

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Official Records



**FIRST COMMITTEE, 1646th
MEETING**

Wednesday, 18 December 1968,
at 3 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

Page

Agenda item 24:

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (*concluded*) 1

Agenda item 26:

Examination of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind: report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction (*continued*) 15

Chairman: Mr. Piero VINCI (Italy).

AGENDA ITEM 24

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (*concluded*) (A/7285, A/C.1/979, A/C.1/L.463, L.464)

1. Mr. GOTMANOV (Czechoslovakia): The Czechoslovak delegation would like to state in brief its position on the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [A/7285] now under our consideration and to express several thoughts concerning our future activities in this field. The past year has marked further significant successes in the penetration of man into outer space, which we appreciate. In particular the two space super-Powers—the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America—made significant progress in the preparation of flights of men to the moon and around this eternal satellite of our earth. We can also register with satisfaction the constant intensification of international co-operation in this important field in the United Nations. I would like once again to make use of this opportunity to express our satisfaction with the organization of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1968 at Vienna. We appreciate the contribution of the Austrian Government to the preparation and organization of that Conference. We wish to express our conviction that the results of the Conference will be of great importance for the application of scientific and technological knowledge to practical uses, especially to the economic and technical development of all countries.

2. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of our Committee, which is to meet in the spring of 1969, should be instrumental in bringing the results of the Vienna Conference to life quickly and without delay. In view of

the fact that in 1968 the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee has not been convened, it faces a number of other important tasks in the field of scientific and technical co-operation and the training of cadres. The majority of these tasks are formulated sufficiently instructively in the draft resolution before us [A/C.1/L.463].

3. We attach great importance to the progress made in respect of various aspects of the development of satellite communications both from the technical and socio-legal aspects. The Czechoslovak delegation has striven for several years to put this very important question on a solid basis also from the legal point of view. I have particularly in mind that the question of satellite communications should be handled in a non-discriminatory way. Therefore, we are ready to continue to participate within our capabilities in the development of these significant problems. We are of the opinion that the regulation of these questions would contribute to the furtherance of international co-operation in this field.

4. As to the Legal Sub-Committee, I would like to express my hope that at its eighth session decisive progress will be achieved in the preparation of a draft agreement on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space and that a text of a draft will be submitted to the General Assembly at its next session. In this connexion we appreciate the fact that the recently concluded Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space [*General Assembly resolution 2345 (XXII), annex*] has already entered into force. We consider this Agreement to be a significant instrument which, especially from the humanitarian point of view, constitutes a positive step towards the development of the norms of cosmic law.

5. In conclusion I would like to express our conviction that the draft resolution co-sponsored by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will be unanimously adopted and that it will constitute a sufficient guidance for the activities of the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1969.

6. Mr. KAPLAN (Canada) Before commenting on the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, I should like to pay a brief tribute to those States and international organizations instrumental in the latest achievements in the exploration and use of outer space. Each year the pace of these achievements quickens and this year has been no exception. Apart from the impressive projects conducted by several countries acting collectively, we have witnessed the success of remarkable advances in the conquest of space by the United States and the Soviet Union. Recent developments in the Apollo and Zond series are spectacular steps in man's progress to the moon, and the

Canadian Government offers its congratulations to those responsible.

7. My delegation welcomes also the increasing co-operation taking place internationally between States actively engaged in space programmes. These States and many others are collaborating, moreover, not only in space research and exploration, but also in the practical use of outer space with its immense potential for the economic and social betterment of the developing as well as the more economically advanced nations of earth. My delegation therefore supports the provision of expert advice, including education and training, to the developing countries, as suggested in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in concluding sessions of the Vienna Conference, and is prepared to study carefully how this advice should best be secured. The far-reaching scientific and technological progress in this new dimension of the past decade, with its outstanding discoveries and achievements, is steadily giving way to the practical utilization of outer space on a broad international level in various fields of human endeavour such as communications, meteorology, resources surveys and the dissemination of information. This use of outer space in the service of humanity requires international co-operation, which in turn contributes to the promotion of greater unity and understanding in the world.

8. Canada is a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and I wish only to review quickly some aspects of the Committee's work this year which my delegation believes deserve special attention.

9. I would like, however, at the outset to express my Government's appreciation for the constructive and generous role which the President of the Conference, the Austrian Foreign Minister, Mr. Waldheim, and the Austrian Government played in hosting and providing the facilities for the successful Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held at Vienna last summer. Canada was among several countries participating actively at this Conference by presenting papers and by chairing one of its thematic sessions. The documentation annexed to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reflects the variety of subjects discussed, many of which will be considered in detail by my Government and I am sure by the Governments of other Member States.

10. Last year, my delegation said that because of its humanitarian aspects Canada was very pleased to support the consensus in the Agreement relating to assistance to and return of astronauts and space objects. This was a notable achievement in the developing law of outer space. We are gratified to note, therefore, that this Agreement has now come into force. We also said last year that we hoped attention would be concentrated on obtaining similar agreement on a draft convention on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space. Unfortunately the Legal Sub-Committee has again reported failure to draft such a convention and this is most disappointing.

11. It is true that the report of the Legal Sub-Committee indicates some slight advance towards a complete liability convention, but when this advance is viewed in the light of the urgency which the General Assembly underlined in

operative paragraph 4 of resolution 2345 (XXII), its pace and extent is simply not satisfactory. In the opinion of my delegation a far greater effort must be made on the next occasion. In this sense, my Government joined with Governments of ten other members of the Sub-Committee to ask that Governments concentrate their attention on several important but reserved questions concerning a liability convention.

12. The Legal Sub-Committee has recommended that the specialized agencies of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency examine and report on particular problems that have arisen, or may arise, from the use of space in the fields within their competence [*see A/7285, annex III, para. 16*]. My delegation supports this recommendation as we consider that several agencies, notably the International Telecommunication Union, will be able to provide much useful information regarding possible harmful interference of a space object with telecommunications.

13. Canada has for some time supported the concept of registering objects launched into outer space. My delegation is pleased to note a new French draft convention on this subject and would like to assure the Committee that it will be given most careful consideration.

14. I now turn to the question of direct broadcasting from satellites. After a discussion in the Legal Sub-Committee in which a number of countries expressed their deep interest in this subject, the Legal Sub-Committee recommended that a study of the question be undertaken enlisting appropriate assistance from the competent specialized agencies of the United Nations wherever available [*ibid., para. 15*]. It was suggested at the Vienna Conference that satellites with powerful transmitters could be produced within the next few years, and direct television broadcasts from satellites would be available in about five years. I do not wish to go into this matter in any detail at this meeting, but I do wish to underline the view of my Government that time does not permit any delay before a study of this question is undertaken.

15. Conscious of this urgency, Canada was pleased to join with Sweden in putting forward a concrete proposal in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that a special working group should be established to study and report on the technical feasibility of communications by direct broadcasting satellites and the current and foreseeable developments in this field, including comparative user costs and other economic considerations as well as the implications of such developments in the social, cultural, legal and other areas [*see A/AC.105/PV.58*]. Naturally, as in the past when other working groups were established, membership in the group would be open to all interested members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space represented as far as possible by specialists and by representatives, whenever necessary, of the competent specialized agencies of the United Nations. My delegation hopes that all interested States, as well as the specialized agencies, will contribute comments and working papers to this special group for its information and guidance in the performance of its task. In this regard, the Secretary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space informed its members on 13 December 1968 at an informal meeting

that the working group could meet in New York from 10 to 21 February.

16. The working group's mandate, as contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, stipulates that the group's first task is "to formulate a work schedule for its fields of study and establish a time-table". The mandate also requires that two reports should be produced, one on technical considerations and the other on the economic, social, cultural, legal and other implications. It was further noted that these reports should be submitted to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee for their consideration if their respective time-tables permit [*see S/7285, paras. 28 and 30*]. In light of the above, my delegation suggests that at its first meeting in February the working group should produce the first report on technical matters and then should meet again, for a longer period, perhaps about early May, for the purpose of producing its second report. I should like to add in this connexion that Canada, in collaboration with Sweden, has already commenced work on a paper to be ready in the new year.

17. In conclusion, my delegation is pleased to support the continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India [*ibid., para. 33*] which like the Experimental Satellite Communications Earth Station at Ahmedabad, has a relevance to the real problems of developing nations and to the solution of those problems through international collaboration.

18. We should welcome the consideration of the United Nations sponsorship of other similar projects, such as the Mar Chiquita station in Argentina [*ibid., para. 35*] which meet the basic principles of furthering international collaboration in space research and the advancement of human knowledge and which provide opportunities for valuable practical training for interested users.

19. Scientific and technological changes, unparalleled in any other epoch of history, are increasingly involving the United Nations in highly technical matters, such as outer space, the sea-bed and ocean floor and problems of pollution and safeguarding the human environment. The solution of such problems requires international co-operation, to which Canada as a country of advanced technology is prepared, when given the opportunity, to make its contribution.

20. Mr. CHTIOUI (Tunisia) (*translated from French*): The Tunisian delegation would have liked to abstain from speaking on this item in order to speed up the work of the Committee, which is drawing to its close, but we should like to make a brief statement on this matter, which has always held our interest and attention.

21. We should like to say first of all how grateful we are to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the work it has accomplished which, as always, has come up to our expectations. We have read the report [*A/7285*] with interest and we shall certainly pay due heed to the documents submitted to the Conference. I should already like to say that the one submitted by the Secretary-General and entitled "Uses of communication satellites by the United Nations",¹ was of especial interest to us.

22. In this connexion, the Tunisian delegation would like to recall that already in 1961 the Assembly had noted unanimously "the potential importance of communication satellites for use by the United Nations and its principal organs and specialized agencies for both operational and informational requirements." [*Resolution 1721 D (XVI) of 20 December 1961*.]

23. The above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General presented to the Vienna Conference notes that it is now possible to see more clearly the extent to which the use of telecommunications satellites by the United Nations for its internal communications and for its information activities can serve the purposes assigned to it.

24. We quite agree with the Secretary-General that the use of telecommunications satellites will greatly increase the regularity and effectiveness of United Nations information activities and of its internal communications. We therefore particularly wish to support the Secretary-General's suggestion that agreements should be concluded under which the Organization would have free and permanent access on a free-of-cost and absolute basis to regional and world-wide systems of communications satellites by way of contributions by the owners to the international service.

25. This is an important point which my delegation wished to emphasize and in respect of which we would like to reiterate our interest and support.

26. Before concluding, I should also like to say that my delegation will vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/L.463, presented by twenty-six delegations, which duly reflects all the positive aspects of the report of the Committee.

27. Mr. PENCHEV (Bulgaria) (*translated from French*): The consideration of the problems of the peaceful uses of outer space is a noble pioneering task. Far from being a thankless task it is in fact most attractive for two reasons. First of all, it is a field that has hardly been explored, full of unexpected problems and hopes. It is true that the roads leading to outer space have been blazed for States and offer unlimited possibilities for the dreams of mankind as a whole. On the other hand, it is one of those problems which holds out vast prospects of new discoveries, and thus galvanizes the wildest creative imaginings of man—of the scientist, the statesman, the technician and the man in the street. None can foresee and foretell now what these discoveries will spell for mankind's welfare. For we are all agreed—and this was a well-established point widely supported at the United Nations Conference in Vienna—that space activities are international by their very nature, not only because of their aim, namely the conquest of outer space, but also because of the need for the exchange of information on a very wide scale, only possible on an international level. There can be no doubt whatsoever that close co-operation between States in space research will always produce fruitful results.

28. It is for this reason that Bulgaria, despite its meagre possibilities, took an active part in the United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Exploration and Uses of Outer Space, and submitted eight papers prepared by Bulgarian experts and scientists. My delegation would like to take this

¹ A/CONF. 34/L.27.

opportunity of expressing its heartfelt thanks to the Austrian Government for the excellent organization of that Conference, which we feel may well prove in many respects to be of historical importance.

29. It was, first of all, an initial effort to bring together, to analyse and to assess the practical results already achieved in outer space, and also to draw up a list of recommendations and decisions in order to make use of those results and to make them available to all mankind.

30. The debates of the Conference, furthermore, showed the great interest of all States without exception in the problems of the exploration and the peaceful uses of outer space. Thus the Conference was transformed into a manifestation of the peaceful desires of all peoples. The Conference in effect opposed the use of outer space for military purposes, and most definitely pronounced itself in favour of transforming outer space into a zone of peace and international co-operation. This was one of the good results—and there were others—of that Conference, as is confirmed by the fact that a basic part of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is devoted to future activities dealing with the wide dissemination of the memoranda and other documents of that Conference.

31. In that connexion my delegation wishes to express its support of the recommendations and other measures contained in the Committee's report in order to ensure wide publicity for the results of the Vienna Conference. Obviously we need to ponder carefully and examine attentively all specific proposals made in this field before we take any final decisions on them.

32. The report of the Committee is far from being a mere report of its activities during the period reviewed. It would be more accurate to say that it represents a programme, in fact an ambitious programme, of its activities in the years to come, of the serious work it is planning to undertake. I think we should note here the decision of the Committee [A/7285, paras. 22 and 23] to entrust the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee with examining in detail all aspects of the proposals of India and Sierra Leone on the constitution of a small advisory group and a United Nations information and consultation centre to deal with the practical application of space technology as well as the adoption of other measures that will give technical assistance to States in order to assist them in the training of qualified personnel in the field of exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. My delegation has welcomed with satisfaction those decisions of the Committee which were later embodied in draft resolution A/C.1/L.463, of which my delegation has become a sponsor.

33. Another positive aspect of the work of the Committee is the agreement among members in their assessment of the results of the work of the seventh session of the Legal Sub-Committee which, though not deemed entirely unsatisfactory, are regarded as not having come up to expectations. May I recall that the main task of the seventh session of the Legal Sub-Committee was the preparation of an international convention on the liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space. However, we cannot ignore the fact that the Legal Sub-Committee has already considered the differences of views between the

delegations and the various legal concepts of the matter. We are now fully aware of the problems that have to be solved to arrive at formulations acceptable to all States. We are far from complacent about the results reached by the Legal Sub-Committee; nevertheless we should not lose sight of the fact that the question under consideration is extremely difficult, in view of the complexity of the actual problem of liabilities and also of the different ways in which the question is dealt with under the various national legal systems. We should nevertheless pay tribute to the efforts made by the Legal Sub-Committee to bring together the different views expressed. Reconciling the opinions of delegations is by no means a mechanical act. On the contrary it was a long process of assimilation, assessment and reflection. A development of the positions of the different delegations along these lines would seem to be in progress and we dare hope that the Legal Sub-Committee will, at its next session, be in a position to overcome all those difficulties and that its work will lead to the preparation of the draft convention on liability for damage.

34. This is essential since we are pressed for time and the new achievement in outer space research constantly gives rise to new problems linked to the peaceful uses of outer space, problems which must be subject to some legal rules.

35. The delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria feels that the Legal Sub-Committee should reasonably speed up its work in order to arrive at the final goal, namely, the convention. This is not only necessary if it is to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it under the terms of resolution 2345 (XXII) of the General Assembly, but also to meet the requirements created by the advanced stage reached in the problem of the conquest of outer space. New practical problems could emerge at any moment and we should be hard put to it to solve them if we lack the necessary institutions and appropriate legal rules.

36. Mr. VAKIL (Iran): At the end of the session statements should be brief. Mine will be. We are disappointed that what, from the point of view of non-space Powers, is the more important of the two agreements spelling out the principles contained in the Treaty on outer space has not been made ready.

37. There is no time nor is this the place to explore the legal subtleties involved in the differences in the Legal Sub-Committee that hamper conclusion of its assigned task. It is appropriate and necessary, however, to indicate our position on the questions of principle involved.

38. The object of the agreement to be reached is the protection of those likely to be the victims of injuries caused by the space activities of others. It is admitted by all that the launching authority, whether composed of one or several States and whether a State or an international organization, is liable for the injurious consequences to others of its space activities. We perceive no possible basis in principle for excluding from this liability damage attributable to the nuclear components of space objects.

39. It is agreed that liability for damage caused by space objects in environments other than outer space is absolute, and applies once the relation of cause and effect is established. To us it appears that the only possible

implication of this must be that all the risks of outer space enterprises are to be borne by those who undertake them. Consequently, liability is not only absolute; it is unlimited. We perceive no basis in law or equity for requiring non-participants to act as co-insurers of the ventures of others. If unlimited liability for damages has the effect of slowing the pace or reducing the scope of space activity, such a result appears to my delegation not inconsistent with the cardinal and accepted principle that space activity must redound to the benefit of all mankind. Unlimited liability for the injurious consequences of space ventures appears to us to be an effective way of ensuring that this principle is not overlooked.

40. It is agreed that speedy reparation to an injured State is the object of the agreement to be negotiated. That principle is the touchstone by which to test the differences concerning the applicable law and the modalities for applying it.

41. Two points are of importance here. Speedy reparation is not likely if, for lack of efficient remedies at the disposal of the victim of the damage, the day of reckoning can be put off. We, of course, share the general view that in resolving inter-State claims negotiation is the method of first resort. We cannot agree that the matter can be left at that, as it would be if persistent differences could not be resolved except through instruments of confrontation. There must be means of final settlement. In our view, that means third party settlement.

42. It appears fundamental to us that when injury is caused to one State by the intrusion of another, the law applicable in determining the measure of reparation due, like that attaching responsibility, cannot be any other than international law. The intrusion is a breach of international law, and it appears as well settled a doctrine as I know that the same law governs the question of reparation for the consequences. Further, it is our view that although the damage to be repaired will likely involve injury to private interests, the claim of the injured State is not to be treated as if it rested on the foundations of diplomatic protection in the traditional sense.

43. The injury to the State is direct and immediate; hence, questions of the nationality of the natural or juristic persons involved ought not to be allowed to be raised as between the responsible and injured States. The relevance of such questions, if any, concerns the relations of the injured State and third States. Equity and justice require that the injured nationals of third States should be compensated out of the funds received; but that is not a question for the responsible State.

44. In the settlement of claims, questions will inevitably arise concerning the interpretation of the agreement. It is our belief that these should be settled by reference to the International Court of Justice on the application of one of the parties. In any event, questions of interpretation will have to be resolved by the arbitral body to be called in when negotiation fails to yield agreement between the parties.

45. For lack of time, we reserve the statement of our views on other questions dividing the Sub-Committee for

expression in that forum when work on the agreement is resumed.

46. There is one further point of principle which requires comment, however. The Treaty,² the Agreement on return of astronauts, and an agreement on liability for damage are inter-dependent parts of a whole. Together they constitute the necessary supports for a sound and enduring structure of space co-operation, which, without any one of them, would be as unstable as a two-legged stool.

47. It is distressing to note that there have already been evidences of difference concerning the meaning and implications of the agreements thus far concluded. In a body which proceeds by consensus rather than vote, as the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its organs must, it would be encouraging if States showed the same eagerness to achieve results which will safeguard the interests of others as marked their efforts to obtain agreement on legal structures of particular importance to themselves.

48. I shall conclude with a brief comment on the Conference which took place last summer. First of all, I should like to associate my delegation with the well deserved tribute which you, Mr. Chairman, paid on behalf of this Committee to the Foreign Minister of Austria for his leadership, both as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and as President of the Conference at Vienna. We also welcome his successor to the Chair of that Committee, Mr. Haymerle of Austria.

49. At the same time, we should like to pay a tribute to the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

50. Members of this Committee will doubtless have read with particular interest the thoughtful summation of the results of the Conference discussions by the Scientific Chairman of the Conference which is reproduced in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [see A/7285, annex II, chap. XI]. Especially noteworthy are his suggestions concerning ways to spread the benefits of space activity more widely.

51. In this connexion I also note the proposal of the representative of India at the 53rd meeting of the Committee [see A/AC.105/PV.53]. He called for the establishment of a small advisory group and for action to be taken to arrange panel meetings, fellowships, surveys and technical assistance. This proposal is contained in a draft resolution [see A/C.1/L.463, sec. A, operative para. 4] which my delegation has the honour to co-sponsor. We believe that the idea is a good one and should be urgently pressed. It is time to consider whether a third sub-group of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be set up to concern itself with widening the scope of space co-operation and spreading the benefits of space activity. The members of such a body should be chosen for their special expertise. At the same time, if the conclusions of the Conference are to have real impact, we believe that the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat should be

² Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

reorganized and strengthened. Together with other delegations, we submitted proposals on this matter in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee last year. The matter needs careful study.

52. The General Assembly has previously noted the importance of direct broadcasting from satellites. We look forward eagerly to the results of the examination of this possibility to be made by a working group established by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the suggestion of Sweden [see A/7285, para. 27].

53. It cannot yet be said that space co-operation is widely advanced or that the less developed States of the world have yet felt the practical benefits of space ventures in large measure. In this field, as in others opened up by the dizzying scientific advances of our time, we continue to be hopeful of an abundant harvest of contributions to the improvement of life on earth. Our hopes would be strengthened if the activities of the United Nations would take the direction pointed by the recent Conference and if sound organizational efforts for that purpose were to be made with all deliberate speed.

54. Mr. DELEAU (France) (*translated from French*): The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, now before this Committee, demonstrates the efforts made by the United Nations during the past year to promote and widen international co-operation in the exploration and uses of outer space.

55. At a time when an important year for outer space exploration and the study of its practical applications is drawing to its end, we should perhaps briefly review the activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and establish, as far as possible, what directions its programme for the future should take.

56. During the October session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the French delegation had an opportunity to express its satisfaction at the very wide exchange of views on the application of space science and technology which was occasioned by the first United Nations Conference on Outer Space organized in Vienna, thanks to the hospitality of the Austrian Government. Besides the technical memoranda submitted and discussed by outstanding scientists and by representatives of specialized institutions, a large number of subjects affecting the economic, social and legal aspects of outer space exploration were taken up for the first time in the various working groups.

57. Thus, in line with the targets set, the Conference certainly highlighted the practical advantages which developing countries can derive from space research and exploration. It also demonstrated the limitations, at the present stage in the development of science and technology, of some of those applications. Nevertheless, a certain number of suggestions that had been introduced in Vienna with a view to publicizing the results of the Conference were recommended by the Committee. The French delegation listened with interest to the proposals of the Indian delegation to organize meetings of experts and grant scholarships. However, we believe that it would be wise if such activities were to take place within already existing

bodies of the United Nations, for instance the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee which has had such functions from the outset.

58. France has for some time been concerned with the problems that may result from the peaceful uses of outer space. In this connexion, the creation of a working group on direct broadcast satellites recommended by the Committee meets in principle with the approval of my delegation, if the work of such a group is carefully prepared and if it is based on thorough technical studies, which should take into account research already undertaken, in particular by the International Telecommunication Union.

59. The Vienna Conference and all the work done to date have shown the importance of the use of satellites in telecommunications. The French delegation was particularly interested by the Soviet proposal for the establishment of a world satellite telecommunications organization, called "Intersputnik" and has already been participating for several years in another system whose operations have stood the test of time and which goes by the name of INTELSAT.

60. The idea of the existence of two networks and the establishment of other systems which might be decided upon in various parts of the world lead us to envisage, as we have said at greater length in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the establishment of a single space telecommunications world organization, whose role would be to harmonize the activities of the various satellites or satellite systems which each country may wish to place into orbit for its own communications or for the benefit of a group of countries interested in achieving a joint programme. General Assembly resolution 1721 D (XVI) expressed, seven years ago, its belief that communications by means of satellites should be available to the nations of the world as soon as practicable on a non-discriminatory basis. That is the course that we should follow if we wish to respect the principles of the 1967 Treaty on Outer Space,² and also to secure order and equality of rights in space activities. That is our conviction and we are glad to note that it is also the conviction of the Swedish delegation and of a large number of other delegations.

61. The study of the peaceful uses of outer space and their practical application brings us, as is to be expected, to the problem of the registration of objects launched into outer space, a registration the need for which becomes daily more obvious, as the number of these objects circling in outer space becomes greater.

62. It is in answer to those concrete problems that the French delegation suggested in the Legal Sub-Committee at its June session that this question should be taken up for study, and submitted a draft convention on the registration of those objects [*ibid.*, annex III, appendix II] as a basis for discussion. It hopes that this matter will be taken up at the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee as part of its study of the peaceful uses of outer space.

63. That same session of the Sub-Committee will also, and above all, have to take up once again the study of the draft convention on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space, a study begun many years ago

and unfortunately not yet concluded. In this connexion, the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee was particularly disappointing. But we hope it will do better next year. It is true that serious differences exist on several particularly important points.

64. In the view of my delegation, there are five such points, as follows: the scope of the convention, which, as far as France is concerned, should apply to nuclear as well as to other damage; the nature of the liability, which should, in our view, be unlimited; the determination of the law to be applied, which, in our opinion, should be that of the place where the damage was caused, that is to say, the law that is closest to the victim; the case of international organizations, whose existence and activities should be taken into account; and lastly, the problem of the settlement of differences, which should be subject to compulsory arbitration procedure.

65. It will be noted that the positions taken by the French delegation on these various points all have a common concern, that of safeguarding the interests of the victim.

66. We think that at its next session, the Legal Sub-Committee should give priority to the solution of those questions on which, to a large extent, agreement on the whole of the draft convention depends.

67. Those are the main comments which my delegation wished to make at this stage. They show it has sponsored draft resolution A/C.1/L.463, which is before the Committee.

68. In that text we find, in particular, among a number of other features: an evaluation of the results of the Vienna Conference and an expression of the desire that its conclusions should be put to the best possible use; precise terms of reference for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the urgent completion of its work on liability and for continuation of its studies on a definition and on the peaceful uses of outer space; a reaffirmation, on the initiative of the Swedish delegation, of the principle that should inspire all initiatives for the creation of telecommunication satellite networks, namely the principle that all nations should be assured of the means of using them on a non-discriminatory basis; the creation of a new working group on direct broadcast satellites; a request to the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to examine the particular problems which arise or may arise from the use of outer space in the fields within their competence, and to report thereon to the Committee for its consideration.

69. These activities, in conjunction with those already undertaken under the enlightened leadership of Mr. Waldheim and later Mr. Haymerle, should enable the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to carry through its task at the pace made necessary by the more rapid sequence of space tests as exemplified, notably, by the missions recently assigned to the Zond and Apollo space vehicles. We are happy to applaud the success of those missions and also express our sincere wishes for their future success.

70. Mr. DIACONESCU (Romania) (*translated from French*): The exploration and peaceful uses of outer space

in the interest of man's progress are becoming increasingly a prominent subject of consideration both on the national level and the level of international co-operation. The scope of the problems requiring solution from the scientific, technical and economic points of view so that the conquest of space may go forward, and the solidarity of feeling among nations in favour of keeping outer space outside the realm of military competition, as well as the increasing interest shown by all countries in the application of space techniques for the benefit of all mankind, have brought about a quite rapid development of international co-operation in this field. This is helping to promote international collaboration in other spheres of human activity and contributes to the achievement of better understanding and mutual respect among nations.

71. Since the last session of the General Assembly, new and remarkable achievements have been registered in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. Vehicles and astronauts have been launched ever further into space in the great task of preparing the way for man's first journey to the moon.

72. There has been an increase, at various levels, in the interest shown in space activities and in the understanding of the many advantages that the use of outer space can offer mankind in an ever-growing number of States.

73. In my country, Romania, this heightened interest in outer-space research was reflected in, among other things, the creation in 1967 of the Romanian Commission for Space Activities. That Commission, which is part of the National Council for Scientific Research, is the body responsible for carrying out the space programme of my country.

74. From the point of view of international co-operation in the field of outer space, the most remarkable event of the past years was, obviously, the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Conference, in our opinion, provided an excellent opportunity for a valuable exchange of views on the various aspects of space science and technology, leading towards conclusions useful in applying the results of space research to the needs of economic and social development.

75. The high-level debate that took place in Vienna during that Conference strengthened our conviction that the exploration and utilization of outer space could produce forthwith definite advantages for all countries regardless of their degree of economic and scientific development. It may still be too early to assess fully the complete value of the conclusions that may be drawn from the intensive scientific discussions that took place during the two weeks spent in the Austrian capital between the most eminent experts in the field, representing seventy-eight countries from all over the world, as well as a considerable number of international organizations interested in space activities. We are happy to note that the proposals and suggestions formulated in the course of the Vienna Conference, after careful study by Governments, will be included in the programme of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for 1969.

76. The draft resolution [A/C.1/L.463] submitted this morning by the representative of Austria on behalf of

twenty-six sponsors—and we are happy to say our delegation is one of them—lays stress on this Committee's intention to study all proposals emanating from the Vienna Conference.

77. It seems reasonable to presume that the proposals set forth in the course of the last session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space by the delegations of India, Sierra Leone [*see A/7285, paras. 22 and 23*], and Sweden [*ibid., annex III, para. 15*]—proposals that have been included in the Committee's programme of work for the next year—constitute only the first definite conclusions drawn so far from the Vienna Conference.

78. Since I have referred to the Vienna Conference, I should like once more to express the sincere appreciation of the Romanian delegation to the Austrian Government, which, as a result of its particular concern and hospitality, made a most substantial contribution to the success of the Conference.

79. The draft resolution submitted to this Committee provides sufficient scope for the activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space during the coming year. Apart from the analysis of the results of the Vienna Conference, other questions are also awaiting careful study by the Committee. In this connexion, I should like to emphasize the importance my delegation attaches to the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to consider, at its next session, the suggestions and views voiced in the General Assembly and in the Committee regarding education and training in the field of the exploration and utilization of outer space. We are also glad to note the provision in paragraph 4 of part B of the draft resolution suggesting that satellite broadcasting communications should be organized on a world-wide basis and in a non-discriminatory fashion.

80. Legally speaking, my delegation hopes that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will very soon be successful in overcoming the difficulties resulting from divergent views expressed in the course of negotiations for a draft agreement concerning liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space and that the Committee will be able to submit that draft agreement to the General Assembly at its next session.

81. Romania will continue to devote all its attention to questions of the definition of outer space and its use.

82. As I said a few moments ago, it is obvious that in 1969, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will have important and comprehensive work to do, and we trust that the draft resolution before us, which lays down the new terms of reference of the Committee, will be adopted unanimously.

83. Mr. GREKOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (*translated from Russian*): In recent years the question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space has rightly become an important item on the General Assembly's agenda. It gained in importance when most of the world's countries signed the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

84. My delegation considers that space research, perhaps more than any other human activity, calls for broad and egalitarian international co-operation that would serve the cause of peace and enable all countries to benefit from the results of space conquest.

85. The United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was an important step towards the further development of such co-operation. My delegation, which took an active part in the discussions and group sessions on space communications and other practical uses of outer space, believes that the Conference was worthwhile. It has shown that the findings of space exploration and space technology can be given practical application in the interests of economic and social progress.

86. My delegation takes this opportunity to express its appreciation to the Austrian Government for the excellent organization and functioning of the Conference at Vienna.

87. We are all witness to the enormous advances in the exploration of space which was begun by the Soviet Union when it launched the first space satellite in 1957. In the eleven years following, the Soviet Union has been confidently blazing the way into the Universe for mankind. Quite recently, in September 1968, the whole world marvelled at a new and outstanding achievement of Soviet science and technology: for the first time in the history of mankind, the unmanned spacecraft "Zond-5" circled the moon and returned to earth. The historic flight of the "Zond-5", followed by that of the "Zond-6", opened a new stage in the peaceful exploration of outer space.

88. In October 1968 an important contribution to space exploration was made by the Soviet cosmonaut G. T. Beregovoi, who successfully manoeuvred and brought two spaceships together while in orbit. These latest outstanding achievements of Soviet science and technology are the result of the heroic labour of all the peoples of the Soviet Union.

89. As I have said, enormous progress has been made in space research. But what the Soviet Union, the United States and other countries have done in this regard is not the end. New flights, new discoveries and new achievements lie ahead.

90. Outer space has already begun to serve mankind.

91. Man-made satellites have opened up broad possibilities for the development of communications weather forecasting, navigation, etc. The use of satellites for radio and television broadcasting is rapidly becoming a world-wide practice. Meteorological satellites are even now providing ample information on the formation and approach of destructive hurricanes and tornadoes, killing frosts, rains and droughts. Timely forecasts of these natural phenomena are of vast importance for many kinds of human activity.

92. Many countries are interested in space exploration, and each of them, whether great or small, can make a contribution to this arduous and important task.

93. Today, on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic,

I should like to say a few words on the work of exploration and use of outer space which is being done in my country and which has been made possible by the great development of our economy, science, culture and education during the years of Soviet power.

94. In Byelorussia, where prior to the Great October Socialist Revolution eighty-two out of every 100 persons were illiterate, there are now more than 450,000 specialists with higher or secondary education. In the 1967-68 academic year there were more than 260,000 students in the higher, secondary, and specialized educational establishments of the Republic. A large contingent of Byelorussian scientists, including over 300 doctors and over 4,000 candidates of science, are successfully solving current problems in the fields of biology and medicine, power production and machine building, radio and cybernetics, chemistry and metallurgy. Research done by Byelorussian scientists in physics, mathematics, biology, chemistry and optics has gained world-wide recognition.

95. Research on the uses of outer space is being performed in the Byelorussian SSR by the Institutes of the Academy of Sciences, the V. I. Lenin Byelorussian State University, the Hydrometeorological Service, the Ministry of Communications and other organizations and agencies of the Republic.

96. Research is being done in the Byelorussian SSR on near space, magnetism and earth currents as part of the programme of the International Geophysical Year and the International Year of the Quiet Sun.

97. Near-space research is to be further expanded on the basis of ionospheric observations.

98. In connexion with the development of space exploration and space technology, great importance is attached in the Byelorussian SSR to the solution of problems related to analytical and experimental investigations of energy and mass transfer in a vacuum. Byelorussian research on the mechanism of heat and mass transfer in a vacuum, hydromechanics and the flow of non-Newtonian liquids over bodies has received general recognition.

99. The Byelorussian SSR exchanges findings and observation results with various scientific institutions in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia and other countries.

100. In conclusion, my delegation would emphasize that there can be no further progress in space exploration unless there is peace on earth. Consequently, the struggle for peace, for the cessation of the arms race and for the elimination of sources of international tension has acquired paramount importance. Only if our planet is at peace will the nations inhabiting it be able to solve the problems facing them on earth and in space.

101. I hope that the Committee on Outer Space will complete without delay its formulation of the draft convention on the liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space and will submit it to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

102. My delegation will vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/L.463, approving the recommendations and deci-

sions contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

103. Mr. BADAWI (United Arab Republic): It gives my delegation great pleasure to extend our sincere congratulations to both the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on their outstanding feats and achievements in the exploration of outer space. Only a few years ago a trip to the moon or to one of the other planets in the universe was considered a figment of the imagination and only indulged in by the fans of science fiction. Today, in considering the spectacular experiments which are being conducted successfully by these two countries in outer space, we realize that such trips are not only within the realm of reality but also open up for us new vistas which were hitherto totally unknown to us. We do sincerely hope that mankind as a whole will be able to derive the expected benefits from the various space achievements. The motive behind the convocation of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was actually to underline and emphasize the practical benefits which the non-space Powers, and particularly the developing countries, could practically exploit and usefully utilize.

104. We are happy to note that the Conference has met our expectations. The main objective of the Conference was rightly stated by the Foreign Minister of Austria to be the opening up of:

“... a fruitful dialogue between the space Powers and the non-space Powers in order to explore all possibilities of bringing the practical benefits of space exploration and space technology to all nations, and in particular to the developing countries.” [*A/7285, annex II, chap. VI.*]

In fact, the idea of a Conference was envisaged mainly to assist the developing countries and to give a thrust to their quest for the grasp of the modern technology of outer space activities and its application. The Conference, to our satisfaction, has been a success in achieving its purpose of examining the practical benefits of space exploration.

105. We are all indebted to the Government and people of Austria for their most gracious and generous hospitality and I would request the representative of Austria to kindly convey our gratitude and thanks to his Government and people. We would like also to pay a sincere tribute to the eminent Indian scientist Mr. Vikram Sarabhai, who, as Vice-President and Scientific Chairman of the Conference, greatly contributed to its success.

106. During the deliberations of the Conference, several important and constructive ideas were raised, discussed and received widespread support. It is up to us now to make recommendations to transform the ideas from theory into practice and to formulate them in a concrete form so that the Assembly can pronounce itself on them and also give them the necessary impetus. In this connexion, I would like to emphasize the importance of following up the work of the Conference. The Secretary-General has rightly pointed out in his note on the work of the Conference that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should consider the ideas put forward at the Conference and make concrete recommendations. He further stated that:

“These recommendations must ensure that the resources and capacity of the United Nations will be

utilized most effectively in this most important effort to realize, as soon as possible, practical benefits for all people from the exploration of outer space. [*Ibid.*, chap. I.]

107. The non-space Powers, and in particular the developing countries, have a great deal to gain from the practical applications of outer space research. It is therefore natural that the developing countries, including my own, would attach considerable importance to the establishment of a United Nations programme for training and education in the field of outer space activities where only the privileged few are considered developed.

108. For the last few years the United Arab Republic delegation has had the opportunity to make proposals to this effect. During the debate in the First Committee at the twenty-second session my delegation requested [*1499th meeting, paras. 136 and 137*] that the space Powers and those who conduct advanced research in outer space should be requested to allocate several fellowships each year at their national research institutions at the behest of the United Nations. The United Nations role would be that of a clearing house for the application and for the selection of the best qualified, giving due regard to the needs of the developing countries. We also stated that we are inclined to believe that the United Nations could also make maximum use of the rocket launching stations under its sponsorship. Training courses should be created at these stations to meet the needs of the developing countries; financial assistance could also be extended to their specialists to enable them to participate in these courses.

109. Having closely followed the economic aspects of United Nations work, I am fully aware of the functioning of the technical assistance system. It has several aspects but I shall only single out two of them. First, the question has been raised whether we think that multilateral arrangements are compatible or competing with bilateral programmes. Experience under the United Nations system has shown that co-operative efforts when properly applied under bilateral and multilateral arrangements can work together in harmony. Under the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, thousands of fellowships and scholarships have been provided in the economic, social, cultural, technical and educational fields. The role of the United Nations has been to facilitate the provision of such technical assistance, but not to duplicate or compete with fellowships being provided through bilateral arrangements. In fact, the role of the United Nations in the Technical Assistance Programme has been praised all over the world, and has worked smoothly to the satisfaction of all concerned.

110. Secondly, it should be underlined that the United Nations only provides fellowships within the framework of the programme of training which is followed by the trainees in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the host State and the United Nations. It is entirely left to the discretion of the host State to provide a course of study relevant to outer space research and in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

111. We are, of course, aware that the training of scientists and other specialists in the field of research cannot be

conceived outside the institutions and agencies actively participating in space investigation. Thus, we must rely on the help and co-operation of the countries leading in this field. As you know, there are various national programmes for space education and training which are being conducted on a bilateral basis. We have always felt that co-operative efforts for space education and training could best be realized through the pursuit of both bilateral and multi-lateral arrangements.

112. In resolution 2260 (XXII) the General Assembly responded favourably to the proposals we made and in its conclusions in operative paragraph 11 it requested the Committee:

“... to start at its next session the serious consideration of the suggestions and views regarding education and training in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space expressed in the General Assembly and in the Committee”.

113. Yet it seems that this recommendation, which has been embodied in earlier General Assembly resolutions, has not been given due consideration by the Committee. We would like to express our hope that the Committee, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, will always be in a position to heed and discharge effectively the requests addressed to it. The United Arab Republic delegation would like to propose that the implementation of section B, operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution [*A/C.1/L.463*] concerning education and training should be referred to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in order to prepare a programme based on the suggestions and use during the deliberations of the Assembly in the past years. However, should the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee find itself not in a position to do that during the next session, the matter could perhaps be more effectively tackled by a separate working group. Such a procedure has been adopted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for navigation, for satellites and for space communications.

114. The Conference on outer space was undoubtedly a landmark which commemorated the end of the first decade of man's penetration into outer space. We are now at the beginning of the second decade and probably will find ourselves at the threshold of more outstanding and spectacular achievements. The Conference discussed various aspects of the outer space activities of the future. It is essential now to render concrete the ideas expressed in the Conference. At this stage the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space might consider conducting studies with a view to anticipating the required organizational arrangements for the future. It might be recalled that at the fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, Austria, Iran and the United Arab Republic made some proposals on the desirability of strengthening the Outer Space Affairs Division. The Sub-Committee took note of these proposals but took no action thereon.³ It should be recalled also in this connexion that the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries which met in 1961 at Belgrade expressed the hope that the international community will, through collective action, establish an international agency with a view to promoting and co-ordinating human actions

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Annexes*, document A/6804, annex II, paras. 23 and 24.

in the field of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. We are not proposing, at this stage, an agency; however we must give ample attention to the future needs of the international community. The least that could be done now is to consider all the proposals which have been put before the Committee and act positively on them.

115. The United Arab Republic delegation would like to propose that an item be added to the agenda of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space entitled: "Consideration of organizational arrangements required for the future". We hope that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will be able to give ample and serious consideration to this matter and that it will request both its Sub-Committees to undertake the necessary relevant studies with regard to this question.

116. We welcome the most timely decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to establish a working group on direct broadcast satellites to study the technical feasibility of communication by direct broadcast from satellites and the current and other foreseeable developments in this field as well as their economic, social, cultural and legal impact [*see A/7285, para. 22*]. In this regard, I might recall that my delegation took the initiative in the Legal Sub-Committee in 1966 to point out the potential implications in this area, and we therefore wholeheartedly support the present initiative taken by the delegations of Sweden and Canada in promoting the establishment of this working group. We look forward to co-operating in its work and making whatever contribution we could make in this area.

117. My delegation is very pleased to note that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has recommended the continued sponsorship of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India [*ibid., para. 33*]. At the dedication ceremonies of this range earlier this year the Secretary-General pointed out in his message the importance of such ranges, particularly as centres for education and training in the field of outer space. We believe that such ranges could make an outstanding contribution in this area, and it is up to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to strengthen such facilities by establishing programmes of education and training for scientists and engineers particularly from the developing countries. We are equally pleased, therefore, to note that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has recommended that a team of scientists be sent to the Mar Chiquita sounding rocket range in Argentina to advise the Committee of its eligibility for United Nations sponsorship [*ibid., para. 35*]. My delegation will be happy to co-operate in the work of this team.

118. I now turn to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee. In 1966 we welcomed the adoption of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, which for the first time introduced legal norms to regulate State activities in outer space. Last year, near the end of the General Assembly session, we were asked, in a rather hasty manner, to approve an Agreement on assistance and return of astronauts and space vehicles. We were happy to approve that Agreement. However, we pointed out in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in the General

Assembly that it is essential that an agreement on liability for damages caused by the launching of objects into outer space be finalized and adopted.

119. We understand the difficulties involved. However, we need not stress the various important humanitarian aspects involved in an agreement on liability. Both space and non-space Powers would benefit from adopting such an agreement. This might give added impetus which hopefully might help in accomplishing its early formulation.

120. It gives my delegation great pleasure to acknowledge the immense contribution made by the Foreign Minister of Austria, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, in his tireless efforts, his wise leadership and his dedication to the purposes and principles of the Charter which guided the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for several years. We wish him every success in his new high office. We would also like to extend our best wishes to his successor, Mr. Haymerle, and we are confident that he will likewise give the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space the needed leadership and guidance.

121. Mr. WILLIAMS (Sierra Leone): The Sierra Leone delegation welcomes the report of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space contained in document A/7285. It marks another step in the work of that Committee. The ideas set out in the report open up a new and greater vista for co-operation and for progress in this exciting new field.

122. There have been great achievements in the exploration of outer space during 1968. We need only mention the circumnavigation of the moon by the Soviet spacecrafts Zond 5 and Zond 6, and the three-man space flight of Apollo 7. We look forward to the launching of Apollo 8 scheduled for this weekend and wish the three spacemen and all others concerned every success. These spectacular advances each year whet the appetite of man for even greater exploration and learning. Such learning is beginning to take the form of their potential uses on earth.

123. The Vienna Conference on outer space was one such forum for publicizing the practical benefits to be derived from space research and exploration. Here I would like to express my delegation's great appreciation to the Government of Austria for the invitation, and in particular to its Foreign Minister the Chairman of the Conference, Mr. Waldheim and to Mr. Sarabhai for their leadership at that Conference. In that Conference there were very useful exchanges of ideas. Great emphasis was laid on the benefits that developing countries can have from all these activities. Many papers were presented, and no doubt Governments will study them to see what can be done.

124. One proposal was made by India [*ibid., para. 22*] and it deserves great study. A proposal made by Sierra Leone is for the use of expert services through a United Nations centre of information and consultation in the field of practical applications of space technology [*ibid., para. 23*]. We will make detailed recommendations in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its next session. For now, permit me to share briefly with the distinguished delegates some of the reasons for such a proposal.

125. Developing countries would wish to participate in this new venture into outer space. However, the factors of

economic necessity and priorities demand that their resources be put to the basic needs of bread and butter. If the developing countries do not now begin to avail themselves of the benefits of modern science and technology then their economic condition in the year 2000 will be even worse than the present disparity that now exists between the rich and the poor, the developed and the developing.

126. Since there is this desire among the developing countries to develop and participate in the benefits to be derived from space research and exploration, it was felt that a method ought to be devised for the most efficient use of the resources and manpower of those countries. Their limited resources and scarce manpower demand this. Developing countries, to be able to utilize the knowledge, would have to be aware of the knowledge available and how to use it. Their scarce resources make our suggestion for the setting up of this kind of centre for information and consultation a valid one. Indeed all countries, and not just the developing ones, can use such a service and benefit from the information which the two space Powers, other States and other organizations are supplying but which most cannot use for lack of manpower, technique and resources.

127. In short such a proposed centre can do several things. For instance, it can put in digestible form the knowledge of what is being done in the area of outer space activity relating to the benefits to be derived. It can help countries to recognize the significance of specific activities and results which are applicable to the economic development or the social and educational progress of those countries. It can also help countries to evaluate their capability to use this knowledge and adapt it to their special needs. It can further provide expert advice on the practical application of such knowledge for the increased benefit of those countries. These are some of the reasons for making the proposal and we believe it would contribute greatly to the better utilization of the knowledge which space Powers have promised to share.

128. Let me now turn my attention for a moment to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee. Earlier this year the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space was opened for signature. Some seventy countries have signed the Agreement and a number of countries including the two major space Powers have ratified it. This co-operation augurs well for future work. However, the progress on a complementary agreement, that is a convention on liability for damage arising from space objects, is painfully slow. We had hoped for a draft this year. My delegation would like to stress the urgency of the matter, for while the Agreement already in force serves the interests of the two space Powers, such a proposed convention will cover all States.

129. For small and developing countries such as Sierra Leone as well as for large and highly industrialized countries, communications satellites have a great potential. We welcome the initiative of the representative of Sweden on this matter in setting up a working group to study aspects of the use of such systems. As a natural consequence of what I have said so far, we co-sponsor draft resolution A/C.1/L.463.

130. Finally, man has accepted the challenge of outer space and we are on the very verge of sending for the first

time men to circumnavigate the moon. Let it not be said that when man turns to the solution of problems on his own earth, his prowess in outer space disappears.

131. Miss BROOKS (Liberia): At this late hour, I shall be very brief. The delegation of Liberia joins in welcoming the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. From annex I of that report, it takes note that in the judgement of its President, the Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space fulfilled its mandate, that is to say, (a) the examination of the practical benefits to be derived from space research and exploration and the extent to which non-space Powers, especially developing countries, may enjoy them and (b) the examination of the opportunities available to non-space Powers for international co-operation in space activities and of the role the United Nations will play.

132. My delegation further welcomes the promising possibilities mentioned in the field of communications as regards new concepts and solutions to intercontinental communications traffic through the use of communications satellites as well as the indication that in the particular situation of many developing countries the use of communications satellites could facilitate the establishment of modern communications systems, and thus make an important contribution towards rapid progress in the educational, economic and social development of such countries. We note the equally promising prospects in the field of weather observations and forecasting through the use of meteorological satellites, and in the field of navigation, international sea and air traffic through the use of navigational satellites.

133. My delegation recognizes the efforts of the Legal Sub-Committee to elaborate an international agreement on liability for damages caused by the launching of objects into outer space as well as the work done by that Sub-Committee in connexion with the definition of outer space and the utilization of outer space and celestial bodies. However, because there is rapid progress in the exploration of outer space, it is the hope of my delegation that the Legal Sub-Committee will soon be in a position to present a draft agreement as regards liability for damages caused by the launching of objects into outer space, perhaps by the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

134. The delegation of Liberia is pleased that the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space has come into effect.

135. If I may refer to the outer space Treaty⁴ itself, my delegation regards it as a significant step forward towards achieving disarmament control, for we believe strongly that military rivalry on earth which has led to failure of an agreement regarding disarmament is too dangerous to project into outer space. We believe, further, that all activities in outer space should be subject to the rule of international law and that there must necessarily be equal opportunity for peaceful, significant initiatives.

136. My delegation is pleased to note the progress being made at the Thumba launching station in India.

⁴ See foot-note 2.

137. I must refer now to the note of the Secretary-General [A/7285, annex II, chap. I] which mentions the fact that discussions in the Conference indicated that the practical applications of outer space research could assist materially in alleviating some of the economic and social problems created by the explosive growth of population, the serious shortage of food and the spread of disease, which are problems of great concern to the vast majority of mankind. We must admit that we also share the concern of the Secretary-General that because of the lack of knowledge in outer space technology of the developing countries, the outer space age is increasing the gap between the developed and the developing areas of the world at an alarming rate. This is indeed a serious problem.

138. We are thankful that the United Nations agencies stand ready to play their part in harnessing the practical benefits that can accrue to man from the vast practical and technical advances made through space exploration.

139. My delegation wishes to extend congratulations to the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for their achievements made in outer space exploration since the twenty-second session of the General Assembly.

140. Finally, it is the hope of my delegation that, through the United Nations, the developing countries will be ensured their fair share of the benefits to be derived from the exploration of outer space, and that all mankind will be saved, in the venture of outer space exploration, from the danger which now looms over it due to the creation and stockpiling of such deadly arms as nuclear weapons.

141. Mr. PIRADOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): My delegation would like to use this opportunity to express its appreciation to representatives who have so warmly congratulated the Soviet Union on its efforts with regard to the exploration of outer space and the development of international co-operation in such matters.

142. My delegation, jointly with the delegations of other members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, has sponsored draft resolution A/C.1/L.463. It feels that the draft resolution correctly sums up the results of United Nations activity in the past year in developing international co-operation for the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. The draft resolution evaluates fairly the Vienna Conference, which was commended by all speakers here, and it outlines the broad tasks which the Committee and its organs will have to cope with in the coming year. As before, the USSR will do all it can to help to accomplish these tasks, including the carrying out of the General Assembly's instruction that the convention on liability for damage should be prepared without delay.

143. The draft resolution reaffirms the exceedingly important provision of General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) to the effect that communication via satellites should be available to the nations of the world on a global and non-discriminatory basis.

144. We welcome the reaffirmation of this principle, for it is the principle by which the Soviet Union is guided in this

area of its space activity and in its negotiations on matters of space communication.

145. Yesterday [1644th meeting], the Belgian representative spoke of the need to preserve in its natural state the environment of Venus, Mars and other planets and cited article 9 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 [resolution 2222 (XXI), annex].

146. I assure the Belgian representative that the problem he raised is receiving constant and close attention on the part of Soviet scientists. The Soviet Union was actually one of the countries which insisted on the inclusion in the Treaty of article 9, whose provisions it strictly observes and by which it is guided.

147. I would also mention that in the official communiqué on the landing of the "Venera-4", which was given wide publicity in the press, there was special mention of the fact that the device landed by the orbiting spacecraft had been most carefully sterilized.

148. The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Belgium in exercise of his right of reply.

149. Mr. DENORME (Belgium) (*translated from French*): I should like to thank the representative of the Soviet Union most sincerely for the attention which he was kind enough to pay to the statement made in this Committee by the Belgian delegation, and also for the additional information he has provided on the questions which the representative of Belgium asked him on that occasion.

150. The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes before the voting begins. The first of these is the representative of Uganda.

151. Mr. BIGOMBE (Uganda): My delegation would like to reserve its position on paragraph 3 of the operative part of section B of draft resolution A/C.1/L.463, which urges those countries which have not yet become parties to the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, to give early consideration to the Agreement. My delegation will not be in a position to advise the Uganda Government to do so until a draft convention on liability for damage arising from the activities of outer space vehicles has been concluded to the satisfaction of my delegation. You will recall that Uganda is already a party 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. Should the need arise for Uganda to rescue astronauts, my Government will no doubt co-operate as usual, but we have no intention of assuming obligations while no remedies are as yet provided.

152. My delegation also notes the fourth preambular paragraph of section A of that draft resolution that reaffirms the belief that it is in the interest of all countries, and of the developing countries, in particular, that knowledge and understanding of the achievements of outer space science and technology should be more widely disseminated and that international co-operation in this field should be

promoted. We very sincerely hope this is not included as "opium of the poor".

153. Egotism is the norm of human behaviour and, while my delegation will support this draft resolution, my delegation equally hopes that international co-operation and peaceful competition in this field will not overshadow the need to help the needy.

154. Mr. YANGO (Philippines): My delegation would wish briefly to explain its vote on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.463. The Philippines was one of the seventy-eight countries that participated in the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. After our participation, my delegation thought that the Conference had achieved its main purpose of examining the practical benefits derived from outer space technology and the opportunities available to non-space Powers for international co-operation in outer space activities, with special relevance to the needs of developing countries.

155. Our delegation to the Conference was composed mainly of government officials. Because of the Conference, our eyes were opened to the need for participating through international co-operation, either bilateral or multilateral, in order for us to see the practical benefits arising from outer space technology. But, like many other countries, we have to begin with the training and the education of personnel for outer space programme. It is therefore imperative for us that the results of the Conference are followed up and implemented. By this we refer specifically and particularly to operative paragraph 4 of section A of draft resolution A/C.1/L.463 concerning the proposals made by India that a small advisory group be constituted and that action be taken to arrange annual meetings, fellowships, surveys and technical assistance. During the Conference, the Philippines was among the very first countries that strongly endorsed that proposal.

156. We also refer, in this connexion, to the proposal of Sierra Leone for the use of expert services through a United Nations centre for information and consultation in the field of practical applications of outer space technology [see A/C.1/L.463 sec. A, operative para. 5].

157. Those two proposals have been previously referred to by a number of delegations.

158. Furthermore, we are pleased to note in the draft resolution before us there is a specific mention of the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to take up at its next session serious consideration of suggestions and views regarding education and training in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space [ibid., sec. B, operative para. 6].

159. If only for those considerations, my delegation cannot fail to support that draft resolution. But more than that, we should like to take the opportunity, through the draft resolution and with this brief intervention, to express our appreciation to the Government of Austria for its interest and initiative in serving as host to the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. With the Conference, a very fruitful

beginning has been made towards international co-operation in assuring practical benefits from outer space exploration and technology for the benefit of all countries. The momentum thus gained should be maintained and followed through.

160. The CHAIRMAN: The Committee is now in a position to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/L.463. However, I should first like to draw the attention of members to document A/C.1/L.464, which reports on the administrative and financial implications connected with the draft resolution. I call on the Committee's Secretary to add some further information to that document.

161. Mr. VELLODI (Secretary of the Committee): As the Chairman has just indicated, the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/L.463 have been submitted to the Committee in document A/C.1/L.464. There is one point that I feel I should mention at this stage.

162. In paragraph 7 of document A/C.1/L.464 there is reference to the working group on communication by direct broadcast from satellites, and the amount of \$19,000 is indicated. The Committee will recall that during this morning's meeting the suggestion was made [1645th meeting, para. 29] that there should be two sessions of the working group during 1969. The financial implications contained in document A/C.1/L.464 were based on one session only. Therefore, since there are to be two sessions of the working group during 1969, I have been asked to inform the Committee that there will be an extra expenditure of \$1,900 in this connexion.

163. The CHAIRMAN: The Committee is now in a position to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/L.463. I have heard no dissenting voice on the substance of that draft resolution; in addition, many members of the Committee have expressed the wish that the draft resolution should be adopted unanimously. Therefore, if no delegation requests that the draft resolution should be put to the vote, I would consider it to be adopted unanimously by the Committee.

164. As there is no request for a vote, I take it that the draft resolution is unanimously adopted by the Committee.

It was so decided.

165. Mr. THACHER (United States of America): I was not quite clear as to the additional expense for an extra session, and I was wondering if it would be possible for the members of the Fifth Committee and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to be advised, when they consider the financial implications, of the difference in costs for meetings held at United Nations Headquarters as against meetings held at the Geneva Office of the United Nations.

166. The CHAIRMAN: I can assure the representative of the United States that the Secretariat will take note of his request, which will be conveyed to the competent bodies.

167. I note that there are no delegations that wish to speak in explanation of their vote.

AGENDA ITEM 26

Examination of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind: report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction (continued)* (A/7230, A/C.1/973, A/C.1/L.425/Rev.1 and Add.1-4, L.429/Rev.2 and Add.1-4, L.430, L.431/Rev.2, L.432/Rev.1 and Add.1, L.433 and Corr.1, L.435, L.436, L.437 and Add.1 and 2, L.438, L.439, L.440/Rev.2, L.441 and Add.1-5, L.442, L.465)

168. The CHAIRMAN: Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to remind members that tomorrow we shall take up the last item of our agenda, which relates to the sea-bed and the ocean floor. With respect to the draft resolutions in connexion with that item, I would inform members that the final text of draft resolution A/C.1/L.425/Rev.1 and Add.1-4 will be circulated early. We have not been able to have texts ready in all working languages. I understand that the English text is available. In order to give those delegations whose working language is not English information with respect to the changes introduced in the draft, which will be finally circulated as document A/C.1/L.425/Rev.2, I shall call on the representative of Belgium to give that information.

169. Mr. DENORME (Belgium) (*translated from French*): It is by no means easy to arrive at an acceptable revision of a draft resolution when, as is the case with document A/C.1/L.425/Rev.1 and Add.1-4, it is sponsored by sixty-six Member States. This explains why the sponsors were unable to submit sooner a second revision of the draft resolution.

170. This revision is the result of long and patient negotiations. Its object is, first, to take into account the general agreement which, thanks to the Chairman's efforts, it was possible to reach with regard to the number of the members on the Committee. Paragraph 1 of the draft resolution reads as follows:

"Establishes a Committee on the peaceful uses of the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, composed of forty-two States;".

171. But the main aim of the revision is to take into account the objections that gave rise to the submission of an amendment by the delegation of the Soviet Union, appearing in document A/C.1/L.442.

172. The revised version of the draft does not change the terms of reference of the Committee but allocates its functions in a somewhat different way.

173. The new paragraph 4 gives the formal aspects of the terms of reference as they appear in sub-paragraphs (f) and (g) of paragraph 2 and in paragraph 3 of the previous text. In other words, while infringement of the fields of

competence of the specialized agencies and other organizations considering the various aspects of the problem that the Committee will be dealing with is avoided, the Committee is called upon to make recommendations on the different questions falling within its purview and, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to report to each regular session of the General Assembly.

174. The new paragraph 2 sets out the functions of the Committee that are substantive in nature and that were mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (d) and (e) of paragraph 2 in the previous version.

175. What we are essentially concerned with here are studies of the legal régime, exploitation of resources, exploration and research, prevention of marine pollution—all matters having one feature in common, namely, that they deal with the same area, that is to say, the sea-bed and the ocean floor, together with their subsoil, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

176. The new paragraph 3 which replaces the previous paragraph 2 (c), defines the role of the Committee with relation to the principle of reservation for exclusively peaceful purposes. It was deemed appropriate to assign a separate paragraph to this aspect of the terms of reference in order to avoid the possibility that the area to which the principle is being applied might be implicitly considered as being identical with the fields covered in each of the sub-paragraphs of paragraph 2.

177. To be sure, no study could be undertaken by the Committee unless it was within its competence as determined by the title of the subject. Should the Committee study the principle of reservation for exclusively peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor outside that context, it would be going beyond its terms of reference. However, this does not imply that we can prejudice the limits that may be agreed upon in defining the region to be reserved for exclusively peaceful purposes; and it is for this reason that it has been stated that the context imposed by the title of the question is to be understood without prejudice to the positions of the States Members of this Assembly regarding the limits beyond which the principle of reservation for exclusively peaceful purposes is to apply.

178. It is in the light of this interpretation that the new paragraph 3 must be understood, and it reads as follows:

"Also calls upon the Committee to study further, within the context of the title of the item, and taking into account the studies and international negotiations being undertaken in the field of disarmament, the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor without prejudice to the limits which may be agreed upon in this respect;".

179. The CHAIRMAN: In this connexion, I should like to inform the Committee, before we adjourn, that the United Republic of Tanzania has joined as a co-sponsor of the amendments submitted by Trinidad and Tobago, contained in document A/C.1/L.465.

* Resumed from the 1605th meeting.