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Agenda item 145INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL EXPLOITATION OF
OUTER SPACE UNDER CONDITIONS OF ITS NON-MILITARIZATIONReport of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Yannis SOULIOTIS (Greece)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In a letter dated 15 August 1985 addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/192), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful exploitation of outer space under conditions of its non-militarization" in the agenda of the fortieth session.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1985, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 48 to 69 and item 145, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and continuation of general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 32nd meetings, from 14 October to 8 November (see A/C.1/40/PV.3-32).
4. In connection with item 145, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Letter dated 15 August 1985 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/192);

(b) Letter dated 6 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/859-S/17613);

(c) Letter dated 18 November 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/900 and Corr.1);

(d) Letter dated 9 October 1985 from the Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the First Committee addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee (A/C.1/40/4);

(e) Letter dated 25 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration issued on 23 October 1985 at Sofia by the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Organization (A/C.1/40/7).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.1 and Rev.1

5. On 9 October, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful exploitation of outer space under conditions of its non-militarization" (A/C.1/40/L.1), which was introduced by its representative at the 3rd meeting, on 14 October. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Determined to ensure that the exploitation and use of outer space will be an area of broad, equitable and mutually beneficial international co-operation under conditions of peace,

"Recognizing the urgent need to prevent, before it is too late, an arms race in outer space, which would lead to a sharp intensification of the danger of nuclear war, undermine the prospects for limiting and reducing armaments in general and create insurmountable barriers to the development of international co-operation in the peaceful exploitation of outer space,

"Guided by a desire to ensure that the exploration and use of outer space will most effectively serve the scientific, technical, economic and social progress of all peoples and the solution of the global problems facing mankind, including the tasks of development and of overcoming economic backwardness,

"1. Calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to do everything possible for the adoption of effective measures to prevent an arms race in outer space, thereby creating conditions for broad international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

"2. Expresses its conviction that, under conditions in which the non-militarization of outer space is effectively ensured, a major practical step in the peaceful exploitation of space and the development of international co-operation in that field would be the setting up of a world space organization to harmonize, co-ordinate and unite the efforts of States in respect of peaceful space activities, including the provision of assistance in that field to developing countries, and also to facilitate the necessary monitoring of compliance with agreements which have already been concluded or will be concluded with a view to preventing an arms race in outer space;

"3. Decides to convene not later than 1987 an international conference with the participation of States with major space capabilities and of other interested countries to consider in all its aspects the question of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space under conditions of its non-militarization and the harmonization of the main lines and principles of such co-operation. The conference would also consider the question of setting up a world space organization, bearing in mind that the practical establishment of such an organization will be possible when agreements which effectively ensure the non-militarization of outer space have been reached;

"4. Establishes an open-ended preparatory committee with the participation of States with major space capabilities for the purpose of convening the international conference;

"5. Requests the preparatory committee to submit a report on the work carried out and appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

"6. Invites all States to communicate to the Secretary-General not later than 1 March 1986, for transmittal to the preparatory committee, any views and suggestions with regard to the convening of the international conference;

"7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session an item entitled 'International co-operation in the non-militarization and peaceful exploitation of outer space'."

6. On 19 November, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/40/L.1/Rev.1), containing the following changes:

(a) The first preambular paragraph was revised to read as follows:

"Determined to ensure that outer space be used for peaceful purposes and be an area of broad, equitable and mutually beneficial international co-operation,";

(b) The second preambular paragraph was revised to read as follows:

/...

"Reaffirming the urgent need to prevent an arms race in outer space, which would increase the danger posed to all mankind by an arms race and divert the material and intellectual resources necessary for the peaceful exploitation of outer space and for extended international co-operation in this field,";

(c) In the third preambular paragraph, the third and fourth lines were revised to read:

"... including that of development,";

(d) Operative paragraph 1 was revised to read as follows:

"Urges all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, as an essential condition for the promotion of international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,";

(e) Operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 were replaced by the following two new operative paragraphs:

"2. Calls upon all States to examine the possibility of convening at a proper stage an international conference with the participation of States with major space capabilities and of other interested countries to consider in all its aspects the question of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space and of ensuring the most favourable conditions for it, including consideration of the question of the setting up of a world space organization;

"3. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to take into consideration the content of the present resolutions, as well as all documents related to this item, and in particular to examine the possibility of preparation of the international conference, and to submit a report on the work carried out and appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-first session,";

(f) In the original operative paragraph 6, now operative paragraph 4, the words "preparatory committee", in the second line, were replaced by the words "General Assembly at its forty-first session",

(g) The original operative paragraph 7 was deleted.

7. At the request of the sponsor, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.1/Rev.1.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.45 and Rev.1*

8. On 7 November, Poland submitted a draft resolution entitled "Expert study of the various consequences of the militarization of outer space" (A/C.1/40/L.45), which was introduced by its representative at the 34th meeting, on 12 November. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Gravely concerned at the impending danger posed to all mankind by the real prospect of extending the arms race into outer space,

"Reaffirming that outer space is the common heritage of mankind and its peaceful exploration and use shall be the province of all mankind,

"Recalling that the States parties 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, have undertaken, in article IV, not to place in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner,

"Determined to prevent the militarization of outer space,

"Aware of the various proposals submitted to that end by Member States to the General Assembly in recent years,

"Recalling its resolutions 36/97 C and 36/99 of 9 December 1981, 37/83 of 9 December 1982, 37/99 D of 13 December 1982, 38/70 of 15 December 1983 and 39/59 of 12 December 1984,

"Taking note of paragraph 99 of the report of the Conference on Disarmament, 1/ containing the report of its Ad Hoc Committee on the agenda item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space",

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive study of the various consequences of the militarization of outer space;

"2. Recommends that the study be prepared on the basis of accessible material, with the assistance of eminent consultant experts of various nationalities appointed by the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed and the suggestions made during the discussion of this subject at the fortieth session of the General Assembly;

* See also the report of the First Committee on agenda item 57 (A/40/964).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/40/27 and Corr.1).

"3. Calls upon Governments and international scientific institutions and organizations to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the preparation of the study;

"4. Requests that the study be transmitted to the Conference on Disarmament, the Security Council and the General Assembly by 1 July 1987, and to the Governments of Member States in time to permit its consideration at the forty-second session of the General Assembly;

"5. Recommends that Member States give the study wide distribution in their respective languages, through various media of communication, so as to acquaint public opinion with its contents."

9. On 14 November, Poland submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/40/L.45/Rev.1), containing the following changes:

(a) In the first preambular paragraph, the word "real" was deleted;

(b) Operative paragraph 2 was revised to read as follows:

"Recommends that the study be prepared on the basis of accessible material, with the assistance of eminent consultant experts of various nationalities appointed by the Secretary-General, and in co-operation with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, taking into account the views expressed and the suggestions made during the discussion of the subject at the fortieth session of the General Assembly;"

(c) Operative paragraph 5 was revised to read as follows:

"Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session an item entitled 'Consequences of the militarization of outer space'".

10. In connection with the revised draft resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on the programme budget implications (A/C.1/40/L.81).

11. At the request of the sponsor, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.45/Rev.1.
