



**REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE
ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 20 (A/9020)

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NOTE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space met at United Nations Headquarters from 25 June to 6 July 1973, under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Jankowitsch (Austria). Mr. Ion Datcu (Romania) served as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Celso A. de Souza e Silva (Brazil) as Rapporteur. The verbatim records of the Committee's meetings were contained in documents A/AC.105/PV.120-130.

Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Legal Sub-Committee held its twelfth session at United Nations Headquarters from 26 March to 20 April 1973, under the chairmanship of Mr. Eugeniusz Wyzner (Poland). The summary records of the Sub-Committee's meetings were contained in documents A/AC.105/C.2/SR.192-207. The report of the Sub-Committee was contained in document A/AC.105/115.

3. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee held its tenth session at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 18 May 1973 under the chairmanship of Mr. J. H. Carver (Australia). The summary records of the Sub-Committee's sessions were contained in documents A/AC.105/C.1/SR.103-114 and A/AC.105/C.1/SR.117. The report of the Sub-Committee was contained in document A/AC.105/116.

4. The Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites held its fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 22 June 1973, under the chairmanship of Mr. Olof Rydbeck (Sweden). The report of the Working Group was contained in document A/AC.105/117.

Sixteenth session of the Committee

5. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space began its sixteenth session on 25 June 1973, and adopted the following agenda:

1. Statement by the Chairman
2. Consideration of:
 - (a) The report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/115)
 - (b) The report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/116)
 - (c) The report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites (A/AC.105/117)
3. Other matters
4. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

6. The Committee, having been informed that its Rapporteur, Mr. Celso A. de Souza e Silva was being assigned to a new post, agreed at its 129th meeting to include "Election of a Rapporteur" as an additional item in its agenda. At the conclusion of its session (130th meeting), the Committee elected Mr. Luiz Felipe de Seixas-Corrêa (Brazil) as its new Rapporteur.

7. In addition to the reports of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- A/AC.105/L.69 Draft Principles Governing Remote Sensing of the Earth Resources from Outer Space (Paper submitted by France)
- A/AC.105/L.70 Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session
- A/AC.105/L.71 Direct Broadcast Satellites (Working paper presented by the United States of America)*
- A/AC.105/L.72 Status of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (Statement by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 113.1 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations)
- A/AC.105/L.74 Draft Treaty Relating to the Moon (Austria: proposal)
- A/AC.105/118 Background Paper by the Secretary-General Assessing United Nations Documents and Other Pertinent Data Related to the Subject of Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites
- A/AC.105/119 World Meteorological Organization Tropical Cyclone Project: Progress Report

8. Representatives of the following Member States attended the session: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

9. Representatives of the following specialized agencies attended the session: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). A representative of the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) also attended the session.

10. A list of representatives of Member States and specialized agencies attending the session is contained in document A/AC.105/XVI/INF.1.

* Paragraph 5 (d) (ii) of the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites (A/AC.105/117) refers to this document.

11. At the opening of the session, at the 120th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee made a statement highlighting main developments in national and international co-operative efforts in the peaceful uses of outer space since the fifteenth session of the Committee, in September 1972. The text of his statement is reproduced in annex I.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee agreed to establish an informal Working Group of the whole to review the draft treaty relating to the Moon and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space and to try to achieve progress towards agreement on these two draft international instruments.

13. The Committee held its general debate on the items before it from the 121st to 126th meeting, between 26 June and 2 July, in the course of which statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Those statements were contained in the verbatim records of the 121st to 126th meetings of the Committee. The representative of the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) also made a statement, which was contained in the record of the 127th meeting.

14. The Committee noted with appreciation the way in which the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus, the great Polish astronomer, had found its reflection in space activities, in particular in the launching of two satellites, one by the USSR, created in co-operation between scientists of the USSR and Poland, and another by the United States, as well as in other scientific activities, as reflected in paragraph 9 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

15. After considering the various items before it and reviewing the results of the work of its informal working group referred to in paragraph 12 above, the Committee, at its 130th meeting, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing conclusions and recommendations as set out in the paragraphs below.

II. REPORT OF THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE

16. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its twelfth session (AC.105/115).

17. The Committee noted that, in accordance with the recommendation made by the Committee at its fifteenth session, the Legal Sub-Committee pursued as a matter of priority the consideration of the draft treaty relating to the Moon and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space.

18. In this connexion, the Committee expressed its satisfaction that in seeking to reach agreement on certain provisions of those two draft international instruments, the Legal Sub-Committee, through the two Working Groups it had re-established to consider these matters, had made further progress, as indicated in paragraphs 14 to 19 and paragraphs 20 to 26 of the report of the Sub-Committee.

19. The Committee noted in particular that Working Group I of the Sub-Committee had approved the text of six provisions for the draft treaty relating to the Moon, as referred to in paragraph 17 of the report of the Sub-Committee, and that Working Group II had approved the text of a preamble and 10 articles, as well as the title of the draft convention on registration, as referred to in paragraph 24 of the report. The Committee further noted the statement by the Chairman of Working Group II on various matters considered by that Working Group in connexion with the draft convention on registration, as reported in paragraph 25 of the report of the Sub-Committee.

20. The Committee at the same time noted that some differences of view remained to be resolved for the completion of the texts of the draft treaty relating to the Moon and draft convention on registration.

21. In this connexion, the Committee took note of the recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in paragraphs 19 and 26 of its report, that the Committee make its best efforts to complete both the draft treaty relating to the Moon and the draft convention on registration, with a view to their submission to the General Assembly for adoption at its twenty-eighth session.

22. In response to those recommendations, the Committee at the opening of its session (120th meeting) agreed to establish an informal Working Group of the whole, referred to in paragraph 12, to review the draft treaty relating to the Moon, and the draft convention on registration and to try to achieve progress towards agreement on these two draft international instruments.

23. The informal Working Group held six meetings under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Committee.

24. The report of the Chairman of the informal Working Group, which the Committee noted with appreciation, is contained in annex II of the present report.

25. The Committee noted the working paper relating to article X of the draft treaty relating to the Moon submitted by the delegation of Austria (A/AC.105/L.74).

This working paper contains the text of a proposal presented by the Austrian representative during the informal consultations in his capacity as chairman of these consultations. Although no agreement on this text was reached, some delegations were of the opinion that this proposal would be useful in the course of future discussions concerning the draft treaty relating to the Moon and therefore requested the delegation of Austria to submit it formally for its inclusion in the present report.* Some other delegations were of the opinion that the text originally worked out in informal consultations and considered by Working Group I of the Legal Sub-Committee during its twelfth session would provide a useful basis for reaching an agreement on the question of natural resources of the Moon and other celestial bodies, and therefore expressed a desire that this text also be annexed to the present report.* Still other delegations considered that formulations previously presented in the Legal Sub-Committee would also afford a useful basis for further deliberations on this question.

26. The Committee also took note of the fact that, because of lack of time, the Legal Sub-Committee was not able to consider the remaining items on the agenda of its twelfth session, namely on matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities; the various implications of space communications: report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites; and matters relating to the activities carried out through remote sensing satellite surveys of earth resources, noting at the same time that some delegations recorded their views on those questions in the general debate.

27. The Committee also noted that the Sub-Committee considered the question of altering the priorities of items on its agenda, and that it was the view of the Sub-Committee that the Committee itself might wish to consider the question in the light of the discussions in the Legal Sub-Committee and of developments prior to, and during, the session of the Committee.

28. The Committee, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 2915 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972, requested the Legal Sub-Committee to make its best efforts to complete the draft treaty relating to the Moon and the draft convention on registration at its next session as a matter of highest priority. The Committee also requested the Legal Sub-Committee to consider at its next session the question of elaborating principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972, taking due account of the results of the work of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, as referred to in paragraph 6 of the present report. In this connexion, the Committee also noted that the General Assembly adopted resolution 2917 (XXVII), also on 9 November 1972.

29. The Committee further requested the Legal Sub-Committee thereafter to devote part of its next session to responding to the request of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites for its views on the legal implications of earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites. Finally, the Committee requested the Legal Sub-Committee to consider, as time permits, matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities.

* The Committee decided to annex these texts to its report (see A/AC.105/PV.130). Accordingly, they are reproduced in annex II, appendix "A".

III. REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE

30. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the work of its tenth session (A/AC.105/116). In considering the various recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in the report, the Committee expressed its views as set out in the following paragraphs.

A. Promotion of the application of space technology

1. Remote sensing of the Earth by satellites

31. The Committee noted that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee during its tenth session devoted a considerable part of its work to the consideration of the report of its Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites (A/AC.105/111), whose activities in the performance of its mandate the Sub-Committee commended. The Committee was gratified at the progress made by the Working Group and the advanced stage it had reached in its work on the promising area of space applications. The Committee shared the view expressed by the Sub-Committee in approving the general outline of the future work of the Working Group as outlined in its progress report.

32. The Committee, in particular, approved the recommendations of the Sub-Committee, set out in paragraph 14 of its report (A/AC.105/116), concerning the following measures:

- the preparation of a second survey of potential users of remote sensing from space (subparagraph 14 (a));
- the collection by the Secretary-General of additional and current information from all specialized agencies and other competent United Nations bodies and international organizations represented on the Sub-Committee as observers, on their activities related to remote sensing (subparagraph 14 (b));
- the holding of workshops by the Expert on Space Applications on a regional basis for the training of specialists in developing countries on remote sensing and interpretation of images and data acquired by satellites and other platforms (subparagraph 14 (c));
- measures to be taken by the Expert on Space Applications with a view to emphasizing the role remote sensing can play in such areas as cartographic activities (subparagraph 14 (d));
- the establishment by the Working Group of a task force on data dissemination and utilization (subparagraph 14 (e));
- the preparation of an information pamphlet on remote sensing (paragraph 14 (f)).

2. United Nations programme on space applications

33. The Committee reviewed the report of the Sub-Committee relating to the status of the United Nations programme on space applications, as set out in paragraphs 15 to 19 of the report.

34. The Committee noted with satisfaction that further progress had been made in the implementation of the programme and in this connexion expressed its appreciation to the new Expert on Space Applications, Mr. H. G. S. Murthy who has continued the successful implementation of the United Nations programme on space applications, and contributed to the development of a further programme, as indicated in his report and reflected in the work programme for 1974.

35. The Committee shared the view of the Sub-Committee which, in principle, agreed to the proposal put forth by the Expert that future planning for the United Nations programme on space applications should be based on long-range considerations similar to those now in effect for other United Nations programmes.

36. The Committee approved the recommendation that the United Nations programme on space applications be reviewed on an annual basis, and having heard the views expressed by its members, approved the programme for 1974, as set out in paragraph 19 of the report of the Sub-Committee, provided that the costs, as detailed in the document on the financial and administrative implications of the programme (A/AC.105/L.72), should not exceed \$87,000. Some delegations expressed the view that the United Nations space applications programme should be expanded as regards both its contents and its scope and that it should receive greater financial support in order that it be more effective, and regretted that the original amount of \$130,000 proposed by the Expert on Space Applications for carrying out the United Nations programme on space applications for 1974 could not be accepted. Some delegations believed that the funds approved were sufficient.

3. Applications of space technology: specialized agencies and other international organizations

37. The Committee noted the useful contribution by UNDP, the specialized agencies and other international organizations that participated in the work of the tenth session of the Sub-Committee, as indicated in paragraphs 20 to 26 of its report.

38. The Committee noted with appreciation that the specialized agencies, particularly WMO, ITU, UNESCO and FAO, as in previous years, continued to take an active part in the United Nations programme for the promotion of international co-operation in the practical applications of space technology.

39. In particular, the Committee expressed its appreciation to WMO for its co-operation in the joint United Nations/WMO panel and training seminar on the use of meteorological satellite data, held in Mexico in November/December 1972, and to UNESCO and ITU for their participation in the United Nations panel on satellite instructional television systems in India in December 1972. It looked forward to further co-operation by the specialized agencies in the holding of future panels, workshops/seminars on various topics of space applications, including the United Nations/UNESCO regional seminar on satellite broadcasting systems for education and development to be held in Africa in 1973. In this connexion, the Committee noted

that a joint United Nations/WMO training workshop on the interpretation and use of meteorological satellite data was planned for the benefit of developing countries in Africa, and hoped that WMO would make efforts to provide financial support for this joint effort.

40. The Committee noted that, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Committee and the General Assembly, WMO continued its efforts in finding ways and means of mitigating the harmful effects of tropical storm, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2733 D (XXV) of 16 December 1970 and 2914 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972 and noted with appreciation the progress it had achieved in that regard as set out in its report contained in document A/AC.105/119.

41. The Committee noted the activity undertaken by IMCO in the area of maritime satellites as referred to in paragraph 24 of the report of the Sub-Committee. Recognizing the importance of the information in this new area of space applications, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to address a request to IMCO to provide the Committee with information on IMCO's activity in this area.

42. The Committee also noted with appreciation the part which the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) continued to play in the work of the Committee. It further noted the statement by the representative of ESRO highlighting the activity of that organization in promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, particularly in practical applications of space technology.

43. The Committee recognized the importance to Member States of information of the kind set out in paragraph 28 of the report of the Sub-Committee on the available assistance on space applications extended by the United Nations system. Having considered the recommendation of the Sub-Committee in that paragraph, the Committee agreed that the Secretary-General should be requested to prepare a comprehensive report as outlined in that paragraph - within the available financial and other resources at his disposal - on the various types of assistance to developing countries in the field of space applications extended by the United Nations system, and in particular the United Nations Development Programme and specialized agencies. The report should also contain the necessary information and evaluation about the possibility of increasing the assistance extended in these areas by the concerned bodies in the United Nations system.

B. Consideration of the scientific and technical aspects of international co-operation

Exchange of information

44. The Committee noted with appreciation the reports submitted by Member States on their national and co-operative space programmes during the calendar year 1972. It was gratified at the additional reports on bilateral and multilateral programmes of co-operation provided to the Committee during the present session. The Committee welcomed in particular the announcement on 9 October 1972 by the Government of the United States that it would provide launching assistance to other countries on a non-discriminatory and reimbursable basis for any satellite project consistent with existing international arrangements.

Education and training

45. The Committee reviewed the various international co-operative projects in the area of education and training in practical applications of space technology, including technical panels, as set out in paragraphs 31 to 34 of the report of the Sub Committee.

46. The Committee, in this connexion, expressed its appreciation to the Government of Mexico, which had acted as host to the Joint United Nations/WMO panel and training seminar on the use of meteorological satellite data in Mexico City in November/December 1972, and to the Government of India which had acted as host to the United Nations panel on satellite instructional television systems in New Delhi and Ahmedabad in December of the same year.

47. The Committee also expressed its appreciation to the Government of France which had, under United Nations and WMO sponsorship, held a seminar on meteorology in Paris in May this year, and would organize a summer school on remote sensing, to be held in Tarbes in August/September this year, in which the United Nations would provide financial support for 13 participants from developing countries to cover their transportation costs, and France would provide the subsistence allowance for these participants or more, during the summer school.

48. Further, it expressed its appreciation to the Government of Kenya which had agreed to act as host to the United Nations/UNESCO regional seminar on satellite broadcasting systems for education and development, to be held in Nairobi this year.

49. The Committee also welcomed the statement by the representative of Japan concerning the United Nations panel on satellite instructional systems for which Japan had announced it would serve as host during 1974, and the statement by the representative of Egypt that it would serve as host to a regional seminar on the applications of remote sensing during the second half of 1974.

50. The Committee further noted with satisfaction that the Brazilian Government had confirmed its willingness to act as host to the training workshop on remote sensing applications in the discipline of cartography, mapping and land use, as set out in the programme on space applications for 1974.

51. The Committee renewed its recommendation to Member States engaged in space applications programmes to invite the holding of such panels either on a regional or wider basis, with a view to the widest possible spread of information and sharing of experience in this new area for development, especially that of the developing countries.

52. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Brazil, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States which had renewed their offers of fellowships for advanced training courses of study in disciplines connected with space science and technology for the benefit of the developing countries, as indicated in paragraph 32 of the report of the Sub-Committee. The Committee also welcomed the offer made at the present session by India of up to 10 fellowships per year for advanced training in space technology covering living expenses and internal travel connected with the training.

53. In bringing the offers of fellowships to the attention of Member States, particularly the developing countries, the Committee took note of the view of some delegations that, where not so provided for, offers of fellowships should also include travel grants, whenever possible, to enable more candidates from developing countries to take advantage of such offers.

International sounding rocket launching facilities

54. The Committee shared the satisfaction expressed by the Sub-Committee in paragraph 35 of its report at the progress of work relating to international co-operative projects being carried out at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in India and the CELPA Mar del Plata Rocket Launching Station in Argentina. The Committee accordingly recommended that the General Assembly continue United Nations sponsorship of the two ranges.

United Nations registry of launchings of space objects

55. The Committee expressed its appreciation that in conformity with the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI), Member States continued to provide information concerning objects which they had launched into orbit. Since the Committee's last report, information has been furnished by France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America. The information received has been placed in the public registry maintained by the Secretary-General and has been circulated in documents A/AC.105/INF.259-273.

Consideration of the role and functions of the Sub-Committee and co-ordination within the United Nations system

56. The Committee reviewed the section in the report of the Sub-Committee concerning its future work, as set out in paragraphs 36 to 44 of its report.

57. In regard to the role and functions of the Sub-Committee, the Committee, having considered the views expressed by the Sub-Committee in paragraphs 36 to 39, recommended that with regard to its future work the Sub-Committee should proceed on the lines indicated in section V of its report. The need was stressed for further discussion of the assumptions underlying the role and work of the Sub-Committee, as well as the frequency of its meetings. The Sub-Committee should also consider and submit recommendations on the contents and implementation of the programme of assistance in the field of space applications. The Committee was therefore of the opinion that this question should be kept under close consideration within the Sub-Committee and the Committee.

58. It shared the Sub-Committee's conclusion in paragraph 39 that among the priority items to be considered at its next session were remote sensing of the earth by satellites in all its aspects - including the contribution of satellites to the solution of environmental problems - and the United Nations programme on space applications, on which the Secretary-General had been requested to prepare the relevant background documentation.

59. On the question of co-ordination within the United Nations system on which the Sub-Committee expressed its views and made its recommendations in paragraphs 42 and 44 of its report, the Committee recalled that it had itself in the past expressed views and made recommendations on the need for proper co-ordination of activities relating to the peaceful uses of outer space. 1/

60. The Committee therefore endorsed the conclusions expressed by the Sub-Committee on the need for improved co-ordination and for regularity of interagency co-ordination meetings and interdepartmental meetings within the United Nations Secretariat, as referred to in paragraphs 43 and 44 of its report.

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/8020) and *ibid.*, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/8420).

IV. REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITES

61. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites on the work of its fourth session (A/AC.105/117), and noted that the Working Group had, in accordance with the request made to it by the Committee at its fifteenth session, carried out a study of the new substantive material made available since its previous session. The Committee was gratified at the progress made by the Working Group.

62. The Committee noted that the Working Group had been informed of the recent technical developments and present plans in the field of direct broadcast satellites, such as the international co-operative projects to be undertaken using the first experimental satellite ATS-F to be launched in 1974 and CTS satellite to be launched in 1975.

63. The Committee noted, in particular, that the Working Group had welcomed the results of the World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications, Geneva, 1971 (WARC-ST) as an important step for the future orderly development of satellite broadcasting.

64. The Committee also noted the ongoing work of the United Nations, UNESCO, ITU and WIPO in various fields relating to the use of direct broadcast satellites as reported to the Working Group. In this connexion, the Committee was gratified to note the various educational and training programmes undertaken by the United Nations system, in some cases with the financial assistance of UNDP.

65. The Committee further noted that the Working Group had discussed the question of elaborating principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting referred to in General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII). The Committee noted in this connexion the views expressed by members of the Working Group on the various issues and subject areas discussed, and on the possible procedures and forms of international regulation that may be adopted with regard to direct broadcasting by satellites.

66. The Committee, having reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group, decided to reconvene the Working Group and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraph 77 to 79 of the Working Group's report.

V. OTHER MATTERS

1. Enlargement of the membership of the Committee

67. Several suggestions were made during the present session of the Committee with regard to the enlargement of its membership. Some members expressed the view that, in the light of the need to extend more widely the benefit of peaceful uses of outer space, the membership of the Committee should be broadened so as to allow more equitable geographic distribution as well as appropriate representation for developing countries. Other delegations drew attention to the desirability of limiting the enlargement to a small number of delegations. Some delegations felt that before any enlargement took place, members of the Committee might be asked whether they wished to continue to serve on the Committee. Other delegations did not agree to this view. Many delegations were of the opinion that the General Assembly might wish to request the Committee to undertake a study and formulate concrete proposals concerning the enlargement of the membership of the Committee and report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. Other members felt that the Committee should not make any recommendations, as this matter fell within the purview of the General Assembly.

2. Measures for enhancing the effectiveness of the Outer Space Affairs Division

68. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Outer Space Affairs Division for carrying out the heavy workload entrusted to it by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Many delegations noted in this connexion that the staff of the Division continued practically at the same level since the 1968 Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which had led to a substantial increase in its work. They further noted that the Expert on Space Applications had been appointed without any supporting staff, thus depending on the present staff of the Division for support. The Committee therefore welcomed the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs that the decision of the Secretary-General to establish two sections in the Outer Space Affairs Division had been implemented and that additional staff was also contemplated for enhancing the effectiveness of the Division. The Committee expressed its support for those steps.

VI. FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

69. In considering the dates for its future meetings, the Committee had before it the recommendations of its two Sub-Committees.

70. The Legal Sub-Committee recommended that its thirteenth session - which will be held in Geneva in accordance with arrangements previously agreed upon - be held from 4 to 28 June 1974.

71. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee made the following recommendations in regard to itself and its subsidiary bodies:

	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Task Force of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites	New York	14-25 January
Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites	New York	25 March-5 April
Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee	New York	27 May-7 June

72. The Committee furthermore heard views expressed by some of its members concerning the schedule of meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the venue for the meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee and the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites.

73. The Committee, having deliberated on the matter, and after informal consultations among its members, agreed on the following schedule of meetings for 1974:

	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Task Force of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites and Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites	New York	11 February-1 March
Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites	Geneva	11-22 March
Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee	New York	15-26 April
Legal Sub-Committee	Geneva	6-31 May
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	New York	1-12 July

ANNEX I

Opening statement by the Chairman at the 120th meeting of the Committee on 25 June 1973

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome the representatives of Member States, old friends as well as those attending the session for the first time. I should also like to welcome the representatives of the specialized agencies and other international organizations who will be with us during this session.

As the Committee will remember, our last session was opened by the Secretary-General. That was the first time that the new Secretary-General came to the Committee. It was the last occasion on which the then Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Leonid Kutakov, participated in one of our sessions. Today, I am pleased to extend the cordial welcome of the Committee to the new Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Arkady Shevchenko, who is taking part in our meetings for the first time. As head of the Department whose responsibilities include those of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat, we look forward to close and fruitful co-operation with him. His high qualifications and wide experience, especially in matters concerning the United Nations, have already been acknowledged on previous occasions in various United Nations bodies.

Let me just add, therefore, that these qualifications, as well as the successful performance of his duties since he took office, amply justify our expectations that this Committee as well will be amongst those that profit from his services and abilities.

Furthermore, I should like to extend my welcome to the new United Nations Expert on Space Applications, Mr. Murthy. Mr. Murthy has previously been Director of the Thumba Equatorial Launching Station in India, the first launching space station to be granted United Nations sponsorship, and was also the Project Director of the Sriharikota range, a satellite launching facility planned to become operational in the 1970s. He has been associated with outer space technology and its applications, particularly in developing countries, for a number of years and has participated in numerous international meetings and panels, including those organized by the United Nations. It is a pleasure to know that he will now serve as United Nations Expert on Space Applications and I want to assure him of the full co-operation of the Committee.

Entering my second year with the Committee, I cannot possibly proceed with the remaining part of my statement without first saying that I feel privileged to be able again to preside over the meetings of the Committee and that, looking at the arduous task ahead, I find comfort in the thought that I can also look forward to the co-operation and assistance representatives have so readily extended to facilitate the conduct of the business of the Committee.

Let me now, with this Committee's permission, turn to a tour d'horizon of the most significant space achievements and co-operation since we last met, to provide

a general framework, a general setting, in which we are to carry on our work during the weeks to come. These achievements and events of further international co-operation are highlighted, among many others, by the following events.

On 2 December 1972, the Molniya I-22 communications satellite was launched by the USSR to relay television programmes and telephone and telegraph messages across northern Siberia, the Far East and Central Asia.

On 7 December 1972, the Apollo 17, the last of the United States Apollo series of spacecraft, was launched from Cape Kennedy and landed on the moon on 11 December, remaining there until 14 December exploring the Taurus-Littrow region during three seven-hour periods. It was the privilege of your Chairman to be present at the launching together with other officers of this Committee.

On 10 December 1972, Nimbus 5 was launched by the United States to monitor the Gulf Stream off the east coast of the United States for assistance to shipping and the Humboldt Current off the west coast of South America to provide data on coastal changes.

On 8 January of this year, Luna 21 was launched, and on 16 January remotely controlled Lunokhod 2 explored the LeMonnier Crater and made detailed surveys of the lunar surface.

In February 1973, India launched a Centaur two-stage rocket from TERLS, described as the first of its kind, to measure nighttime air glow emission and other radiation.

In March 1973, the United Kingdom Skylark was launched for a first earth-survey role in Argentina, providing photographic coverage of nearly 200,000 square miles of Argentina's main agricultural region.

On 5 April 1973, the United States Pioneer 11 unmanned Jupiter probe was launched to journey beyond the orbit of Mars and to succeed earlier Pioneer 10 which will become the first to escape the solar system.

On 19 April 1973, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics put into orbit its scientific research satellite Intercosmos-Copernicus-500, a joint mission by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Poland and Czechoslovakia in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus.

On 15 May 1973 - quite recently - Skylab, the first United States space station was rocketed into orbit, and, after the successful elimination of technical problems by human effort, was boarded by three astronauts on 26 May. Over 100 principal investigators from the United States and other countries have been selected for specific tasks of the Skylab mission, whose primary objective is to gather medical data on the effects of long-duration space flight and conduct other experiments such as acquiring earth resources data from EREP - the earth resources experiment package - and conducting astronomical and solar observations outside the dense Earth atmosphere.

I should like to end the reference to this vast area of scientific and technical achievement and progress by a brief reference to the remarkably satisfactory results achieved by the United States ERTS-1 satellite launched last year. The

United States early this year had the opportunity of reviewing the results of the ERTS mission and of briefing members of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on its achievements which in certain instances even exceeded the expectations of its planners. Images from the ERTS-1 experiments have furthermore been put to practical use not only in the United States but also in other countries. The ERTS is now, for instance, being used to monitor the activity of 15 volcanoes in the United States, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Iceland in a programme which scientists hope will lead to advance warning of volcanic eruptions.

For those spectacular technological and scientific achievements which in such a relatively short period of time have brought mankind closer to a wide range and full benefits of practical applications, we must indeed congratulate the space countries and other countries concerned.

On the political side of international co-operation, a number of significant developments have taken place.

In September 1972, NASA and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Academy of Sciences approved the recommendations of their Joint Working Groups concerning the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) and agreed to proceed with system design and development programme. That development was followed by an agreement reached by the Working Groups in October to attempt to launch the Apollo-Soyuz on 15 July 1975.

In December 1972, a decision was taken for the merger of ELDO and ESRO and to integrate national programmes within European programmes. The merger is scheduled to take place beginning in 1974, with the establishment of a new European space agency which would be responsible not only for carrying out the existing satellite programme of ESRO and the launch programmes which the European Space Conference has decided to undertake, but also for the national programmes of Member States which would gradually be taken over by the agency.

In the same month, in further implementation of the United States-Union of Soviet Socialist Republics agreement on outer space co-operation signed in May 1972, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics experts signed a protocol on joint scientific expedition in the Bering Sea. Under that protocol, research vessels flying United States and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics flags, together with airborne laboratories, would carry out joint research in the Bering Sea on methods of monitoring natural processes on a global scale from satellites.

Also during the period under review, the Agreement on the Establishment of an International System and Organization of Space Communications (INTERSPUTNIK) had come into force.

In May of this year, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics approved an expanded co-operative remote sensing programme covering disciplinary areas such as geology and geomorphology; vegetation, soil and land use; water, snow and glaciology, microwave techniques and oceanology.

In the area of furthering accession to existing international treaties, it was encouraging to note the information provided to the Legal Sub-Committee by the representatives of the United States that as of March this year:

Eighty-nine States had signed the Outer Space Treaty, while 63 had either ratified or acceded to it;

Seventy-nine States had signed the Rescue and Return Agreement, while 55 had either ratified or acceded to it; and 70 States had signed the Liability Convention, while 13 had either ratified or acceded to it.

It is against that background of encouraging and favourable developments in the larger framework of space co-operation that we are called upon to resume the activity and work of the Committee, to which I shall now address myself briefly.

The reports we have before us reflect the heavy workload and programme of the Sub-Committees and the Working Groups during the first half of this year, with the record attendance of 65 days and the difficult tasks assigned to them, and the progress achieved in their deliberations are reflected in those documents.

In this respect the thanks of the Committee are due to the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, Mr. Wyzner of Poland, to the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, Professor Carver of Australia, to the Chairman of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, Mr. Fiorio of Italy, and to the Chairman of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, Ambassador Rydbeck of Sweden, for their excellent accomplishments and the commendable leadership they have provided in conducting the work in their respective Sub-Committees and Working Groups.

May I now first turn briefly to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee. As the Committee can see from paragraph 11 of the Legal Sub-Committee's report, Mr. Wyzner has been requested, if possible, to attend our meeting in order to assist the Committee in its work. May I take this opportunity to offer the Committee the apologies of Mr. Wyzner who is, unfortunately, not able to come to New York at this time. I shall not dwell at length on the report which appears in document A/AC.105/115, but rather confine myself to observations relating to those areas on which the Committee is expected to act.

It will be recalled in this connexion that, in accordance with the request of the Committee made last year, the Legal Sub-Committee during its twelfth session in March and April 1973 in New York gave priority to the consideration of the draft treaty relating to the Moon and the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into space.

In regard to the draft treaty relating to the Moon, the Legal Sub-Committee had at its previous session agreed on the preamble and the wording of 21 draft articles. At its twelfth session, the Legal Sub-Committee continued this work on the basis of the texts approved by the Sub-Committee at its eleventh session and concentrated on those provisions on which the main outstanding questions remained to be solved.

Those outstanding questions related to the scope of the treaty and whether the treaty should apply to activities on the Moon or also to activities on other celestial bodies; to the legal régime over the natural resources of the Moon and whether the treaty should provide that those resources form part of the common heritage of mankind; and, finally, the question of information to be furnished on missions and whether the treaty should call on States to provide notification

of their intention to launch missions to a celestial body in advance of launching. In this connexion, the Legal Sub-Committee re-established its Working Group I for the article-by-article consideration of provisions of the draft treaty and particularly of those provisions on which agreement had yet to be reached. As a result of consultations and further negotiations Working Group I of the Sub-Committee approved the text of six provisions. Those provisions, of which the Sub-Committee took note, are set out in paragraph 17 of its report.

Following a review of the report of Working Group I on those articles, and after further attempts to reconcile differences on outstanding issues, the Sub-Committee recommended that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should make its best efforts to complete the treaty relating to the Moon at its next session, in June, in order that the draft treaty might be submitted to the General Assembly for adoption at its twenty-eighth session.

As regards the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into space, the Working Group appointed by the Legal Sub-Committee to consider the article-by-article drafting of that treaty - Working Group II - approved the text of a preamble and 10 articles, as well as the title of the draft convention, as set out in paragraph 24 of the report of the Sub-Committee. There were, however, a few outstanding questions, primarily relating to the question of marking the space objects and the review of the proposed draft convention, that remained to be solved. In this connexion I should like to draw the Committee's attention also to paragraph 25 of the report, which contains certain relevant explanations. The Legal Sub-Committee, having reviewed the draft articles presented by its Working Group II and after further efforts at bridging differences of view, took note of those draft articles and recommended that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, should make its best efforts to complete the draft convention for submission to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session - a recommendation identical to the one just quoted concerning the treaty on the Moon.

The Committee is therefore seized of two requests to take it upon itself to seek to reconcile the remaining differences of view in regard to the provisions of the two draft international instruments with a view to completing them for submission to the General Assembly. It is my understanding that the Sub-Committee's formal and informal discussions were both extensive and detailed and that the formulation of the draft treaty and draft convention are now dependent on the resolution of a few remaining outstanding points. Indeed, it was my hope that had agreement been possible on those few remaining points we would have now had the draft treaty and draft convention before us. It is my sincere hope, therefore, that the Committee will strike a positive note in its response to the Sub-Committee's appeal.

There are several ways open to us to tackle these problems. One appropriate way might be to set up an informal working group which would have to look into both matters - the draft convention on registration as well as the draft Moon treaty - since I do not believe that the plenary meetings of our Committee would provide the appropriate way of going about that task. If that is the feeling of the Committee, the working group could meet when our Committee is not meeting, and we could even contemplate the possibility of alternating between morning meetings of the Committee and afternoon meetings of the working group, as the need arises. Whatever course may finally be adopted I trust that an appropriate accommodation can be reached. I should therefore like to invite delegations to

comment on this matter, and in concluding this particular point I should like to say that I feel - as do delegations I had the pleasure of contacting last week - that we should make every effort to achieve progress with respect to the outstanding legal questions.

During its twelfth session the Legal Sub-Committee also dealt with the question of the priority to be accorded other items on its agenda. While fully realizing that it would be difficult for members of the Committee at this stage to turn their attention to the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee without having the opportunity of deciding on the status of the two draft international instruments before it, I should like to invite members to think on this matter.

I should now like to turn to the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

At its tenth session, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee devoted considerable time and attention to the consideration of two important questions: remote sensing of the Earth by satellites and promotion of the applications of space technology.

Having for the first time reviewed the substantive report of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee recommended a number of steps for approval by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Those recommendations, set out in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report of the Sub-Committee, ranged from a proposal for a second survey on the potential uses of remote sensing from space, to be undertaken by the Secretary-General and to be addressed to Member States, to the proposed establishment of a task force whose principal objective it would be to identify, study and analyse for the benefit of the Working Group the best means of disseminating remote sensing data acquired from space in the interests of promoting the optimum utilization of space applications for the benefit of States and the international community.

The importance of remote sensing cannot be over-emphasized. The Committee has already given due recognition to the role that this new technology is likely to play in developing and developed countries alike, and the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which is largely based on the progress report of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, has underscored this trend.

In the area of United Nations programmes on space applications, the Sub-Committee has witnessed progress in the implementation of past programmes as well as in the expansion of the programme for the coming year. The two technical panels held in Mexico and India last year and the three technical panel-training seminars to be held in France, Kenya and Argentina this year, as well as the various panels and training seminars envisaged for 1974, are all reflective of the growing concern of the United Nations with practical applications of space technology for the benefit of developing countries. It is indeed encouraging to note that the Sub-Committee, realizing this continued United Nations concern with space applications programmes, had agreed in principle to the proposal put forward by the United Nations expert that future planning for the United Nations programme on space applications should constitute a rolling plan on a long-range basis similar to the long-range planning now in effect for other programmes of the United Nations.

In this connexion, the view has often been expressed in the Sub-Committee - and the Committee may wish to consider it - that in order to facilitate the implementation programmes of space applications of the United Nations, with its limited resources, further assistance of Member States is needed, and that industrialized and developed countries could render this needed assistance by, for instance, making more readily available their facilities for the accomplishments of the United Nations programme. It is similarly encouraging to note that during the past year the United Nations Development Programme and the various specialized agencies - particularly UNESCO, WMO, ITU and FAO - contributed considerably to the implementation of the United Nations programme.

Serious consideration by the Committee of these various aspects of space applications and their co-ordination would therefore be urgently needed. In the area of education and training it is equally noteworthy that Members of the United Nations which in the past have offered fellowships for training in the area of practical application of space technology not only renewed their offers but in some instances increased them. In this connexion, views were often expressed that if the conditions of the offers were liberalized it would greatly assist the developing countries to make full use of the fellowships offered them.

One area of great importance dealt with by the Sub-Committee was the question of the role and functions of the Sub-Committee in its area of competence in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The fact that in the past the work of the Sub-Committee had to some extent been affected by the proliferation of subsidiary bodies and the recognition of the need for giving the Sub-Committee a more central role, co-ordinating activities in the area of scientific and technical co-operation in the future uses of outer space, had prompted the consideration of views presented by some members of the Committee on the need to give serious thought to the future role of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

It is, of course, generally realized that while the Legal Sub-Committee has had its future programme of work fairly clearly defined, the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee would seem to depend on short-range considerations decided on a session-by-session basis rather than long-term oriented work programmes. It is noteworthy that the Committee had before it for the first time the view expressed by the Sub-Committee which singled out certain items to be considered among the priority items for its next session.

While it is not my intention to suggest any views in regard to what specifically should be done on the future role and function of the Sub-Committee, I sincerely believe that if there were an area where the Committee might be of immediate assistance to its subsidiary bodies, it would be in the area of providing the necessary guidelines in this respect.

I should now like to turn briefly to the question of direct broadcast satellites. In this respect, I have again been asked to offer apologies to the Committee, this time on behalf of Ambassador Rydbeck, Chairman of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, who unfortunately is not able to attend our meetings. With regard to direct broadcast satellites, it is in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee made last year that the Working Group was reconvened to study new substantive material that had become available since the Working Group last met in 1970, and to list possibilities for further action by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in their future work.

Among the new substantive material made available to the Working Group were recommendations of the 1971 ITU World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications; the UNESCO Declaration on Guiding Principles on the Use of Satellite Broadcasting for the Free Flow of Information, the Spread of Education and Greater Cultural Exchange; the UNESCO/WIPO work on the protection of television signals transmitted by satellites; and more recently, the USSR proposal on the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. During its deliberations, the Working Group also had the working paper submitted by Sweden and Canada on principles governing direct television broadcasting satellites.

In reviewing the state of the arts in direct broadcast by satellites, the Working Group offered a wide range of interesting and informative observations contained in its report. The Working Group noted in particular that while direct broadcast experiments were currently planned in a framework of domestic systems and that studies on regional systems had been undertaken in various areas, particular attention was drawn to the experiments being conducted under the ATSF programme, particularly those aspects of that programme relating to international co-operation.

In the light of the various factors set out in its report, the Working Group concluded that further studies and experiments were required in the technical and economic aspects of direct broadcasting satellites, particularly on their use on a regional basis, with a view to the widest possible benefit of this new technology to the international community.

Of particular interest in the context of the responsibility of the Committee are the conclusions reached by the Working Group in regard to its own mandate and the question of elaborating principles governing direct television broadcasts.

It is not my intention to tax the patience of the members of the Committee by dwelling on the main conclusions of the Working Group, which will be available to them, but they would seem to deserve the special attention of the Committee because of their immediate relevance to the tasks which lie ahead, particularly with regard to the reconvening of the Working Group, as set out in the conclusions and recommendations of the report. Here a decision of the Committee is called for.

I had the occasion of suggesting last year that the Committee should more vigorously seek to provide leadership and to come forward with its own initiatives and provide directives to its subsidiary bodies. The three reports before the Committee, which set out the various problems faced by the Committee's subsidiary bodies and the solutions they require have now borne out the urgent need for the Committee to provide such leadership, and the coming weeks, I hope, will provide the opportunity to act in such a manner.

Having now shared these thoughts with members of the Committee, I wish them well in their deliberations on the various important items before us, and I look forward, with the benefit of the advice and co-operation of members, to what promises to be two weeks of hard but, hopefully, very fruitful work.

ANNEX II*

Report of the Chairman of the informal Working Group

1. The informal Working Group to review the draft treaty relating to the moon and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space held a total of six meetings.
2. On the draft treaty relating to the moon, a/ the informal Working Group considered only article X. b/ The Working Group set up an informal group chaired by the representative of Austria. This informal group based itself in its discussions mainly on the text of article X originally worked out in informal consultations and considered by Working Group I of the Legal Sub-Committee, as contained in annex I C of the Legal Sub-Committee's report, and explored the possibilities of obtaining consensus on article X. Several informal proposals were made, but despite prolonged deliberations no general agreement proved possible. The view was expressed that the main stumbling block on the part of the informal Working Group appeared to be disagreement about the activities that would be permitted with regard to the natural resources of the moon before the agreed international régime enters into force, including property rights applicable to such natural resources in the light of the principle that those resources are the common heritage of mankind. Some delegations held the view that activities on the moon and other celestial bodies should only be permitted for scientific purposes pending the establishment of an international régime for the exploitation of the natural resources. Other delegations thought that, in addition to utilization for scientific purposes, utilization should also be allowed for other experimental purposes. Some delegations, however, were of the opinion that exploitation should be allowed for any peaceful purposes pending the establishment of the international régime.
3. On the draft convention on registration, c/ the two questions unresolved by the Legal Sub-Committee were discussed, i.e., the problem of a review clause and of a provision on marking of space objects. In the course of the deliberations of the aforementioned informal group, agreement was reached on a text of a review clause d/ which was then approved by the Working Group.

* Annex referred to in paragraph 24 of the report of the Committee.

a/ For relevant draft texts, see appendix "A", which is reproduced in accordance with the decision of the Committee (see A/AC.105/PV.130).

b/ For relevant draft texts, see appendix "A" III and IV.

c/ For relevant draft texts, see appendix "B", which is reproduced in accordance with paragraph 5 of the present annex.

d/ Article VIII bis of appendix "B".

4. A text e/ containing a voluntary marking provision and also leaving it to the discretion of the State of Registry to provide information on marking to the Secretary-General was discussed in the Working Group and it was agreed to submit this text to Governments for consideration. However, no consensus was reached on the text since a number of delegations maintained the view that any provision on marking should be mandatory and was an indispensable element of the convention. The view was also held that it would be desirable to include an article providing for marking applied internally or externally on the space object at the time of the manufacture and for communication of this fact to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A further view was advanced that the convention should not contain any provision on marking, because there was not now available nor will it be in the foreseeable future, an economically feasible or technologically practicable marking system. The opinion was expressed that a reasonable compromise might be the adoption of a provision for non-compulsory marking, but making mandatory the providing of information on such marking to the Secretary-General. A suggestion was then made in the Working Group to transmit the text of the registration convention annexed to this report to the General Assembly for its consideration at the twenty-eighth session, which would have permitted delegations so wishing to reserve their position concerning the draft convention. However, no agreement was reached on this procedure, because some delegations considered the matter should be referred to the Legal Sub-Committee for further deliberation at its session in 1974. Some delegations, however, expressed the hope that an acceptable text on marking would be found during the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly which would enable the General Assembly to adopt the draft convention on registration.

5. Appended to the present report are the texts of the title, preamble and 10 articles approved by Working Group II of the Legal Sub-Committee at its twelfth session, the text of the review clause approved by the informal Working Group of this Committee and the text on marking, referred to in paragraph 2 above, as worked out in the informal consultations and submitted to member Governments for consideration.

e/ Article III bis of appendix "B".

Appendix "A" **

DRAFT TREATY RELATING TO THE MOON

I. Text contained in 1972 report of the Legal Sub-Committee
(A/AC.105/101, paragraph 21)

The States parties to this Treaty,

Noting the achievements of States in the exploration and use of the Moon
/and other celestial bodies/, a/

Recognizing that the Moon, as a natural satellite of the Earth, has an
important role to play in the exploration of outer space,

Determined to promote on the basis of equality the further development of
co-operation among States in the exploration and use of the Moon /and other
celestial bodies/,

Desiring to prevent the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ from becoming an
area of international conflict,

Recalling the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in
the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial
Bodies, the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and
the Return of Objects launched into Outer Space, and the Convention on
International Liability for damage caused by space objects,

Taking into account the need to define and develop the provisions of these
international instruments in relation to the Moon /and other celestial bodies/
having regard to further progress in the exploration and use of outer space,

Have agreed on the following:

** For the positions of delegations, their reservations, interpretations and proposals, the reports (in particular document A/8720) and the verbatim records of the Committee as well as the reports (in particular documents A/AC.105/101 and A/AC.105/115) and the summary records of the Legal Sub-Committee should be consulted.

a/ A suggestion was made that, with a view to deleting references to "other celestial bodies" the treaty might contain a provision along the following lines:

The provisions of this Treaty shall apply to celestial bodies in addition to the Moon until such time as provision is made by other treaties in relation to specific celestial bodies. To the extent that provision is so made, this Treaty shall then cease to apply to those bodies.

Article I

1 /As employed in this Treaty:

- (i) The term "celestial body" includes all natural celestial bodies other than the Earth.
- (ii) The phrase "the Moon and other celestial bodies" includes orbits around or other trajectories to or around celestial bodies.

2. This Treaty does not apply to extra-terrestrial materials which reach the surface of the Earth by natural means.

Article II

1. Activities on /in the exploration and use of /the Moon /and in circumlunar space/ /and other celestial bodies/ shall be carried out in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding.

2. In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the threat or use of force or any other hostile act or threat of hostile act on the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ is prohibited. It is likewise prohibited to use the Moon /or other celestial bodies/ in order to commit any such act or to engage in any such threat in relation to the Earth, /the moon/ or other celestial bodies, spacecraft, the personnel of spacecraft or man-made space objects.

Article III

1. The Moon /and other celestial bodies/ shall be used by all States parties exclusively for peaceful purposes.

2. States parties shall not place in orbit around or other trajectory to or around the Moon /or other celestial bodies/ objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction or place or use such weapons on or in the Moon /or other celestial bodies/. b/

3. The establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications, the testing of any type of weapons and the conduct of military manoeuvres on the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ shall be forbidden. The use of military personnel for scientific research or for any other peaceful purposes shall not be prohibited. The use of any equipment or facility necessary for peaceful exploration and use of the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ shall also not be prohibited.

b/ Certain delegations reserved their position on this paragraph.

Article IV

1. The exploration and use of the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ shall be the province of all mankind and /the exploitation of their natural resources/ shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development. Due regard shall be paid to the interests of present and future generations as well as to the need to promote higher standards of living conditions of economic and social progress and development in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. c/
2. States parties shall be guided by the principle of co-operation and mutual assistance in all their activities concerning the exploration and use of the Moon /and other celestial bodies/. International co-operation in pursuance of this Treaty should be as wide as possible and may take place on a multilateral basis, on a bilateral basis, or through international intergovernmental organizations.
3. States parties shall inform the Secretary-General as well as the public and international scientific community, to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, of their activities concerned with the exploration and use of the Moon /and other celestial bodies/. They shall in any case give information on the time, purposes, locations, orbital parameters, duration and results of each /completed/ mission to the Moon /and other celestial bodies/, in particular on the scientific results arising out of such missions. In case of a mission lasting more than 60 days, information on conduct of the mission shall be given periodically at 30 days' intervals. For missions lasting more than six months, only significant additions to such information need be reported thereafter. d/
4. If a State party becomes aware that another State party plans to operate simultaneously in the same area of or in the same orbit around or trajectory to or around the Moon or other celestial body, it shall promptly inform the other State of the timing of and plans for its own operations.

Article 5

1. There shall be freedom of scientific investigation on the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ by all States parties without discrimination of any kind, on the basis of equality and in accordance with international law.
2. In carrying out scientific investigations in furtherance of the provisions of this Treaty the States parties shall have the right to collect on and remove from the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ samples of its /their/ mineral and other substances. Such samples shall remain at the disposal of those States parties which caused them to be collected and may be used by them for scientific purposes. States parties shall have regard to the desirability of making a portion of such samples available to other interested States parties and the international scientific community for scientific investigation. States parties may in the

c/ The eventual placement of this paragraph will be decided later.

d/ Certain delegations reserved their position with respect to the question of advance notification of missions to celestial bodies.

course of scientific investigations also use mineral and other substances of the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ in quantities appropriate for the support of their missions.

3. States parties agree on the desirability of exchanging scientific and other personnel on expeditions to or installations on the Moon /or other celestial bodies/ to the greatest extent feasible and practicable.

Article VI

1. In exploring and using the Moon /and circumlunar space/ /and other celestial bodies/ States parties shall take measures to prevent the disruption of the existing balance of /its/ /their/ environment/s/ whether by introducing adverse changes in such environment/s/ /its/ /their/ harmful contamination through the introduction of extra-environmental matter or otherwise. States parties shall also take measures to prevent harmfully affecting the environment of the earth through the introduction of extra-terrestrial matter or otherwise.

2. /States parties planning missions to the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ shall notify the Secretary-General of measures being adopted to minimize the disruption of the existing balance of the environment/s/ of /those bodies/. Such reports shall include the trajectories to be flown the distance of closest approach, and specific measures taken to control micro-organisms on and in the spacecraft./

3. /States parties shall notify the Secretary-General of plans to place radio-active material on or in orbit or other trajectory around the Moon /or other celestial bodies/ and shall give similar notification with regard to the conditions and effects of such placement when it occurs./

4. States parties shall report to other States parties and to the Secretary-General concerning areas of the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ having special scientific interest in order that consideration may be given to their designation as international scientific preserves for which special protective arrangements are to be agreed, without prejudice to the rights of other States parties to this Treaty.

Article VII

1. States parties may pursue their activities in the exploration and use of the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ anywhere on or below its /their/ surface, /and in circumlunar space/, subject to the other provisions of this Treaty.

2. For these purposes States parties may, in particular:

(a) land their space objects on the Moon /and other celestial bodies/, and launch them from the Moon /such bodies/, /and place them in circumlunar orbit/;

(b) place their personnel, space vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations anywhere on or below the surface of the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ /and in circumlunar space/;

Personnel, space vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations may move or be moved freely over or below the surface of the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ /and in circumlunar space/.

3. Activities of States parties in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article shall not interfere with the activities of other States parties on the Moon /and other celestial bodies/. Where such interference may occur, the States parties concerned shall undertake consultations in accordance with article XVI.

Article VIII

1. States parties may establish manned and unmanned stations on the Moon /and other celestial bodies/. A State party establishing a station shall use only that area which is required for the needs of the station and shall immediately inform the Secretary-General of the location and purposes of that station. Subsequently, at annual intervals that State shall likewise inform the Secretary-General whether the station continues in use and whether its purposes have changed.

2. Stations shall be installed in such a manner that they do not impede the free access to all areas of the Moon of personnel, vehicles and equipment of other States parties conducting activities on the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty or of article I of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies.

Article IX

1. States parties shall adopt all practicable measures to safeguard the life and health of persons on the Moon /and other celestial bodies/. For this purpose they shall regard any person on the Moon /or other celestial body/ as an astronaut within the meaning of article V of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and as part of the personnel of a spacecraft within the meaning of the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

2. States parties shall offer shelter in their stations, installations, vehicles and other facilities to persons in distress on the Moon /or other celestial bodies/.

3. States parties shall inform the Secretary-General, as well as the public and the international scientific community, of any phenomena they discover in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, which could endanger human life or health, as well as any indication of organic life.

Article X e/

1. /The natural resources of the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ shall be the common heritage of all mankind./
2. Neither States, international intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations, national organizations having the status of juridical persons or not, nor natural persons, may claim the surface or subsurface of the moon /or other celestial bodies/ as their property. The placement of personnel, space vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations on or below the surface of the Moon /or other celestial bodies/ including structures connected with its /their/ surface or subsurface, shall not create a right of ownership over parts of the surface or subsurface of the Moon /or other celestial bodies/.
3. /Parts of the surface or subsurface of the Moon /or other celestial bodies/ may not be the object of grant, exchange, transfer, sale or purchase, lease, hire, gift or any other arrangement or transactions with or without compensation between States, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations or national organizations having the status of juridical persons or not, or of arrangements or transactions between natural persons./
4. /The States parties to this Treaty, bearing in mind the need for economic advancement and for the encouragement of investment and efficient development if utilization of the resources of the Moon and other celestial bodies becomes a reality, recognize the importance of concluding agreements in this area. To this end, the Depositary Governments shall promptly convene a meeting of all States parties with a view to negotiating arrangements for the international sharing of the benefits of such utilization when one third of the States parties inform the Depositary Governments that they consider that practical utilization of the resources of the Moon or other celestial bodies is likely to begin within two years following or has already begun./

Article XI

1. States parties shall retain jurisdiction and control over their personnel, vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations on the Moon /and other celestial bodies/. The ownership of space vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations shall not be affected by their presence on the Moon /or other celestial bodies/. f/
2. Vehicles, installations and equipment or their component parts found in places other than their intended location shall be dealt with in accordance with article V of the Agreement on Assistance to Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space.
3. In the event of an emergency involving a threat to human life, States parties may use the equipment, vehicles, installations, facilities or supplies of other

e/ This text may be supplemented later.

f/ Certain delegations reserved their positions on the reference to property, with regard to facilities, stations and installations.

/...

States parties on the Moon /or in circumlunar space/ /or other celestial bodies/. Prompt notification of such use shall be made to the Secretary-General or State party concerned.

Article XII

A State party which learns of the crash landing, forced landing or other unintended landing on the Moon /or other celestial body/ of a space object, or its component parts, that were not launched by it, shall promptly inform the launching State party and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article XIII

1. States parties to this Treaty shall bear international responsibility for national activities on the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ whether such activities are carried on by governmental agencies or by non-governmental entities, and for assuring that national activities are carried out in conformity with the provisions set forth in the present Treaty. States parties shall ensure that non-governmental entities under their jurisdiction shall engage in activities on the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ only under the authority and continuing supervision of the appropriate State Party.

2. /In addition to the provisions of article VII of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, a State Party shall be liable for damage resulting from its act or omission or from an act or omission of its personnel on the Moon to the property or personnel of other States parties on the Moon, unless it is established that the damage occurred through no fault of the said State or of its personnel on the Moon./

Article XIV

With the exception of Articles XVIII to XXI, references in this Treaty to States shall be deemed to apply to any international intergovernmental organization which conducts space activities if the organization declares its acceptance of the rights and obligations provided for in this Treaty and if a majority of the States members of the organization are States parties to this Treaty and to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. States members of any such organization which are States parties to this Treaty shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that the organization makes a declaration in accordance with the foregoing.

Article XV

In the event of any difference arising between States parties with regard to the interpretation /or application/ of the provisions of this Treaty, reference shall be made where appropriate to the provisions of the Treaty on the Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, the Agreement on the Rescue of

Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts, and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, and the Convention on International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects. g/

Article XVI

1. Each State party may assure itself that the activities of other States parties in the exploration and use of the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ are compatible with the provisions of this Treaty. To this end, all space vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations on the Moon /and other celestial bodies/ shall be open to other States parties. Such States parties shall give reasonable advance notice of a projected visit, in order that appropriate consultations may be held and that maximum precautions may be taken to assure safety and to avoid interference with normal operations in the facility to be visited. In pursuance of this Article, any State party may use its own means, or may act with the full or partial assistance of any other State party, or through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with the Charter.

2. A State party which has reason to believe that another State party is not fulfilling the obligations incumbent upon it pursuant to this Treaty or that another State party is interfering with the rights which the former State has under this Treaty may request consultations with that Party. A State party receiving such a request shall enter into such consultations without delay. Any other State party which requests to do so shall be entitled to take part in the consultations. Each State party participating in such consultations shall seek a mutually acceptable resolution of any controversy and shall bear in mind the rights and interests of all States parties. The Secretary-General shall be informed of the results of the consultations and transmit the information received to all States parties concerned.

3. If the consultations do not lead to a mutually acceptable settlement which has due regard for the rights and interests of all the States parties, the parties concerned shall take all measures to settle the dispute by other peaceful means of their choice and appropriate to the circumstances and the nature of the dispute. If difficulties arise in connexion with the opening of consultations or if consultations do not lead to a mutually acceptable settlement, any State party may seek the assistance of the Secretary-General without seeking the consent of any other State party concerned, in order to resolve the controversy. A State party which does not maintain diplomatic relations with another State party concerned shall participate in such consultations, at its choice, either itself or through another State Party or the Secretary-General, as intermediary.

Article XVII

At any time after this Treaty has been in force for five years, at the request of one third of the States parties to the Treaty and with the concurrence of the majority of the States parties a conference of the States parties shall be convened to review this Treaty.

g/ The delegation of Australia reserved its position on this article.

Article XVIII

1. This Treaty shall be open to all States for signature. Any State which does not sign this Treaty before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.
2. This Treaty shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Governments of ..., which are hereby designated the Depositary Governments.
3. This Treaty shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification by five Governments including the Governments designated as Depositary Governments under this Treaty.
4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of this Treaty, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.
5. The Depositary Governments shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification of and accession to this Treaty, the date of its entry into force and other notices.
6. This Treaty shall be registered by the Depositary Governments pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article XIX

Any State party to the Treaty may propose amendments to this Treaty. Amendments shall enter into force for each State party to the Treaty accepting the amendments upon their acceptance by a majority of the States parties to the Treaty and thereafter for each remaining State party to the Treaty on the date of acceptance by it.

Article XX

Any State party to the Treaty may give notice of its withdrawal from the Treaty one year after its entry into force by written notification to the Depositary Governments. Such withdrawal shall take effect one year from the date of receipt of this notification.

Article XXI

This Treaty, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the Depositary Governments. Duly certified copies of this Treaty shall be transmitted by the Depositary Governments to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed this Treaty.

DONE in ..., at the cities of ..., the ... day of ... one thousand nine hundred and seventy ...

II. Text of provisions contained in 1973 report of the
Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/115, paragraph 17)

Article II, paragraph 1

All activities on the Moon including its exploration and use, shall be carried out in accordance with international law, in particular, the Charter of the United Nations, and taking into account the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and mutual understanding, and with due regard to the corresponding interests of all other States parties.

Article IV, paragraph 3

States parties shall inform the Secretary-General as well as the public and the international scientific community, to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, of their activities concerned with the exploration and use of the Moon. Information on the time, purposes, locations, orbital parameters and duration shall be given in respect of each mission to the Moon, while information on the results of each mission, including scientific results, shall be furnished upon completion of the mission. In case of a mission lasting more than 60 days, information on conduct of the mission shall be given periodically at 30 days' intervals. For missions lasting more than six months, only significant additions to such information need be reported thereafter (points of time of information to the Secretary-General to be resolved).

Article VI

1. In exploring and using the Moon, States parties shall take measures to prevent the disruption of the existing balance of its environment whether by introducing adverse changes in such environment, its harmful contamination through the introduction of extra-environmental matter or otherwise. States parties shall also take measures to prevent harmfully affecting the environment of the Earth through the introduction of extra-terrestrial matter or otherwise.

2. States parties shall inform the Secretary-General of the measures being adopted by them in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article and shall also notify him of all placements by them of radio-active materials on the Moon and of the purposes of such placements. (Points of time of information and notification to the Secretary-General to be resolved.)

...

4. States parties shall report to other States parties and to the Secretary-General concerning areas of the Moon having special scientific

interest in order that, without prejudice to the rights of other States parties, consideration may be given to the designation of such areas as international scientific preserves for which special protective arrangements are to be agreed in consultation with the competent organs of the United Nations.

Article IX, paragraph 3

States parties shall immediately inform the Secretary-General, as well as the public and the international scientific community, of any phenomena they discover in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, which could endanger human life or health, as well as any indication of organic life.

Article XIII, paragraph 2

States parties recognize that detailed arrangements concerning liability for damage sustained on the Moon, in addition to the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, may become necessary as a result of more extensive activities on the Moon, and agree that a conference of States parties to this Treaty for the purpose of elaborating such arrangements shall be convened by the Depositary Governments when one third of the States parties so request.

III. Text relating to article X contained in annex of the
1973 report of Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/115,
annex I, page 37)

1. The Moon is not subject to national appropriation by any claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.
2. Neither the surface nor the subsurface of the Moon, nor, subject to the provisions of article V, paragraph 2, their parts and natural resources shall become the property of any State, international intergovernmental or non-governmental organization, national organization or non-governmental entity or of any natural person. The placement of personnel, space vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations on or below the surface of the Moon, including structures connected with its surface or subsurface, shall not create a right of ownership over the surface or subsurface of the Moon or any areas thereof.

The foregoing provisions are without prejudice to the international régime referred to in paragraph 4 of this article.

3. States parties have an equal right to the exploration and use of the Moon including the exploitation of its natural resources without discrimination of any kind, under the conditions stipulated in this Treaty.

4. States parties undertake to establish an international régime governing the exploitation of the natural resources of the Moon, when such exploitation becomes feasible.

5. The main purposes of the international régime to be established shall be to ensure the orderly and safe development and rational management of the natural resources of the Moon, to expand opportunities in the use thereof and to determine an equitable sharing by all States in the benefits derived therefrom, taking into consideration, in particular, the interests and needs of the developing countries.

6. A conference of all States parties shall be convened by the depositary Governments at the request of one third of such States, in order to implement the provision of paragraph 4 of this article, on the basis of the principle that the natural resources of the Moon are the common heritage of mankind.

7. No activities shall be carried out on the Moon with regard to its natural resources which may be incompatible with the purposes of the international régime to be established as specified in paragraph 5 of this article.

IV. Austria: proposal relating to article X (A/AC.105/L.74)

1. The Moon and other celestial bodies are not subject to national appropriation by any claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.

2. Neither the surface nor the subsurface of the Moon or other celestial bodies, nor any part thereof or natural resources in place, shall become property of any State, international intergovernmental or non-governmental organization, national organization or non-governmental entity of any natural person. The placement of personnel, space vehicles, equipment facilities, stations and installations on or below the surface of the Moon or other celestial bodies, including structures connected with their surface or subsurface, shall not create a right of ownership over the surface or the subsurface of the Moon or other celestial bodies or any areas thereof.

The foregoing provisions are without prejudice to the international régime referred to in paragraph 4 of this article.

3. States parties have an equal right to the exploration and use of the Moon and other celestial bodies without discrimination of any kind under the conditions stipulated in this treaty.

4. States parties undertake to establish an international régime, including appropriate procedures, to govern the exploitation of the natural resources of the Moon and other celestial bodies when such exploitation becomes feasible.

5. In order to facilitate the establishment of the international régime mentioned in paragraph 4 of this article, States parties shall inform the Secretary-General as well as the public and the international scientific community to the greatest extent feasible and practicable of any natural resources they may discover on the Moon or other celestial bodies.

6. The main purposes of the international régime to be established shall be to ensure the orderly and safe development and rational management of the natural resources of the Moon and other celestial bodies, to expand opportunities in the use thereof and to determine an equitable sharing by all States parties in the benefits derived therefrom, taking into consideration, in particular, the interests and needs of the developing countries.

7. All the activities with respect to the natural resources of the Moon or other celestial bodies shall be carried out in a manner compatible with the purposes, as specified in paragraph 6 of this article, of the international régime to be established.

8. A conference of all States parties shall be convened by the depository Governments at the request of one third of such States in order to implement the provisions of paragraph 4 of this article on the basis of the principle that the natural resources of the Moon and other celestial bodies are the common heritage of mankind, due regard being paid to the provisions of article V, paragraph 2, of this treaty.

Appendix "B"***

DRAFT CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS
LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE

Preamble

The States parties to this Convention,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Recalling that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, affirms that States shall bear international responsibility for their national activities in outer space and refers to the State on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried,

Recalling also that the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space provides that a launching authority shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to the return of an object it has launched into outer space which has come into the possession of another State party,

Recalling further that the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects elaborates international rules and procedures concerning the liability of launching States for damage caused by their space objects,

Taking note of the treaty relating to the moon /and other celestial bodies/, concerning an international legal régime for the exploration and use of the moon /and other celestial bodies/,

Desiring, in the light of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, to make provision for the registration by a launching State of space objects launched into outer space,

Desiring further to establish, on an obligatory basis, a central register of objects launched into outer space to be maintained by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

*** For the positions of delegations, their reservations, interpretations and proposals, the reports (in particular document A/8720) and the verbatim records of the Committee as well as the reports (in particular documents A/AC.105/101 and A/AC.105/115) and the summary records of the Legal Sub-Committee should be consulted.

Desiring also to provide for States parties additional means and procedures to assist in the identification of space objects for the purposes set out in this Convention,

Believing that a mandatory system of registering objects launched into outer space would, in particular, assist in their identification and would contribute to the application and development of international law governing the exploration and use of outer space,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

For the purpose of this Convention:

(a) The term "launching State" means

- (i) A State which launches or procures the launching of a space object;
- (ii) A State from whose territory or facility a space object is launched.

(b) The term "space object" includes component parts of a space object as well as its launch vehicle and parts thereof.

(c) The term "State of registry" means a launching State on whose registry a space object is carried in accordance with article II

Article II

1. When a space object is launched into earth orbit or beyond,* the launching State shall register the space object by means of an entry in an appropriate registry which it shall maintain. Each launching State shall inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the establishment of such a registry.

2. Where there are two or more launching States in respect of any such space object, they shall jointly determine which one of them shall register the object in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article, bearing in mind the provisions of article VIII of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and without prejudice to appropriate agreements concluded or to be concluded between the launching States on jurisdiction and control over the space object and over any personnel thereof.

* The expression "into earth orbit or beyond" as used in the various articles of this draft convention reflects the terminology used in General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVII). One delegation, however, was of the view that further consideration should be given to the rendering of this expression in all official languages.

3. The contents of and conditions under which each registry is maintained shall be determined by the State of registry concerned.

Article III

1. Each State of registry shall furnish to the Secretary-General, as soon as practicable, the following information concerning each space object launched into earth orbit or beyond:

- (a) Name of launching State or States;
- (b) An appropriate international designator or registration number;
- (c) Date and territory or facility of launch;
- (d) Basic orbital parameters, including:
 - (i) Nodal period,
 - (ii) Inclination,
 - (iii) Apogee, and
 - (iv) Perigee;
- (e) General function of the space object.

2. A State of registry may, from time to time, provide the Secretary-General with additional information in relation to a space object it has launched into earth orbit or beyond.

3. Each State of registry shall notify the Secretary-General, to the greatest extent feasible and as soon as practicable, of space objects concerning which it has previously transmitted information, and which have been but no longer are in earth orbit.

/Article III bis

In any case when a space object launched into earth orbit or beyond is marked with an appropriate international designator or registration number, the State of registry shall, /if it considers it useful/, inform the Secretary-General of this fact. In such case, the Secretary-General shall record this information in the central register together with information regarding the space object furnished in accordance with Article III./

Article IV

1. The Secretary-General shall maintain a central register in which the information furnished in accordance with article III shall be recorded.

2. There shall be full and open access to the information in this register.

Article V

Where the application of the provisions of this Convention has not enabled a State party to identify a space object which has caused damage to it or to any of its natural or juridical persons, or which may be of a hazardous or deleterious nature, other States parties, including in particular States possessing space monitoring and tracking facilities, shall respond to the greatest extent feasible to a request by that State party, or transmitted through the Secretary-General on its behalf, for assistance under equitable and reasonable conditions in the identification of the object. A State party making such a request shall, to the greatest extent feasible, submit information as to the time, nature and circumstances of the events giving rise to the request. Arrangements under which such assistance shall be rendered shall be the object of agreement between the parties concerned.

Article VI

1. With the exception of articles VII through XI of this Convention, references to States shall be deemed to apply to any international intergovernmental organization which conducts space activities if the organization declares its acceptance of the rights and obligations provided for in this Convention and if a majority of the States members of the organization are States parties to this Convention and to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.
2. States members of any such organization which are States parties to this Convention shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that the organization makes a declaration in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

Article VII

1. This Convention shall be open to all States for signature. Any State which does not sign this Convention before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.
2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, which are hereby designated the depositary Governments.
3. This Convention shall enter into force on the deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification.
4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of this Convention, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.
5. The depositary Governments shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of

ratification of and accession to this Convention, the date of its entry into force and other notices.

6. This Convention shall be registered by the depositary Governments pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article VIII

Any State party to this Convention may propose amendments to this Convention. Amendments shall enter into force for each State party to the Convention accepting the amendments upon their acceptance by a majority of the States party to the Convention on the date of acceptance by it.

Article VIII bis

Ten years after the entry into force of this Convention, the question of the review of this Convention shall be included in the provisional agenda of the United Nations General Assembly in order to consider, in the light of past application of the Convention, whether it requires revision. However, at any time after the Convention has been in force for five years, and at the request of one third of the States parties to the Convention, and with the concurrence of the majority of the States parties, a conference of the States parties shall be convened to review this Convention. Such review shall take into account in particular any relevant technological developments.

Article IX

Any State party to this Convention may give notice of its withdrawal from the Convention one year after its entry into force by written notification to the depositary Governments. Such withdrawal shall take effect one year from the date of receipt of this notification.

Article X

This Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the depositary Governments. Duly certified copies of this Convention shall be transmitted by the depositary Governments to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed this Convention.

Done in _____, at the cities of _____,
this _____ day of _____, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-
_____.

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