

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was established by General Assembly resolution 1472 (XIV) of 12 December 1959 and the membership of which was continued and expanded by General Assembly resolution 1721 E (XVI) of 20 December 1961, was convened on 19 March 1962 and held eight meetings between that date and 29 March. The verbatim records of the Committee's meetings have been issued as documents A/AC.105/PV.2-9.
2. At its 2nd meeting on 19 March the Committee, after welcoming its new members, Chad, Mongolia, Morocco and Sierra Leone, adopted its agenda (A/AC.105/Agenda 2) without objection and, on the proposal of the representative of India, unanimously re-elected its retiring officers: Dr. Franz Matsch (Austria), Chairman, Professor Mihail Haseganu (Romania), Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Geraldo de Carvalho Silos (Brazil), Rapporteur.
3. After a statement by the Chairman, the Committee took up the remaining item on its agenda, the programme and organization of the work of the Committee. In the course of the discussion, statements were made by all the members of the Committee and by the Acting Secretary-General. The Committee also heard statements by representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), which it had invited to participate in its work as observers.
4. On the conclusion of the Committee's consideration of this item, at its 9th meeting on 29 March, the Chairman made the following statement:

"In accordance with the scope of problems put before our Committee by the decision of the General Assembly contained in resolution 1721 (XVI), the Committee has held its meetings during the period from 19 to 29 March 1962. I would like to note with great satisfaction the atmosphere of cordiality and mutual co-operation that prevailed in our Committee during this debate.

"The discussion in the Committee stressed again the necessity and possibility of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, and there was general agreement that such co-operation will contribute substantially to the growth of mutual understanding and consolidation of friendly relations between countries.

"In this connexion, I would like to note that in their statements many delegations have expressed deep satisfaction with the exchanges of messages between the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Mr. Khrushchev, and the President of the United States of America, Mr. Kennedy, on the prospects of development of concrete projects in the field of exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

"I would like to state that in the course of our debate the possibility of further co-operation in some fields of exploration and use of outer space has been enhanced.

"Many specific proposals and suggestions concerning scientific, technical and legal studies have been made by members of the Committee for the development of international co-operation in the field of space exploration for peaceful purposes.

"All such proposals and suggestions are contained in the official records of the Committee.

"For a detailed study of these problems and in accordance with the responsibilities placed on the Committee by General Assembly resolutions 1472 (XIV) and 1721 (XVI), the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is creating a Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and a Legal Sub-Committee, both composed entirely of members of the Committee.

"The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee will convene for its first session on 28 May 1962 in Geneva.

"The Legal Sub-Committee will convene for its first session on the same date in Geneva.

"Having in view the permanent responsibilities placed upon the Secretariat of the United Nations by resolution 1721 (XVI) and the forthcoming sessions of the Sub-Committees, the Committee requests the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations to take steps within the Secretariat to furnish the appropriate technical services necessary for the successful fulfilment of the work of the Committee and of its Sub-Committees.

"The Committee notes the substantial role of the specialized agencies - WMO, ITU, UNESCO - and of COSPAR, in the promotion and facilitation of international co-operation in the field of space research for peaceful uses. Representatives of these organizations have been invited to attend the meetings of the Committee in the status of observers and have made helpful statements.

"The Committee has arrived at a joint opinion that the aim of its work should be the co-ordination of activities carried out by the specialized agencies and by the governmental and non-governmental organizations in the field of exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and that the Committee should organize its work so as to assist in the study of measures for the promotion of international co-operation in outer space activities.

"The Committee intends, in accordance with resolution 1721 B (XVI), to maintain close contact with governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with outer space matters and, for this purpose, requests the Acting Secretary-General to prepare and keep current for the Committee a survey of such organizations, together with appropriate information with respect thereto.

"The next session of the Committee will be convened in August or September of this year in New York by the Chairman after consultation with members of the Committee."

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