political Committee.

9. Mr. PETREE (United States of America) observed that 1979 had seen significant accomplishments in the exploration of outer space and productive work by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The United States welcomed the increase in the number of countries participating in the peaceful uses of outer space and, for its part, was continuing to enter into international co-operative space projects.

(Mr. Petree, United States)

10. In the area of space science, the past year had seen the spectacular results of the exploration of Jupiter by two United States VOYAGER space craft. In July 1979, VOYAGER 2 had discovered a new Jovian moon, adding to the list of Jovian phenomena first observed by VOYAGER 2 in March.

11. The United States space craft PIONEER 11 was still in operation after successfully flying past Saturn, the most distant planet so far reached in man's exploration of the solar system, and was now heading out of the solar system after returning the first close-up pictures of Saturn and making a number of important scientific findings. It had sustained no damage from high-velocity ring particles, showing that space craft could safely operate outside the visible rings.

12. PIONEER VENUS 1 and the five atmospheric probes comprising PIONEER VENUS 2 had reached Venus on 5 and 9 December 1978, providing new information on the formation of the inner planets and on features of the surface and atmosphere of Venus.

13. NASA had reached agreement with the European Space Agency on the International Solar Polar Mission which was to explore interplanetary and solar phenomena from the plane of the solar equator to the solar poles. NASA was also continuing work on the GALILEO orbiter and probe satellite mission in co-operation with the German Federal Ministry for Research and Technology; the mission was designed to conduct comprehensive investigations of Jupiter and its environment and satellites. France and Canada were also participating in the GALILEO scientific investigations.

14. Work had continued on the joint NASA/Netherlands Agency for Aerospace Programmes infra-red astronomical satellite, which was planned for launching in August 1981. The Netherlands was providing the infra-red telescope system, and the United Kingdom Science Research Council was supplying ground stations and preliminary data reduction facilities.

15. With regard to space transportation systems, payload allocations had been completed for the first 40 Shuttle launches, and agreements were currently being negotiated with several countries and organizations to launch application-type satellites and also international reimbursable SPACELAB missions using the Shuttle. Substantial progress had been made in the United States Shuttle programme, and the European SPACELAB and Canadian remote manipulator system were also progressing on a compatible schedule for a planned first orbital flight in the summer of 1980.

16. With regard to space and terrestrial applications, seven LANDSAT ground stations were currently operating in six countries and others were under development in a further three countries. Additional stations were expected to be receiving data in six other countries by 1985.

17. At the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, his country had announced the initiation of discussions with other States planning to operate remote sensing satellites, with a view to ensuring that United States and foreign remote sensing systems were as compatible and complementary as possible. It had also called for discussions with user States and international development assistance and environmental organizations to ensure that data were effectively used in support of national and regional development programmes.

(Mr. Petree, United States)

18. Arrangements among the United States, Canada, France and the Soviet Union had proceeded for the experimental satellite-aided Search and Rescue demonstration project. Ground stations had also begun operating in France for the reception of NASA's heat capacity mapping mission and NIMBUS-7 data.

19. The United States had held discussions with Japan on various aspects of space science and space applications, and further steps were being taken towards launching new co-operative projects. Co-operation with the Soviet Union had continued, particularly in the areas of space biology and medicine and planetary exploration. NASA had also conducted two international reimbursable launchings, the UK-6 scientific satellite and an INTELSAT IV.

20. The United States had of course been gratified that no damage to life or property had been caused by the descent of SKYLAB in July 1979. His country's advance public notification policy and prompt settlement of claims in that case showed that it recognized that its space activities also required it to accept its responsibilities to mankind.

21. His delegation wished to comment and endorse the work done by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees. The Committee had finally completed a draft Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies, known as the "Moon Treaty". That achievement was a reaffirmation of the Committee's productivity and of the validity of its consensus procedures. Such procedures were especially appropriate when dealing with outer space, which, with its natural resources, was the common heritage of mankind. The draft Moon Treaty was based to a considerable extent on the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and in no way limited the latter's provisions. It also represented, in its own right, a meanigful advance in the codification of international law dealing with outer space, containing obligations which were of both immediate and long-term application.

22. With regard to the actual provisions of the draft Moon Treaty, his delegation accepted the Committee's conclusions concerning article I and agreed that the trajectories and orbits referred to in paragraph 2 did not include trajectories and orbits of space objects between the earth and earth orbit. The fact that a space object in the earth orbit was also in orbit around the sun did not, moreover, bring space objects which were only in earth orbit within the scope of the Treaty. With regard to articles II and III, his delegation noted the concern expressed by members of the Outer Space Committee that space should not become yet another area where man made war. The prinicples and provisions of the Charter, which under article II of the draft Treaty were applicable to outer space, were as valid for outer space as they were for the sea, land or air. Article III, paragraph 2, was designed to make it clear that it was forbidden for a party to the Moon Treaty to engage in any threat or use of force on the moon if such acts would constitute a violation of its international obligations with regard to the threat or use of force.

23. His delegation endorsed the Committee's understanding that the language of article VII was not to be read in such a way as to prohibit the exploitation of natural resources to be found on celestial bodies but rather that any such exploitation must be so carried out as to minimize disruption of or adverse changes in the environment.

(Mr. Petree, United States)

24. The concept of the moon and celestial bodies as the common heritage of mankind, as formally proposed by his country in 1972, was set forth in article XI, paragraph 1, which made it clear that its meaning in the Moon Treaty was without prejudice to its meaning in any other international instrument. With regard to the international régime to govern the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon, provided for in article XI, paragraph 5, his Government would, when and if negotiations for such a régime were called for under articles XI and XVIII, make a good-faith effort to ensure that they were successfully concluded. Each of the participants in the conference on such a régime would, of course, have to evaluate any treaty emerging from the conference in the light of their own national interests. For his country, that would require a treaty which was balanced and reasonable and which met with the approval of the United States Senate.

25. The draft Treaty placed no moratorium on the exploitation of the natural resources of celestial bodies by States or their nationals, but it did provide that any such exploitation must be carried out in accordance with article XI, paragraph 7, and article VI, paragraph 2. Article XI, paragraph 7, provided a framework for such exploitation, since even exploitation undertaken by a State Party or its nationals outside the context of the proposed régime would have to be compatible with the provisions of that paragraph. The latter also provided an incentive for exploitation, for it decreased States' and private entities' doubts about the advisability of embarking on the costly exploitation of the moon's natural resources and recognized that equitable sharing of the benefits deriving therefrom required that special consideration be given both to those who had contributed directly to the exploration of the moon and to the developing countries and those who had indirectly contributed to the moon's exploration. Already, under existing international co-operation in other areas of space applications, States which had expended large resources on developing space systems to exploit space applications had shared the benefits equitably with the international community.

26. Article XI, paragraph 8, not only set the standards for the exploitation of natural resources but also ensured that the unrestricted right to collect samples of natural resources was not infringed upon and that there was no limit on the rights of States Parties to use appropriate quantities of such natural resources for their scientific research.

27. With regard to direct broadcast satellites, the Legal Sub-Committee had made progress on the question of elaborating principles for the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct telvision broadcasting. In that connexion, the UNESCO Declaration on the Mass Media had already reaffirmed the importance of guaranteeing mankind a free flow of information as a fundamental human right.

28. Work on principles governing remote sensing of the earth's natural resources and environment continued on a positive note. Already, experience with remote sensing had demonstrated the potential offered by remote sensing systems, showing that the premature adoption of rigid theoretical principles governing remote sensing could only have proved detrimental. Remote sensing had so far occasioned no harm to the national interests of any sensed State, and his delegation hoped therefore that any principles which were adopted would promote rather than hinder the benefits which remote sensing could bring to all States.

(Mr. Petree, United States)

29. His delegation welcomed the fact that the expert Working Group of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had already been able to conclude that, with proper safeguards, nuclear power sources could be used safely in outer space. It looked forward to the elaboration of safeguards in that Sub-Committee and to the Legal Sub-Committee's examination of international law applicable to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

30. His delegation was not aware of any practical problems which would be solved by defining or delimiting outer space, nor did it believe that the international community had as yet adequately examined the multitude of factors relevant to any such definition or delimitation. Care must be taken to ensure that an arbitrary decision did not inhibit or even stifle future efforts to explore and use outer space. His delegation was grateful that in the past the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had not acted precipitously to adopt a demarcation of outer space based on what had subsequently proved to be invalid assumptions. Could anyone be certain that the present proposals were based on any more immutable assumptions? His delegation also continued to believe that no acceptable legal or scientific case could be made for claims of sovereignty over the geostationary orbit, which was clearly an integral part of outer space.

31. His delegation strongly supported the basic objective of the proposed Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, namely to promote the benefits available on earth as a result of space science and technology. Such benefits should be made available to the developing countries to the fullest possible extent. His delegation looked forward to working closely with all members in ensuring that the Conference was a success.

32. At its most recent session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had discussed various proposals for ensuring better co-ordination between its two Sub Committees and for facilitating their work by eliminating general statements except in the plenary Committee. His delegation hoped that additional consideration would be given to those proposals, so that they could be tried on at least an experimental basis.

33. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that, while his Government's activities in the application of outer space technology had been modest compared with those of more advanced countries, its programmes and efforts reflected the importance it attached to space technology and science in the social and economic development of the Philippines. His country's principal interests currently lay in the areas of remote sensing, direct television broadcasting and meteorology, because, in its opinion, developments in those areas would be of the greatest benefit to a developing country like the Philippines. Accordingly, his country was participating actively in the outer space programmes of the United Nations and of non-governmental organizations. In that connexion, his delegation noted with satisfaction the latest report submitted by the World Meteorological Organization on its Tropical Cyclone Project, and he expressed the hope that that project would eventually make it possible to redirect or prevent destructive typhoons, which were a particular problem for his country.

(Mr. Verceles, Philippines)

34. The Philippines also planned to expand and improve its telecommunications system through co-operation with its partners in the Association of South-East Asian Countries, particularly by utilizing the spare capacity of the Indonesian PALAPA satellite. His country was also conducting major research and applications programmes through the use of remote sensing by satellites.

35. He now wished to turn to the report of the Outer Space Committee (A/34/20). In view of the implications which space science and technology had for the social and economic advancement of mankind, and particularly for people in the developing countries, his delegation welcomed the proposal to convene a Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the second half of 1982. However, his delegation felt that the Conference should focus on finding ways to enable all countries, especially the developing countries, to utilize and benefit fully from space technology.

36. With regard to the remote sensing of the earth by satellites and the dissemination of the data thus obtained, his delegation believed that, in accordance with the principle of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources, the data and information thus collected should be made available to the sensed State as a matter of priority. Moreover, certain types of data should not be disseminated without the prior consent of the sensed State. He expressed the hope that the Legal Sub-Committee, in consultation with the Technical and Scientific Sub-Committee, would be able to reach agreement on principles governing that important matter.

37. His delegation endorsed the principle, set forth in article XI of the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies, that the moon and its natural resources were the common heritage of mankind. Because of their underdevelopment, the developing countries did not expect to benefit significantly from the entry into force of the draft agreement. However, in view of the nuclear capabilities of certain Powers, article III and IV were particularly significant.

38. With regard to the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, effective criteria should be established to ensure that the cultural heritage, customs and traditions of all States were preserved and fostered. His delegation hoped that a compromise solution could be found on that key issue, and it appreciated the efforts of the Canadian, Swedish and United States delegations to that end. His delegation therefore endorsed the recommendation of the Outer Space Committee that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue, as a matter of priortiy, to consider that item at its next session.

(Mr. Verceles, Philippines)

39. Since the Working Group established by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had concluded that nuclear power sources could be used safely in outer space provided that certain safety conditions were met, his delegation supported the recommendation that the two Sub-Committees should continue their work on that subject with a view to elaborating principles and measures to ensure such safety.

40. His delegation's interest in all those items was reflected in the fact that it had joined in sponsoring the three draft resolutions that were before the Special Political Committee.

41. Mankind was on the threshold of a new era of international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, and it was up to the United Nations to ensure that such co-operation was based on equity and mutual advantage.

42. Mr. GOULDING (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was especially pleased at the progress made during the twenty-second session of the Outer Space Committee, although it had hoped that progress would be made in other areas as well. In particular, his delegation welcomed the drafting of a treaty relating to the moon and hoped that it would receive the widest possible adherence. In that connexion, he drew attention to the fact that the United Kingdom had agreed to the reference in article III, paragraph 2, to "any other hostile act or threat of hostile act" on the understanding that the treaty - and consequently the prohibition referred to - related only to the moon and celestial bodies and not to the earth.

43. His delegation also welcomed the fact that the Outer Space Committee had decided to include the question of nuclear power sources in outer space in the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee. His delegation favoured the elaboration of a multilateral legal régime governing the use of nuclear power sources in outer space; it was important that a free and open discussion should be held on that subject, for it concerned all countries that were directly or indirectly interested in outer space.

44. His delegation was also pleased that agreement had been reached both on a draft agenda for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and on a date for the Conference.

45. Despite the progress made in the areas to which he had referred, his delegation regretted the fact that no agreement had been reached on the text of a set of principles governing direct television broadcasting by satellites. His Government's approach to that subject was based on its attachment to the concept of the free dissemination of information across frontiers and the right of individuals to receive and impart such information. It felt that the text put forward by Canada and Sweden offered an appropriate basis on which the differing attitudes could be reconciled. He expressed the hope that the Outer Space Committee would agree on a text of the principles in 1980.

46. In conclusion, referring to the working methods of the Outer Space Committee and its two Sub-Committees, his delegation thought that better co-ordination of

(Mr. Goulding, United Kingdom)

the meetings of those bodies could reduce wasteful duplication, and his Government was prepared to consider positively any proposals to that end. For information on United Kingdom space activities during 1979, he referred members to the statement which his delegation had made in the Outer Space Committee on 25 June 1979 (A/AC.105/PV.195).

47. He drew attention to the fact that his delegation was a sponsor of the three draft resolutions currently before the Special Political Committee.

48. Mr. KOLBASIN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that during 1978 and 1979 there had been major achievements in the exploration of outer space. In 1978, the two cosmonauts Vladimir Kovalenok, a native of Byelorussia, and Aleksandr Ivanchenkov had undertaken a manned orbital space mission lasting 140 days. Their spacecraft, the SOYUZ-29, had linked up with the SALYUT-6 space station, and on 28 June the two had been joined by the SOYUZ-30, manned by an international crew consisting of the Soviet cosmonaut Pyotr Klimuk, also a native of Byelorussia, and the Polish cosmonaut Miroslaw Hermaszewski. The flight of the SOYUZ-31 on 27 August 1978 had been manned by cosmonauts from the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic. A wide range of scientific, technical and biological experiments had been carried out on board the SALYUT-6-SOYUZ complex, including photography of the earth's surface during the several seasons of the year covered by the period of the flight, an achievement of considerable importance for the understanding of flora and fauna, the water balance of rivers and other seasonal phenomena. During the 1978 record-breaking 175-day manned space mission of the Soviet cosmonauts Lyakhov and Ryumin, a number of studies had been made of the earth's resources and environment, and the space radiotelescope, delivered to the station while in orbit by the PROGRESS-7 spaceship, had made it possible to carry out a number of valuable astrophysical and geophysical experiments. More than 50 experiments had been performed on obtaining, under conditions of weightlessness, monocrystalline semi-conducting substances, metallic alloys and compound substances, and the crew had also carried out a range of technological experiments with equipment supplied by France under the programme of co-operation between the Soviet Union and France. The SALYUT-6-SOYUZ flight represented significant progress in the development of long-duration manned space missions. The achievements of Soviet space technology opened up new vistas for the peaceful use of outer space for the benefit of mankind.

49. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had done a great deal of work over the past year. The importance for international relations of the draft treaty on the moon, originally proposed many years before by the Soviet Union, could hardly be overemphasized. It was sufficient to mention article III, according to which the moon was to be used by all States Parties exclusively for peaceful purposes. The draft treaty on the moon, besides being a major contribution to international law, would be an important element in the development of mutual trust among States and would help to strengthen world peace.

50. His delegation favoured the adoption of the draft resolutions before the Committee, which were intended to promote the further development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

(Mr. Kolbasin, Byelorussian SSR)

51. The report of the Outer Space Committee (A/34/20) also gave an interesting account of the preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. More than two decades had elapsed since the last conference, and the new one would be an opportunity for the exchange of experience gained since them in space technology and its applications to communications, navigation, meteorology, scientific research and other fields. While a number of practical problems connected with the Conference had already been solved, the Committee had not yet been able to decide on its venue. That, however, presented no difficulty, as the Soviet Union had already indicated the possibility of its being held in Moscow, the capital of a country which had made an outstanding contribution to the exploration of outer space. He hoped that peaceful co-operation in outer space activities would be further developed and strengthened for the sake of peace and human advancement.

52. Mr. GÓMEZ ROBLEDO (Mexico) said that his delegation had joined in sponsoring the three draft resolutions currently before the Committee because, as a member of the Outer Space Committee, it had wished to express its appreciation for the effort which those resolutions reflected. Draft resolution A/SPC/34/L.10 reflected more particularly the work of the Sub-Committees in drafting the agreement relating to the moon (para. 3), but he expressed the hope that the provisions concerning the principles relating to remote sensing, direct television broadcasting and the geostationary orbit, would also receive special attention. His delegation was convinced that such important questions called for closer international co-operation.

53. With regard to draft resolution A/SPC/34/L.11, his delegation supported it in its entirety because it felt that the time had come to hold the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. If the Conference was properly prepared and organized, it would help to make the benefits of outer space available to all people, especially those in the developing countries, and to improve co-operation in outer space activities.

54. With regard to draft resolution A/SPC/34/L.12, he expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Outer Space Committee and to the Legal Sub-Committee for having overcome so many obstacles and having reached agreement on a complete text of the draft treaty relating to the moon. In the spirit of previous agreements and in keeping with the current climate at the United Nations, the moon treaty proclaimed that the moon and its natural resources were the common heritage of mankind (art. XI). In his delegation's opinion, the draft treaty had achieved a difficult balance between idealism and realism in establishing rules to guide mankind's activities on the moon. While law invariably reflected social reality, it could at times anticipate and shape that reality. Accordingly, his delegation shared the view of the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee that a small element of utopia should be injected into discussions of outer space.

55. Mr. SURYOKUSUMO (Indonesia) pointed out that, during its twenty-second session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had achieved two significant results, namely, the drafting of the agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies and the decision to hold the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1982. Indonesia welcomed the draft agreement relating to the moon, which was undoubtedly a milestone in the development of space law and which demonstrated the progress that could be made in resolving issues through the recognition of mutual interests and a spirit of compromise.

56. Referring, in particular, to the provisions of articles V and XI of the draft, he drew attention to the fact that Indonesia had long held those provisions to be fundamental; his delegation accordingly welcomed their incorporation into the draft agreement. Moreover, his delegation endorsed the Outer Space Committee's decision to submit the draft agreement to the General Assembly at its current session with a view to its final adoption and opening for signature.

57. The work of the Outer Space Committee had, however, been less successful on other issues because of the lack of political will and the positions of various delegations, including his own, which had remained basically unchanged over the years. For example, questions relating to consent and notification had continued to impede the formulation of draft principles on remote sensing and direct satellite broadcasting.

58. In connexion with the legal implications of remote sensing, his delegation wished to reiterate that such activities should not infringe on the sovereignty of States over their natural resources. It was equally important to recognize the need for prior consultation with the sensed State and its right to access, on a priority basis, to data and information concerning its Territory as well as to consultation prior to the dissemination of such data to third parties. Those principles could only be implemented through greater international co-operation and through broader participation of the developing countries in such activities.

59. With regard to direct satellite broadcasting, Indonesia wished to reiterate that the principle of consultation and agreement between States offered the best prospect for a compromise, taking into account the frequently diverging views on that type of technology. Consultations between the broadcasting State and recipient States would ensure respect for the sovereign rights of States and for the principle of non-interference in internal affairs. Moreover, Indonesia did not think that the principle of freedom of information would be violated by the establishment of reasonable restraints to safeguard the cultural identity of the peoples of the recipient States. Consequently, States affected by such broadcasts should have the right to request consultation with a view to finding an acceptable solution. In that connexion, consideration should also be given to the question of participation by recipient States in production and programming activities of particular interest to them. Through such co-operative measures his delegation hoped that a degree of consensus could be reached on that important matter.

(Mr. Suryokusumo, Indonesia)

60. While the question of the definition and/or delimitation of outer space had often been considered premature and had thus not received due attention, scientific and technological advances and the launching of satellites into geostationary orbit, coupled with the claims of equatorial States to sovereign rights over certain parts of space, had given rise to serious interrelated technological, political and legal questions. Those developments had revealed the need for an agreement and for equitable consideration for the right of all States to utilize the benefits of the geostationary orbit. His delegation hoped that those issues would be given serious attention with a view to finding solutions that would be acceptable to all concerned. In that connexion, it endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 54 of the Committee's report that an informative paper on the dynamics of the population of satellites should be prepared and that a study should be undertaken on the most efficient and economic means of using the geostationary orbit with a view to assessing its wider use, particularly by developing countries.

61. His delegation also welcomed the proposal contained in paragraph 73 of the report that the United Nations should act as a repository for information concerning co-operative programmes in space applications, since that would provide the developing countries with an over-all view of the various activities and would thus be of considerable educational value.

62. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the agreement reached with regard to the convening of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Such agreement was important in order to estimate costs and make other preparations. However, the delay in convening the Conference might result in a loss of momentum and perhaps a loss of interest as well. His delegation regretted the fact that no decision had been reached on the site of the Conference, but it hoped agreement could be achieved on that question in the near future.

63. With regard to the future work of the Sub-Committees, his delegation supported the recommendation of the Outer Space Committee that the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee should include an item concerning the review of existing international law in connexion with the uses of nuclear power sources in outer space, as was indicated in paragraph 119 of the Committee's report.

64. In conclusion, his delegation felt that technological developments would continue to expand the possibilities for international co-operation and that, accordingly, appropriate means must be found to increase the participation of all nations in future space activities. In particular, all countries should be involved in any major space projects that were expected to be of practical benefit to the international community. Through such co-operative endeavours, it would be possible to preserve the peaceful environment of outer space.

65. Mr. DIEZ (Chile) observed that the main achievement of the Outer Space Committee during its twenty-second session had been the draft agreement relating to the moon, which was yet another example of the effectiveness that had characterized that Committee since its establishment. The drafting of the agreement was an achievement for both the developed and the developing countries in that it provided

(Mr. Diez, Chile)

for the effective co-operation of States, on an equal footing, in the exploration and future utilization of the moon for the benefit of all mankind. In that regard, article XI, paragraph 1, was a central element of the text. Moreover, the provisions of article III clearly reflected the international community's determination that the moon should never become an arena for military rivalry between the great Powers. His delegation hoped that the Special Political Committee would give its full support to the draft agreement and, accordingly, to draft resolution A/SPC/34/L.12, of which his delegation was a sponsor.

66. Another achievement of the Outer Space Committee had been its work in preparing for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. His delegation supported the recommendations concerning the date, preparation, organization and form of the Conference.

67. With regard to the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, his country had given its general support to the text submitted during the eighteenth session of the Legal Sub-Committee by the delegations of Sweden and Canada. As many delegations had pointed out, it was essential to ensure that the principles of freedom of information were compatible with the sovereignty of every State and with the need to preserve its values and cultural identity. Accordingly, his country wished to reiterate that there must be prior agreement between the transmitting State and the recipient State in order for such broadcasting to take place. He expressed the hope that, during its nineteenth session, the Legal Sub-Committee would be able to overcome the remaining difficulties and reach agreement on the principles concerned.

68. With regard to the remote sensing of the earth by satellites, his delegation had submitted to the Secretariat some months earlier a complete report on Chile's activities in that field. His country was especially interested in the matter and had taken an active part in the relevant discussion. With regard to the principles being formulated by the Legal Sub-Committee on that subject, he reiterated that, in his delegation's opinion, one of the most important elements was that there should be a prior understanding between the sensing State and the sensed State. As for the dissemination of the data obtained, his delegation thought that not only must the sensed State have priority access to data concerning its Territory but also, and perhaps more important, the sensing State must obtain the prior consent of the sensed State before disseminating any information to third parties if the sensed State considered that such dissemination was contrary to its interests.

69. His delegation also attached special importance to the efforts of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, and it welcomed the inclusion of an item in the agenda of the nineteenth session of the Legal Sub-Committee concerning the appropriateness of drafting provisions on that subject, especially with regard to the safe use of nuclear power sources and assistance in cases of emergency. His delegation was looking forward to the results of the Working Group's discussions on all the subjects listed in its report to the sixteenth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

(Mr. Diez, Chile)

70. The dangers of an extension of the arms race into outer space had been a cause of concern to his delegation ever since it had become a member of the Outer Space Committee. As everyone knew, many military activities were being conducted in space, and, proportionately, they eclipsed the achievements in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. In that connexion, he supported the statement made by the representative of Italy in the Disarmament Committee with regard to attaching an additional protocol to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty to govern weapons that were not specifically prohibited under article IV of that Treaty. His delegation would strongly support any initiative designed to prevent the arms race from extending into outer space, for the latter must be reserved for the peaceful activities of States in accordance with the will of the entire international community.

71. Mr. BONILLA (Colombia) recalled that, when introducing the report of the Outer Space Committee (A/34/20), the latter's Chairman had acknowledged that he was not fully satisfied with the results of its work and feared that the course of the discussions gave the impression that firm conclusions had been avoided. In fact, what had happened was that the Committee had at various points in its work touched on sensitive areas affecting the sovereignty of States, such as their right to gather information concerning their natural resources and to receive television broadcasts from acceptable sources. In such circumstances. States preferred to go slowly in developing legal and technical principles, as the resulting agreements would be binding on future generations. The new areas of research involved should lead to the establishment of international legal standards, and experience had shown that the United Nations was wiser to develop them through patient negotiation than to rush to superficial conclusions which might be the source of future controversy and rivalry among nations. An example of the cautious procedures followed was the draft Agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies. The Committee had debated conflicting principles in that area for 10 years before finally arriving at the legal syntheses which had enabled a concise text to be drafted which took due account of the various concerns expressed by States. In future, the Agreement would serve as an example of what could be achieved by the United Nations through international co-operation for peaceful purposes, and his delegation trusted that the draft would be adopted and opened for signature.

72. The work of the Committee was of crucial importance in view of the dramatic developments which had taken place in the peaceful uses of outer space. In the quarter-century which had elapsed since the launching of the first artificial earth satellite by the Soviet Union in 1957, astronauts had reached the moon, and there were now prospects of permanent space stations and of human beings existing indefinitely in space. Those scientific achievements were matched by practical applications such as remote sensing, direct television broadcasting by satellites, and the possibility of harnessing solar energy. A science fiction writer had even predicted that it would soon be feasible to communicate with a satellite placed in the geostationary orbit by a kind of ladder linked with the earth.

73. His delegation was concerned that so little progress had been made in elaborating draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. Mankind was entering a new era of telecommunications, and French research would soon make it possible to install

(Mr. Bonilla, Colombia)

individual receivers for long-distance television broadcasts, thus reflecting a general trend towards the establishment of a uniform, universal culture. His delegation was disturbed at the cultural and political domination which could be exercised by the rich nations over the developing countries, leading to the loss of national identity and the disappearance of ancient civilizations. The heritage of those peoples would be replaced by televised messages from the great metropolitan countries at the very time when those countries themselves were beginning to question their own values. Lasting achievements in philosophy, art and science would be overshadowed by the sub-culture of drugs, sex and spiritual decadence, and poor peoples would have difficulty in resisting the cultural encroachment of the consumer society. Unlike the rich countries, Colombia did not hold the view that the desire of developing countries to restrict the indiscriminate dissemination of information from metropolitan societies to young countries was in conflict with the principles of human rights and of freedom of information. There was indeed a right of access of information, but there was also a primary right to know where the information was coming from. The rich nations should not be given a blank cheque to disseminate any information which happened to suit their interests. It was a curious fact that some countries which championed human rights took no account of the danger for nations and individuals which was inherent in the creation of a universal society. Such a society would be grey and uniform, lacking in creativity, and enslaved by trivial television programmes paid for by companies which had to create demand in order to sell their products. His delegation therefore agreed with those States which insisted that television broadcasts should only be transmitted to receiving companies by prior agreement and with respect for the cultural sovereignty of all nations.

74. With regard to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, the Committee had been faced with major scientific and legal difficulties in seeking to achieve a definition and had possibly preferred to proceed slowly rather than risk hasty conclusions. His delegation welcomed the offer made by various bodies to undertake studies on the problem, but it was properly the Committee's responsibility to deal with the subject in depth.

75. His delegation could not accept the proposal of the Soviet Union to establish a conventional boundary for air space and outer space not higher than 100 to 110 kilometres above sea level. The proposed boundary was purely arbitrary and without any scientific foundation. It seemed merely to be the minimum altitude at which satellites belonging to the major Powers could be placed in orbit, and to say that outer space began at that altitude was nonsensical. In dealing with the delimitation of outer space, account should be taken of the special character of the geostationary orbit. The physical phenomenon of the geostationary orbit was closely connected with the earth's oceans and was therefore a natural resource within the sovereignty of the countries on the Equator. The latter were all developing countries and were offering that resource for the benefit of mankind in general and the poor nations in particular. The inadequate technical and financial capacity of the poor nations meant that they could be left behind when it came to enjoying the benefits of full utilization of the geostationary orbit. The countries of the Equator had no intention of falling into the mistaken ways of the rich nations and the transnational corporations in their selfish and over-hasty consumption of natural resources. His delegation therefore favoured a study of the special character of the geostationary orbit which would lead to a full definition of it.

(Mr. Donilla, Colombia)

76. His delegation enthusiastically supported the preparations in progress for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Conference would be an event of major importance, an opportunity for the developing countries to gain knowledge of the vast potential for their economic and cultural development offered by modern space technology and telecommunications. As the developing countries were lacking in adequate communications systems, the Preparatory Committee should emphasize the need for greater publicity for the Conference. It should recommend to the Secretary-General that part of the budget of the Department of Public Information be allocated in the years preceding the Conference to publicizing the latter's purpose and scope. For the international community, the Conference was an excellent opportunity to show the developing countries what prospects the new technology could afford them and also to implement a satisfactory policy for the transfer of technology to the poor nations.

77. Mr. TUDOR (Romania) said that the exploration and use of outer space was a field in which remarkable scientific and technical progress had been achieved. All States which had contributed to the understanding, exploration and use of outer space should be congratulated, especially the Soviet Union and the United States. The international community had a lively interest in participating in the study and solution of current and potential problems in the field of outer space and in establishing a suitable framework for the development of international co-operation, which was the only way to enable the whole of mankind to benefit from space technology and its applications. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees were working to ensure that scientific and technical progress was governed by the necessary political, legal and economic principles.

78. A significant development of the current year was the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies. While reserving the right of the Romanian Government to give its final views once the agreement was signed and ratified, his delegation considered the latter an important element in the political and legal framework for international co-operation in the field of outer space. The provision in the agreement stipulating that the moon and its natural resources were the common heritage of mankind, and the implication that the other celestial bodies and their resources were to be regarded in the same light, reaffirmed the principle that the whole of outer space belonged to the whole of mankind. A significant aspect of the agreement was the commitment to establish an international régime to govern the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies, the emphasis being placed on giving priority consideration to the needs of developing countries.

79. Another positive aspect of the report of the Outer Space Committee (A/34/20) was the detailed examination of some of the major factors involved in preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In the opinion of his country, such an important conference should be carefully prepared and should cover the widest possible range of problems within the field of interest of all States, regardless of their size and economic or scientific potential. Moreover, the Conference should focus on concrete

(Mr. Tudor, Romania)

measures to strengthen technical co-operation in the field of outer space for the benefit of mankind. Special attention should be paid to problems related to the most pressing needs of the developing countries. Consideration of the problems raised by the peaceful use of outer space should be based on the concept that the applications of scientific knowledge should play a significant part in programmes to raise levels of economic and social development and to reduce disparities among nations.

80. Of the other matters covered in the Committee's report, priority should be given to the co-ordinating role of the United Nations in the practical application of space science and technology, especially in developing countries, and to enabling United Nations bodies to concentrate their efforts on the practical needs of the majority of States. There must be an increased international effort to ensure that legal principles were formulated to match scientific and technical progress. The solution of problems in that field must be integrated with efforts directed at the economic development of all States, especially the developing countries, and at democratizing international relations.

81. His delegation fully shared the view that co-operation in the field of outer space must be based on constant reaffirmation of the fundamental principles which should govern relations among States: respect for independence and national sovereignty, full equality of rights, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual advantage, and the active participation of all States in the solution of international problems. The use of outer space solely for peaceful purposes was also a fundamental principle which must be constantly kept in mind. Nations were troubled at the possibility that outer space would become an area of confrontation and serve to accelerate the arms race.

82. As for the co-ordination of co-operative endeavours, the United Nations comprised almost all the countries of the world and dealt with the key international problems, and it was therefore the most appropriate forum to deal with the problems of outer space, which States held to be the common heritage of mankind. It was in the light of that position that his country would continue to participate constructively in considering the problems on the Outer Space Committee's agenda. The draft resolutions now before the Special Political Committee, of which his country was a sponsor, would give new impetus to the work of the Outer Space Committee and its Sub-Committees and increase their effectiveness in a field which had such major implications for mankind.

83. Mr. AL-ALI (Iraq) expressed satisfaction at the results achieved by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and, in particular, the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies, as set forth in the Committee's report (A/34/20). The principle that the moon and its natural resources were the common heritage of mankind had often been emphasized by Iraq, and its incorporation into the draft agreement gave greater hope to the third world that their share of scientific progress and technological achievements would be guaranteed. His country, which was entirely satisfied with the preparations that had been made for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, endorsed the recommendations made by the Preparatory Committee. It was important that the secretariat of the Conference should be established in good time.

(Mr. Al-Ali, Iraq)

84. Unfortunately, no tangible progress had been achieved with regard to the remote sensing of the earth and direct television broadcasting by satellites. Technological developments in the remote sensing of natural resources called for the elaboration of legal principles that would enable them to be applied in such a way as to ensure respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs. The aim of remote sensing should be to develop socio-economic standards of living, especially in the developing countries, and to enable the international community to predict and deal with natural disasters. All States should therefore have access to the benefits of that advanced technology. A survey of the earth's resources by means of remote sensing should only take place with the consent of the States concerned, and their consent should also be obtained before the resulting data were supplied to a third party.

85. With regard to direct television broadcasting, his country's position was based on the principles of national sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, the utilization of scientific discoveries for educational purposes and the achievement of peace and national independence for all States. He hoped that the major Powers would not turn outer space into another field of conflict and rivalry and was confident that the Committee's work would afford an example of international co-operation for the benefit of all.

86. Mr. LA ROCCA (Italy) said that his country was actively involved in various international programmes such as those of the European Space Agency and those undertaken in the framework of bilateral agreements. Italy's Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning had finally approved the medium-term national space plan for the period 1979-1983, which provided for both basic research and applications programmes, with emphasis on telecommunications and remote sensing.

87. His delegation believed that the scientific, technical and legal aspects of remote sensing activities and direct television broadcasting should be examined in an integrated manner. It supported the principle of unrestricted dissemination of data obtained through remote sensing activities but thought that, although sensed States should have priority access to such data, they should also agree to reconcile their legitimate national interests with the general interest of mankind in order to enable the earth's resources to be developed on an equitable basis. He stressed the need for the early formulation of principles governing remote sensing activities.

88. His Government had always co-operated in the field of remote sensing, and the ground receiving station at Fucino served as a focal point for such operations throughout the Mediterranean area. His country, which was supporting the remote sensing training programmes carried out by FAO, felt strongly that remote sensing and direct television broadcasting activities should be based on the principle of the free flow of information. He saw no basis for unilateral claims to national sovereignty over the geostationary orbit and believed that procedures should be discussed to ensure its most efficient and equitable use by all States.

(Mr. La Rocca, Italy)

89. He expressed satisfaction with the preparations and provisional agenda for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which would help to increase public awareness of the importance of space activities in both the scientific and the socio-economic sector.

90. His delegation supported the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies but thought it important to bear in mind the need for measures to strengthen peace in outer space, as had been proposed by his delegation during the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. That proposal had been incorporated into the Final Document of the session as paragraph 80 of the Programme of Action. As a follow-up to that provision, the Italian Government had recently introduced in the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva a proposal (document CD/9 of 26 March 1979) aimed at the elaboration of an Additional Protocol to the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. The purpose of that proposal was to ensure that outer space would be used only for peaceful purposes and not for the stationing, launching or testing of military devices. The use of reconnaissance, surveillance and communications satellites to verify disarmament and other arms limitation agreements would not, however, be prejudiced. He hoped that the Italian document would provide a concrete basis for the discussion of that new aspect of the arms race.

91. Italy was pleased to be a sponsor of the three draft resolutions now before the Special Political Committee and hoped that they would be adopted by consensus.

92. Mr. REMEDI (Uruguay) said that the two items under discussion had acquired crucial importance for the international community as a result of their past and current impact on various aspects of the life of States. His delegation fully supported the work of the Outer Space Committee and felt that it should be broadened so as to enable the developing countries to share more fully in the benefits of space technology. He was glad to note the progress achieved in various fields, as reflected in the report of the Committee (A/34/20). Of particular significance were the endorsement by the Committee of the view of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee that remote sensing from outer space should be carried out with the greatest possible international co-operation and participation and the emphasis placed on training in all aspects of remote sensing in order to enable developing countries to benefit to the maximum. In that connexion, his delegation was especially grateful for the contributions made by the specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as the FAO remote sensing centre, CNRET, and the programmes within WMO and UNEP.

93. His delegation also attached importance to the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting and to the recommendation that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue work in that field as a matter of priority. In elaborating those principles, special account should be taken of the principles of respect for national cultures and protection of copyright and of the need to obtain the permission of the State concerned.

94. There had been an interesting exchange of ideas in the Outer Space Committee with regard to the delimitation of outer space. In his country's view, the

(Mr. Remedi, Uruguay)

principles of free access to outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies and their non-appropriation by individual nations were principles of international law binding upon all mankind and all States in the light of the relevant General Assembly resolutions. The geostationary orbit, which was indisputably situated in outer space, was subject to the principles governing outer space. However, as the present state of technology made it possible for the orbit to be saturated, his country favoured the establishment of an international authority to administer it on behalf of all mankind and to ensure its full and equitable use by all States. His delegation therefore supported the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee for a study of effective means of utilizing the geostationary orbit.

95. His delegation supported the initiative for a Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The main goal of the Conference should be to contribute to those space activities which promoted the socio-economic development of mankind, and especially of the developing peoples and countries. The developing countries must have the opportunity to assess the resources offered to them by space technology and to apply them to social, economic and cultural development in the light of their national requirements. Specialized bodies in his own country, including CIDA, the Uruguayan space research centre responsible for participation in international space research programmes and for research in legal problems connected with outer space, would pay close attention to the provisional agenda for the Conference contained in paragraph 99 of the report. He could assure members that CIDA would co-operate fully in the exchange of information and in all matters pertaining to the Conference preparations.

96. The draft of the agreement relating to the moon was a crucial development. The text contained in the report (A/34/20) crystallized the hopes of the international community. His delegation was particularly glad to note the statement in article XI of the draft agreement that the moon and its natural resources were the common heritage of mankind.

97. Mr. Figueroa (Argentina) took the Chair.

98. Mr. OUANES (Tunisia) said that space technology and communication by satellite, which were of the greatest value for millions of people living in the developing countries, should be used for the benefit of all mankind. His country endorsed the endeavours of the United Nations to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and hoped that the United Nations programme on space applications would be expanded and given greater financial support in order to increase its activities in the developing countries. He supported the principle that the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies should be conducted in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

99. Direct television broadcasting by satellites, which was of great importance for the developing countries, should receive careful consideration, and it was unfortunate that the Legal Sub-Committee had been unable to agree on a definitive text governing the matter. His delegation felt that the free dissemination of information should not give certain States the right to beam direct television

(Mr. Ouanes, Tunisia)

broadcasts from outer space towards other countries which were eager to preserve their cultural identity, since such action would infringe national sovereignty and constitute interference in internal affairs.

100. Remote sensing of the earth by satellites could be of considerable benefit in the study of natural resources and in meteorology, oceanography, agriculture and the prediction of natural disasters. However, the legitimate interests and sovereignty of the developing countries must be safeguarded, and sensed countries should be given priority access to the data thus obtained. The United Nations should establish international centres for the analysis of such data and should provide training in that field for the developing countries.

101. His delegation welcomed the recommendations regarding the convening of a Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and hoped that the Conference would help to eliminate some aspects of the current imbalance between nations in that field.

102. Mr. VUKOVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the draft agreement governing the activities of States on the moon and other celestial bodies expressed the desire of the international community for a code of conduct among States participating in the exploration of outer space. He hoped that the draft agreement would meet with the support of the General Assembly so that it could be sent to Member States for signature and ratification.

103. Although certain legal issues relating to the arrangements for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had not been explicitly referred to in the report of the Outer Space Committee, he supported the proposed draft agenda and other proposals relating to the preparations for the Conference, as set forth in paragraphs 84-115, and hoped that the General Assembly would endorse the Committee's recommendations in that respect.

104. The Committee had not been able to make any significant progress in the elaboration of principles relating to remote sensing of the earth and direct television broadcasting by satellites because of the inflexibility of some countries whose position on certain key issues had remained practically unchanged. Attempts by some members of the Committee to take advantage of their technological development and their influence in order to impose solutions which ran counter to the basic rights of other countries, especially the developing countries, could not be accepted. He felt that controversial ideological and political positions in bilateral and inter-bloc relations should not be introduced into the work of the Committee.

105. He had doubts regarding the Committee's methods of work and thought that there was some unnecessary duplication between the activities of the Committee and those of its Sub-Committees. He felt that the general debate in the Sub-Committees was rather unnecessary and that parallel work by the two Sub-Committees would be helpful not only from the financial point of view but also because it would enable experts to examine common issues together and thus reduce the time needed for their

(Mr. Vuković, Yugoslavia)

solution. His delegation therefore associated itself with the proposal submitted by a group of countries in annex III of the report.

106. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its debate on items 48 and 49. Statements from the Secretary-General concerning the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A/SPC/34/L.10 and A/SPC/34/L.11 would be circulated the following morning, and the Committee would then be able to take action on the draft resolutions and conclude its consideration of the two items in the afternoon. In accordance with the programme of work, the following week would begin with a discussion of item 52 concerning peace-keeping operations, followed by item 53 relating to information.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.