



Twenty-first session

LETTER DATED 9 MAY 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to request that the following announcement by the President of the United States of America on the need for a treaty governing the exploration of the moon and other celestial bodies be circulated as a General Assembly document:

"Just as the United States is striving to help achieve peace on this earth, we want to do what we can to ensure that explorations of the moon and other celestial bodies will be for peaceful purposes only. We want to be sure that our astronauts and those of other nations can freely conduct scientific investigations of the moon. We want the results of these activities to be available for all mankind.

"We want to take action now to attain these goals. In my view, we need a treaty laying down rules and procedures for the exploration of celestial bodies. The essential elements of such a treaty would be as follows:

"The moon and other celestial bodies should be free for exploration and use by all countries.

"No country should be permitted to advance a claim of sovereignty.

"There should be freedom of scientific investigation, and all countries should co-operate in scientific activities relating to celestial bodies.

"Studies should be made to avoid harmful contamination.

"Astronauts of one country should give any necessary help to astronauts of another country.

"No country should be permitted to station weapons of mass destruction on a celestial body. Weapons tests and military manoeuvres should be forbidden.

"I am convinced that we should do what we can - not only for our generation but for future generations - to see to it that serious political conflicts do not arise as a result of space activities. I believe that the time is ripe for action. We should not lose time.

"I am asking Ambassador Goldberg in New York to seek early discussions on such a treaty in the appropriate United Nations body."

(Signed) Arthur J. GOLDBERG
