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PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY CONCERNING THE MOON

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Giovanni MIGLIUOLO (Italy)

1. The item entitled "Preparation of an international treaty concerning the Moon" was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly on the basis of a memorandum dated 27 May 1971 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/8391 and Corr. 1). The text of a draft international treaty concerning the Moon was attached to the above memorandum.
2. At its 1939th plenary meeting, on 25 September 1971, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include this item in the agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. The First Committee, at its 1803rd meeting on 11 October decided to hold the general debate on this item jointly with agenda item 33 entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space", it being understood that any delegation would be free, if it so wished, to make two separate statements in the general debate. It was also decided that at the conclusion of the general debate the draft proposals on resolutions under each of the two items would be considered separately by the Committee under their respective titles.

4. The general debate on the two items was held at the 1819th to 1825th meetings, from 4 to 10 November.
5. The First Committee had before it, in connexion with this item, the text of a draft treaty concerning the Moon (A/C.1/L.568), which was introduced by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the 1820th meeting, on 5 November.
6. On 9 November, a letter dated 24 September 1971 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee concerning this item (A/C.1/1017) was circulated at the direction of the Chairman.
7. During the debate in the Committee, a draft resolution was submitted on 8 November by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, India, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Sweden and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.1/L.572) and later co-sponsored by Sierra Leone.
8. At its 1826th meeting, on 11 November 1971, the 12-Power draft resolution was unanimously adopted by the Committee (see paragraph 9 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Preparation of an international treaty concerning the Moon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2222 (XXI) of 19 December 1966 stressing the importance of international co-operation in the field of activities in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and the importance of developing the rule of law in this new area of human endeavour,

Reaffirming the common interest of all mankind in furthering the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of all States and for the development of friendly relations and mutual understanding among them,

Taking into account the advances made in recent years in the exploration of outer space, including those resulting from extensive lunar research programmes on the basis of modern science and technology,

Bearing in mind the interest of all mankind in the exploration and utilization of the Moon exclusively for peaceful purposes and in preventing the Moon from becoming a scene of international conflict,

Prompted by the consideration that the Moon, as the only natural satellite of the Earth, has an important role to play in the conquest of outer space and that it should be used with due regard to the interests of present and future generations,

Desiring to further the elaboration of specific rules of international law to govern the activities of States on the Moon on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, as a means of further developing a sound legal basis for such activities,

Considering that special rules should also govern activities in the use of all natural resources and substances of the Moon and other celestial bodies,

1. Takes note of the draft treaty concerning the Moon submitted to the General Assembly by the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;
2. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Sub-Committee to consider, as a matter of priority, the question of the elaboration of a draft international treaty concerning the Moon in accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraph 38 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space^{1/} and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/8420).