

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/AC.105/PV.194  
20 June 1979

ENGLISH

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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 20 June 1979, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria)

General exchange of views (continued)

Applications of space science and technology and activities in outer space (continued)

- (a) Remote sensing of the earth by satellites
- (b) Direct television broadcasting by satellites
- (c) Definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit
- (d) Space transportation systems
- (e) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space
- (f) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit
- (g) Draft treaty relating to the moon

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS (continued)

Mr. TROYANOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In the documents of the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union it was pointed out that the conquest of space was among the global problems affecting the interests of all mankind, problems that in time would exert a growing influence on the life of each people and on the entire system of international relations. It is specifically this position, that of an approach to the exploration of outer space as the problem of all mankind, that forms the basis of the study and conquest of outer space in the Soviet Union.

This principle is one to which we have consistently and unswervingly adhered, both in the area of planned space flights and in the area of the conquest of space using automated spacecraft, both in the study of outer space so as to increase our knowledge of the universe and in the application of space technology in solving practical problems in the interests of the development of the national economy.

In the area of manned space flights, the efforts of Soviet researchers in space have been concentrated on the establishment of long-lived manned orbital space stations which can exchange crews and which can carry out a broad spectrum of scientific experiments and tasks relating to applications. An important step in this direction has been the creation on the SALYUT-6 space station of a piloted manned research complex which includes the SOYUZ transport spacecraft and the unmanned cargo ship, PROGRESS. In 1978, the orbital scientific research complex SALYUT-6-SOYUZ witnessed the two longest expeditions in outer space history. One lasted 96 days. The crew were cosmonauts Romanenko and Grechko. And there was a mission of 140 days in which cosmonauts Kovalyenko and Ivanchenkov took part. During these expeditions, major programmes of scientific and technical experiments were carried out in connexion with key problems of space research.

(Mr. Troyanovsky, USSR)

Research aboard the SALYUT-6 orbiting space station became international in nature in 1978 as part of the INTERCOSMOS programme. At that time, three international crews worked at the station. They included cosmonaut Remek from the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic; cosmonaut Hermaszewski from the Polish People's Republic; and cosmonaut Yen from the German Democratic Republic. This year aboard the SOYUZ-33 spacecraft there was a flight manned by an international crew consisting of cosmonauts Roukavishnikov from the Soviet Union and Ivanov from the Bulgarian People's Republic. During the flights by the international crews, more than 30 experiments were carried out in the study of the physical characteristics of outer space, in space biology and medicine, in the study of materials and in remote sensing of the earth.

The work of the international crews aboard the Soviet Spacecraft and the orbital stations will continue. Along with Soviet cosmonauts, flights will be made by citizens of the Hungarian People's Republic, of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, of the Republic of Cuba, of the Mongolian People's Republic and of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Within the framework of co-operation between the Soviet Union and France in the exploration of outer space, the Soviet Union has proposed that one of the space flights should include a French cosmonaut. The realization of this proposal would make it possible to carry out a number of joint research efforts.

At the present time, in the SALYUT-6-SOYUZ orbital complex, cosmonauts Lyakov and Ryumin are engaged in a third long-term expedition. They have carried out aboard that station major repairs and preventive maintenance work that are of great significance for future manned space flights.

A significant part of the Soviet space programme is devoted to applied experiments, whose results make possible their broad application in the national economy. For research along these lines - which is being carried out within the framework of the national programme as well as of the international co-operation programmes - use is being made of various outer space resources - for example, manned orbital stations and spacecraft, satellites, sounding-rockets and sounding-balloons.

(Mr. Troyanovsky, USSR)

Each year more and more significance is being attached to the study of the natural resources of the earth, using outer space resources, in the interest of the various branches of the national economy.

The specialists particularly commend that multi-zonal photographs that are received from the SALYUT-6 orbital station. These are made possible by use of the MKF-6M camera, which was jointly developed by specialists from the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic and manufactured in the latter country. The information yielded by these photographs is at present being intensively used, not just by Soviet scientists and specialists, but also by other countries which are participating in the INTERCOSMOS programme.

In studying the earth's natural resources, the Soviet Union has also launched specialized satellites COSMOS-1010, COSMOS-1033 and COSMOS-1106, and for receiving operational information on the world's oceans the Soviet Union is using COSMOS-1076.

On 7 June 1979, the Soviet Union, by means of a Soviet rocket launcher, put into orbit the second Indian satellite, BHASKARA, whose equipment is intended to study the natural resources of the earth. The operational meteorological space system, METEOR, is operating successfully and information emanating from it is used in weather forecasting.

(Mr. Troyanovsky, USSR)

Attempts are being made to refine the second generation of meteorological Sputniks called METEOR-2. These satellites contain experimental optical and mechanical television equipment to receive global images of the cloud cover and the earth's surface in the visible and infra-red zones of the spectrum. The information coming from the Soviet meteorological satellites is widely used by the meteorological services of many of the countries of the world.

There has been a further development in outer space communications. In December 1978, the GORIZONT communications satellite was launched with refined retransmission equipment aboard. The GORIZONT satellites will be used in 1980 in the system for the transmission of television broadcasts from the Soviet Union, from the location of the sports competitions to be held in the twenty-second Olympic Games. Likewise, the regular series of MOLNIA, RADUGA and EKTRAN satellites are in operation, and they are providing the transmission of television programmes and other types of information to ground stations in the Orbit network and to low-level antennae for collective use situated in various regions of the Soviet Union.

In 1978 the Orbit receiving stations numbered as many as 84. The international communications satellite system called INTERSPUTNIK is being successfully developed. For educational and radio entertainment purposes, two radio satellites have been launched. On the COSMOS-1000 Navigational Satellite equipment has been set up to develop a navigational system being established for the purpose of locating ships of the sea fleet and the fishing fleets of the Soviet Union anywhere on the earth's oceans.

In the Soviet Union great attention is being given to scientific research in and the exploration of outer space, which is of great importance in the solving of fundamental problems in our contemporary knowledge of nature. The scientific exploration of outer space and the applied uses of astronautics are inextricably linked. The long history of science and technology and the 20 years of experience in outer-space research provide incontrovertible testimony to the fact that at times, in the most unexpected ways, the achievements of pure science find some application in the national economy and in the satisfaction of the practical needs of human beings.

(Mr. Troyanovsky, USSR)

In our country we are continuing intensive exploration of the upper atmosphere, of the earth's magnetosphere and of links between the earth and the sun through use of the COSMOS and INTERCOSMOS satellite systems. We are also using the PROGNOZ automatic unmanned stations.

Major achievements have been noted in the interplanetary flights of unmanned stations VENERA-2 and VENERA-12. In addition to use of outer-space resources for the national economy, the Soviet Union is carrying out broad international co-operation in fundamental research into outer space. For many years successful joint work has been going on with the socialist countries within the INTERCOSMOS programme, and there have also been joint programmes with India, France and Sweden. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam became the tenth country to participate in the INTERCOSMOS programme. On 17 May 1979, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam became a party to the Agreement on Co-operation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes. That agreement was signed by nine socialist countries in Moscow on 13 July 1976.

Within the framework of Soviet-French co-operation, in this past year there have been a number of joint experiments using equipment aboard the interplanetary unmanned stations VENERA-11 and VENERA-12 and on board the PROGNOZ-7 station.

Swedish scientists have been participating in the joint programme SAMBO-2, which is studying the physical processes in the polar ionosphere using equipment aboard aerostatic balloons.

Aboard the PROGNOZ-7 station we have placed a mass analyser for the study of high-energy particles in the plasma of the earth's magnetosphere. That equipment was developed jointly by Soviet and Swedish specialists.

There is continuing co-operation between the Soviet Union and the United States of America in space biology and space medicine. There is also an exchange under way on the results of the exploration of the moon and the planets.

Thus we are witnesses to the practical implementation of that provision of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty which states:

"The exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind." (General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI)).

(Mr. Troyanovsky, USSR)

We should like to remind the Committee that the Soviet Government has expressed its readiness to hold the second United Nations Conference on Outer Space in Moscow in August 1982. It is our hope that at this session the Committee will take an appropriate decision and that preparations for the Conference will begin in the near future.

The scientific and technical problems of the conquest of space are in their specifics especially closely intertwined with political and ideological problems and problems of international law. That is the very reason our Committee is giving great attention to the progressive development of international space law. The Soviet Union has likewise been actively participating in that.

Today we should like once again to emphasize that we advocate the very rapid completion of the elaboration of principles to govern the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. It is our opinion that there all the necessary conditions exist for the completion of that work at this session of the Committee.

There is a similar situation in regard to the drafting of a draft treaty relating to the moon. If all States represented here show a spirit of goodwill, clearly it will be possible to find compromise wording acceptable to all with regard to the legal status of the moon and its natural resources. In this connexion I should like to say a few words about the need constantly to search for compromises in our Committee. The fact that we are working on a basis of consensus forces each of us to seek, in an especially intensive way, generally acceptable compromises. Otherwise the results of the work of the Committee will not be very good.

Guided by the spirit of compromise, our delegation intends at this session to introduce as an official document a draft of fundamental provisions for a General Assembly resolution on the question of the delimitation of air space and outer space and the legal status of the outer-space segment in which the orbits of geostationary satellites are located. It is specifically through compromise, by going half way to meet the wishes of a number of countries, that we feel it will be possible to consider both of these questions as one package. In this connexion we cannot but express our surprise at some of the attempts to solve the problem of the geostationary orbit outside the framework of the United Nations

(Mr. Troyanovsky, USSR)

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space - attempts that run counter to the established spirit of broad international co-operation in this area. We have in mind the joint Colombian-Ecuadorian statement of 2 March 1979 in which, in particular, it is stated that:

"The parties again state their sovereign rights to their respective segments of the geostationary orbit, and they feel that it is advisable to co-ordinate with other equatorial countries their activities in defence of those rights in the international arena."



(Mr. Trcyanovsky, USSR)

It is hardly likely that the international community will agree that such actions are legal.

Mr. Chairman, as you have rightly pointed out, this session of the Committee opened on the historic day when the new Soviet-American Treaty on strategic arms limitation was signed. That Treaty is a substantial contribution to the cause of avoiding a nuclear war and strengthening détente. The Treaty not only will serve the interests of the Soviet and American peoples, but also responds to the aspirations of mankind. A great many difficulties were encountered during the process of drafting this SALT-II Treaty, but they were overcome. In this connexion, I should like to express the certainty that our Committee too will be able to overcome the present difficulties and to make a contribution to the cause of the development of international co-operation and mutual understanding.

APPLICATIONS OF SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ACTIVITIES IN OUTER SPACE (continued)

- (a) REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH BY SATELLITES
- (b) DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING BY SATELLITES
- (c) DEFINITION AND/OR DELIMITATION OF OUTER SPACE AND OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES, BEARING IN MIND, INTER ALIA, QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT.
- (d) SPACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
- (e) USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN OUTER SPACE
- (f) EXAMINATION OF THE PHYSICAL NATURE AND TECHNICAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT
- (g) DRAFT TREATY RELATING TO THE MOON

Mr. SANCHEZ PEÑA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to make some comments on the question of remote sensing.

As will be recalled, at its 211th meeting the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee established an informal drafting group, under the chairmanship

(Mr. Sanchez Pefa,  
Argentina)

of Mr. Strome of Canada, to prepare a report on remote sensing. Although much effort was exerted, very little agreement has been reached so far. Various views were expressed. For example, some delegations stated that trade-offs among spatial, spectral and radiometric resolutions could be made in the design of optical remote sensing instruments. It was also stated that there were no simple or practical scientific bases for classifying remote sensing data into global, regional and/or local data. Other delegations expressed the view that classification would be essential for purposes of data dissemination and that spatial resolution should be the key parameter for such classification.

There can be no doubt but that this topic is far from simple; however, the fact that we must await definitions in regard to classification should not delay the receipt of information on remote sensing.

The view was also expressed that there is a need to define the terms "coarse", "medium", and "fine" with regard to spatial resolutions. My delegation feels that to try to attach quantified values to the terms "coarse", "medium", and "fine" resolution, with reference to spatial resolution, can only reflect the personal views of a particular specialist and, therefore, would lead to highly subjective results.

With regard to my country's national activities in the domain of remote sensing, my delegation wishes to note that these activities are increasing from day to day. National, regional and international meetings are being held. For instance, a Latin American seminar on applications of remote sensing in the evaluation of natural resources was held from 4 to 8 June in Buenos Aires, under the auspices of Argentina's National Commission for Space Research and with the sponsorship of the Organization of American States. This seminar was useful for directors of bodies dealing with the development and management of natural resources. Under the sponsorship and auspices of the United Nations, another regional meeting will be held next November; it will be devoted in particular to non-renewable resources, with special reference to the Latin American region - that is, the region covered by the Economic Commission for Latin America. The latter event is part of the United Nations Programme on the applications and teaching of space technology.

(Mr. Sanchez Peña, Argentina)

With regard to land-based facilities, my delegation would like to state that progress is now being made on the construction of the LANDSAT station in the Mar Chiquita area of Buenos Aires Province; it will be operational early in 1980 and will have facilities for receiving and processing images.

In this connexion, I should like to mention that during its sixteenth session the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee expressed the view that remote sensing activities from outer space should be carried out with the greatest possible international co-operation and participation. In that context, the need to provide assistance to developing countries was recognized. The Sub-Committee also called on the countries and bodies which had constructed or were considering constructing stations with land-based or spatial systems for remote sensing from satellites to continue and expand the co-ordination of their activities, as well as their co-operation.

Following up what was said in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its sixteenth session, my delegation once again wishes to offer Argentina as the headquarters for a regional remote sensing centre, especially with reference to the provision of specialists and other personnel. Moreover, through the national body - that is the National Commission on Space Research - we are studying the specific possibility of providing, in the field of the applications of space technology, fellowships to developing countries that request them.

(Mr. Sanchez Peña, Argentina)

These fellowships could be useful in promoting a better understanding of these applications in countries which are only beginning on them.

My delegation would welcome similar offers with reference to the use of space technology for development and we would like to invite other delegations to try to make similar or complementary proposals.

Finally, there are many countries which cannot benefit fully from space research, and therefore we should use our efforts to ensure that the scientific and technological development of outer space works for the benefit of all the countries of the world, in particular the developing countries, and we should ensure that the developing countries do not fall too far behind those countries which are in the vanguard of space technology development.

Those are the few brief comments that I wished to make with reference to the topic of remote sensing.

Mr. WALKER (Canada): In keeping with thoughts that have been expressed over the past couple of days by various delegations to the effect that we should concentrate our attention perhaps more on items which offer greater promise of progress, we would now like to speak briefly about one topic which we consider qualifies for this increased attention, and that is nuclear power sources in space.

In our general statement we outlined our views in very general terms on this question and we should now like to turn to look at it in considerably more detail in direct relation to the future work programme of the Committee. In doing so we should like to focus on two aspects of this question: first of all, the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee; and secondly, the work of the Legal Sub-Committee.

With regard to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee we should like to focus on three particular aspects: first, the next meeting of the Sub-Committee and of the Working Group on Nuclear Power Sources; secondly, the preparation of studies which various countries have indicated they have the intention of undertaking; and, thirdly, the question of informal consultations.

(Mr. Walker, Canada)

With regard to the next meeting of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Working Group on Nuclear Power Sources, we should like if possible to avoid the problem which occurred earlier this year of concurrent, overlapping working groups. It is our objective - and, I know, that of the Chairman and the Secretariat - to encourage as wide a participation as possible in debates on these kinds of questions and concurrent or overlapping sessions of the kind that we encountered in February make that very difficult for a number of countries. To this end we would suggest that the Working Group on Nuclear Power Sources meet for one week prior to the beginning of the Sub-Committee meeting. We do not propose that the total length of time the Sub-Committee meets should be any greater than this year, but that the work be reordered in this fashion. The Working Group agreed in February that we did need a week of time and certainly nothing has happened since then to change our views in that regard.

The preparation of studies is another item to which we attach considerable importance because of the need to ensure an adequate technical base for the discussions that are going to take place both within this Sub-Committee and, we would propose, within the Legal Sub-Committee.

Canada is proceeding as quickly as possible with three studies of its own - one on radiation hazards, the second on orbital mechanics, and the third on the technical aspects of search and recovery. We hope other countries which themselves have undertaken studies will be able to meet the deadline of September, as the Working Group has suggested, so that the process of the collation of the various contributions can begin on schedule.

With regard to informal consultations, we would like to suggest for consideration at this point that these take in the form of one meeting in Geneva in early December to assist with the collation of information in order to permit the Sub-Committee and the Working Group to make greater progress next year at the time of the formal meetings. Several countries during the last few days have already reaffirmed their interest in these consultations and we hope that in the next week and a half that the details can be largely worked out with the assistance of the Secretariat. It has been our view that the Working Group on Nuclear Power Sources within the Sub-Committee made

(Mr. Walker, Canada)

a very good constructive start last February and we see the steps that we have outlined above as ensuring that this progress continues at a pace that has made this one of the more productive areas of the Sub-Committee's work.

With regard to the Legal Sub-Committee, we should like to see the efforts begun in March towards including a specific item on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee on nuclear power sources continued. We strongly believe that there is useful, valuable work that the Legal Sub-Committee can be doing in parallel with the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. A number of countries, both in March and here during these meetings, have indicated their agreement to this approach.

Canada made several proposals in March on specific aspects of nuclear power sources for consideration by the Legal Sub-Committee. We would welcome further suggestions or any discussion at all on these particular aspects of the problem. These suggestions, or others, could in our view be quite satisfactorily discussed under an item on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee, entitled perhaps "The legal aspects of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space".

These brief comments are quite specific. They are intended to ensure that work on this important item continues at the maximum pace possible and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss these with any and all interested delegations over the next few days.

Mr. YASH PAL (India): During the debate up to now, many delegations have referred to the fact that progress has almost been made on two or three topics, but that we have fallen short of taking the final step of achieving agreements on those issues - namely, on direct broadcasting by satellites, the moon treaty and, although the case is somewhat different, the delimitation of outer space.

As we do not have specific time allocated to informal discussions of any of these topics, at which the Committee might be able, or might make an attempt, at least, to achieve progress on these matters, I do believe that this Committee has a responsibility to take matters up from where they have been left by the Sub-Committees and to try and see whether something new can be done, or a new direction can be given. So my proposal would be that we might meet informally in small groups to discuss these three items separately during the course of the next two or three days.

The discussion of direct broadcasting by satellites, for example, could be conducted by either Canada or Sweden. This would allow us to see what is left over. I have heard comments by several delegations about the moon treaty and the possibility of give-and-take. Perhaps we should have some discussion on that, and probably some discussion and elaboration of the question of the delimitation of outer space - though to me it seems rather unlikely that this will yield any specific results. But on this occasion we could discuss it a little further and probably get some better understanding.

As I say, I would suggest that, if we could set aside a period for informal discussion and select some leaders for this purpose, it would probably help to improve our record.

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of India is certainly correct in pointing out that this Committee has a certain number of responsibilities to its subsidiary bodies and, if there is a sufficiently broad basis of consensus, it can provide the type of leadership and initiative that can further the work of the subsidiary bodies. It can also, if it comes to agreements, dispense with items which are now still on the agenda of the Sub-Committees. If on any of these subjects mentioned by the representative of India or by others this Committee could reach agreement or consensus, we should certainly have made an important contribution to the handling of these items by the Sub-Committees.

We have all thus taken due note of the suggestion of the representative of India to establish one or several informal working groups to deal with various subjects. I feel, however - and I wish to submit this consideration to the Committee - that we should perhaps, while bearing that valuable proposal in mind, hear a few more delegations in the general debate, which has hardly begun and which will reach a first culminating point tomorrow, and then, on the basis of what we have heard and on the basis of undercurrents that may emerge, take the appropriate procedural decisions. I think the proposal of Mr. Yash Pal goes in the right direction. He has expressed something which is emerging and beginning to take shape, but we should perhaps give it another 24 or 48 hours before we come to any formal procedural decisions.

That said, all delegations are, of course, encouraged, in an even more informal framework - meaning in their bilateral discussions - to make progress in these various subjects and narrow the areas of disagreement. Perhaps we may proceed in that way, if there is no objection.

Does any other delegation wish to speak on agenda item 4?



Mr. DEBERGH (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Sir, I did not intend to speak today, but I do not think I could pay a greater tribute to your chairmanship than to speak now on one part of agenda item 4 - that is, on 4 (c), which deals with the definition and/or delimitation of outer space. I propose to speak on the other items tomorrow.

As members are no doubt aware, my country has long favoured an all-inclusive delimitation and definition of outer space, and, moreover, does not overlook the need also to elaborate functional definitions of such notions as outer space activities, space object and spacecraft. In this connexion, Belgian scientists, through our representative in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee a few years ago, submitted a working paper regarding such an all-inclusive delimitation.

It is also noteworthy that during the past two or three years the Belgian delegation has expressed some hesitation and certain doubts about the attempt to make the lower limits of outer space coincide with the upper limits of national air space.

We believe that this would not satisfy an objective need. We feel that it would not make much sense for many countries - and I am thinking of my own country, whose territory is so narrow that it can be traversed by a supersonic aircraft in three or four minutes. Moreover, the great majority of States are incapable of controlling their national airspace at very high altitudes; nor do they have any way of complying with their operational responsibilities at very high altitudes. I would add that setting upper limits to national air space at very high altitudes would increase the risk of friction and conflict, which is something our world could do very well without.

Throughout the history of our Committee we have always been faced with the argument that there is no need to delimit outer space, that the absence of delimitation creates no problem at all and that, on the contrary, delimitation would indeed create problems.

(Mr. Debergh, Belgium)

There has been special insistence on the fact that until now space activities have always taken place without difficulty, in spite of the absence of delimitation, and I agree with that. I bow before that statement of fact, but I put the question: will it always be that way?

I do not wish to repeat here the arguments which my country and many others set forth concerning the thesis of the delimitation and definition of outer space. But I should like to make an exception for one of those arguments, especially because in this regard I feel encouraged by the very wise words spoken yesterday by the representative of India. This argument is the following. It is vital for the interests of States and for the international community to know the exact line beyond which the field of application of article IV of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 begins. That article, whose scope may be judged insufficient if we refer to the proposal in document CD/9 which Italy put forward on 26 March last in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and which the representative of Italy mentioned this morning, contains the extremely important principle of the exclusively peaceful use of outer space and of the prohibition of the introduction of certain types of weapons and installations in that milieu. This article IV is therefore an extremely worth-while article, and its application should be as broad as possible in all areas of space. In other words, we would be rendering an appreciable service to the cause of denuclearization, demilitarization and disarmament if we were to establish the limit of outer space as low as possible, in any case below the limit of 100 or 110 kilometres which is generally proposed. If this thesis were to imply a revision of the Belgian working paper which I mentioned, that revision would not for us, Belgian legal experts, be traumatic in nature.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the Rapporteur who has asked to be allowed to speak at this point.

Mr. GARCIA (Brazil), Rapporteur of the Committee: I want to apologize to the members of the Committee for my absence in the last two days. As you know, it was due to work in another organ of the United Nations, and I simply could not leave at the time. I just want formally to apologize to the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I welcome the Rapporteur most cordially in our midst.

Incidentally, I also have the pleasure of welcoming back Mr. Murthy, who has rejoined us today after a brief absence.

I have no further speakers on my list. I should like to inform the Committee that starting with tomorrow we shall have a long list of speakers. I therefore appeal to all delegations to arrive promptly so that we can start our meetings on time.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.