



Fourteenth session
Agenda item 25

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE
PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Mohieddine FEKINI (Libya)

1. By resolution 1348 (XIII) of 13 December 1958, the General Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to report to the fourteenth session on the problems relating to the peaceful uses of outer space.
2. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space met between 6 May and 25 June 1959. On the latter date, it adopted its report (A/4141).
3. At its 803rd plenary meeting on 22 September 1959, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee (A/4214), without objection, included the report as item 25 in the agenda of the fourteenth session.
4. The First Committee considered the item at its 1079th to 1081st meetings on 11 and 12 December 1959.
5. At the 1079th meeting, a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247) was submitted by Brazil, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Japan, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.
6. By part A of the draft resolution, the General Assembly, recognizing the common interest of mankind in furthering the peaceful use of outer space and the great importance of international co-operation in this field, would establish a Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with the following members to serve during 1960 and 1961: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium,

Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The Committee would:

(a) review, as appropriate, the area of international co-operation, and study practical and feasible means for giving effect to programmes in the peaceful uses of outer space which could appropriately be undertaken under United Nations auspices, including, inter alia: (i) assistance for continuation on a permanent basis of the outer space research carried on within the framework of the International Geophysical Year; (ii) organization of the mutual exchange and dissemination of information on outer space research; and (iii) encouragement of national research programmes for the study of outer space, and the rendering of all possible assistance and help towards their realization; and (b) study the nature of legal problems which may arise from exploration of outer space. The Committee would be requested to submit reports on its activities to the subsequent sessions of the General Assembly.

7. Under part B of the resolution, the General Assembly would decide to convene in 1960 or 1961, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international scientific conference for the exchange of experience in the peaceful uses of outer space. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in consultation with the Secretary-General and in co-operation with the appropriate specialized agencies, would work out proposals with regard to the convening of such a scientific conference. The Secretary-General would be requested, in accordance with the conclusions of the Committee, to make the necessary organizational arrangements for the conference.

8. At the same meeting, Belgium submitted an amendment (A/C.1/L.248) to add after the words "an international scientific conference" the words "of interested Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies".

9. At the 1081st meeting on 12 December 1959, the amendment (A/C.1/L.248) submitted by Belgium was adopted by a roll-call vote of 44 to 16, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

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In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Federation of Malaya, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Yugoslavia.

Abstaining: Cambodia, Ceylon, Cuba, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Jordan, Libya, Nepal, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Yemen.

10. At the same meeting, the joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247) as amended was adopted by 74 to none, with 1 abstention.

11. Following the vote, the representative of Morocco indicated that his delegation wished to be recorded as abstaining on the Belgian amendment and as voting in favour of the amended draft resolution.

Recommendation of the First Committee

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

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

A

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of mankind as a whole in furthering the peaceful use of outer space,

Believing that the exploration and use of outer space should be only for the betterment of mankind and to the benefit of States irrespective of the stage of their economic or scientific development,

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Desiring to avoid the extension of present national rivalries into this new field,

Recognizing the great importance of international co-operation in the exploration and exploitation of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Noting the continuing programmes of scientific co-operation in the exploration of outer space being undertaken by the international scientific community,

Believing also that the United Nations should promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space,

1. Establishes a Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, consisting of: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, whose members will serve for the years 1960 and 1961, and requests the Committee to:

(a) Review, as appropriate, the area of international co-operation, and study practical and feasible means for giving effect to programmes in the peaceful uses of outer space which could appropriately be undertaken under United Nations auspices, including, inter alia:

- (i) Assistance for continuation on a permanent basis of the outer space research carried on within the framework of the International Geophysical Year;
- (ii) Organization of the mutual exchange and dissemination of information on outer space research;
- (iii) Encouragement of national research programmes for the study of outer space, and the rendering of all possible assistance and help towards their realization.

(b) Study the nature of legal problems which may arise from exploration of outer space;

2. Requests the Committee to submit reports on its activities to the subsequent sessions of the General Assembly.

B

The General Assembly,

Noting with satisfaction the successes of great significance to mankind that have been attained in the exploration of outer space in the form of the recent launching of artificial earth satellites and space rockets,

Attaching great importance to a broad development of international co-operation in peaceful uses of outer space in the interests of the development of science and the improvement of the well-being of peoples;

1. Decides to convene in 1960 or 1961, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international scientific conference of interested Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies for the exchange of experience in the peaceful uses of outer space;
2. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, established in part A of this resolution, in consultation with the Secretary-General and in co-operation with the appropriate specialized agencies, to work out proposals with regard to the convening of such a scientific conference;
3. Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with the conclusions of the Committee, to make the necessary organizational arrangements for holding the conference.
