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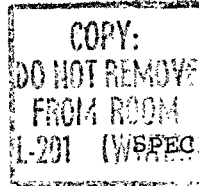
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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
41st meeting  
held on  
Friday, 22 November 1985  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

## SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 41st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KORHONEN (Finland)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE  
(continued) (A/40/99, A/40/272; A/SPC/40/3)

(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued)  
(A/40/20 and Corr.1)

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/621 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. SHARFI (Sudan) said that developing countries had, despite their financial difficulties, begun to accord greater importance to activities in connection with the exploration of outer space. His delegation believed that exploration efforts must be harnessed in the service of all humanity and that the uses of outer space must be confined to peaceful purposes. International co-operation and the transfer of space technology to developing countries could be achieved only with the help of the developed countries, particularly the super-Powers. Although the second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) had achieved great success in laying down international principles for the peaceful uses of outer space, co-operation between agencies of the United Nations concerned with outer space activities and international financing institutions had fallen short of that envisaged in General Assembly resolution 37/90. His delegation called upon the Secretary-General to take new measures relating to co-operation with such institutions and hoped that the specialized agencies would increase efforts for co-operation to implement the recommendations of the Conference.

2. His country was interested in making the maximum use of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for the purposes of agricultural development, telecommunications, meteorological forecasting, television broadcasting and the exploration and survey of natural resources. His country's own technical committee concerned with the utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes continued to make great efforts in those fields.

3. It was clear from the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) that its Legal Sub-Committee and Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had addressed numerous questions, and in particular that of remote sensing, which was of great importance for developing countries. It was important that the Legal Sub-Committee should complete the formulation of draft principles to govern remote sensing, and attention must be given to the right of developing countries to make use of the geostationary orbit. Experts from the developing countries should be enabled to participate in studies relating to implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, and it was important that the United Nations should be responsible for the expenses of such participation.

4. His delegation expressed grave concern at the extension of the arms race to outer space, particularly with regard to the use of nuclear power sources and the possibility of increasing incidents involving spacecraft. Precautionary measures

(Mr. Sharfi, Sudan)

were necessary to regulate such uses. His delegation urged that all should co-operate to make use of outer space for peaceful purposes only, in order to ensure peace and security for all mankind.

5. Mr. VALLE (Brazil) said that he would like to inform the Committee of two significant aspects of his country's involvement in space activities. It had launched its first communications satellite, BRASILSAT, in February 1985 and had offered 10 scholarships for training in remote sensing at Brazil's National Institute for Space Research.

6. Rapid innovations in space technology made it necessary to continue the enlargement and perfection of mechanisms to regulate space activities. However, the attempts of COPUOS to fulfil its mandate had come to a virtual standstill, and it could therefore set only modest objectives for its two Sub-Committees. It was frustrating to observe that no significant change could quickly be made to the agenda of COPUOS, and his delegation believed, in connection with the draft set of principles on remote sensing, that it was no longer sufficient simply to request that the Legal Sub-Committee should deal with that question on a priority basis. The revised draft produced during consultations in 1985 provided a basis for agreement. He therefore hoped that the Legal Sub-Committee would approve a draft set of principles during its 1986 session and then submit them, through COPUOS, for adoption by the forty-first session of the General Assembly. Even less progress had been made on the question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, despite some apparent advances with regard to notification prior to the re-entry of space objects. The precision achieved through the retitling of that item merited acknowledgement.

7. The view of his delegation on the geostationary orbit continued to be that it was a limited natural resource which should be the object of a special régime and that the future needs of developing countries regarding its use must be taken into account.

8. Concerning the follow-up to UNISPACE 82, it was discouraging to note that a significant number of its goals might not be reached owing to lack of resources.

9. It was imperative that the arms race should be prevented from expanding into outer space which must be preserved for peaceful purposes. It should be possible to identify activities which would threaten that goal and call for their restriction or banning. No significant developments had yet taken place on the issue however. The Conference on Disarmament had encountered a number of obstacles in its attempt to deal with arms in outer space, and there was as yet no sign of a positive trend. The responsibility of the major space Powers for enhanced international co-operation on the issue was clear.

10. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that it was the view of his delegation that outer space should be reserved for peaceful purposes, particularly the development of the third world. The utilization of the geostationary orbit had been described as a matter of priority for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. In that connection, the Third Meeting of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Public Works of the Countries Signatories of the Cartagena

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(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

Agreement had recently resolved to present a united front in favour of advance planning for the orbit and spectrum, rejecting the principle of "first come, first served", so that the developing countries would be afforded an opportunity to defend the principle of the equitable use of the resource against the acquisitive position of the industrialized and technologically advanced countries and so that the right of access to that resource would be guaranteed in any frequency band which technology might make practicable to utilize in the future. That position was set forth in document A/40/99.

11. The lack of political will on the part of certain large countries to deal with the draft principles regarding the equitable and rational use of the geostationary orbit submitted in 1984 by Ecuador, Colombia, Kenya and Indonesia had hindered legal and technical progress in that field and also on the issue of the definition and delimitation of outer space. The item on the orbit should therefore be retained on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee for further consideration by the appropriate Working Group.

12. With regard to ways and means for implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, his delegation welcomed offers of training facilities in space-related fields which had been received from a number of countries for participants from developing countries. Such offers indicated that some progress had been made towards reducing the overwhelming technological gap which separated the technologically advanced countries from those which were only entering that field. Preparatory work was continuing in Ecuador for an international training course in the application of remote sensors in agro-meteorology and hydrology to be held in late 1986 with the assistance of international agencies.

13. On the issue of the legal regulation of remote sensing, his delegation considered that the sensed State should have early and non-discriminatory access to the data obtained over its territory and should be consulted before such data was made available to a third country.

14. The developing countries were particularly interested in the need to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. He agreed with those delegations which had stressed that the United Nations should play a greater role in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space in general and the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 in particular. Studies on débris in the geostationary orbit had been viewed with concern by the developing countries, particularly the equatorial countries, for which the geostationary orbit was of special significance as a resource because of their geographical location. Measures taken to remove dead satellites and space débris were welcome signs in that connection because of their technical and legal implications.

15. He expressed the hope that the General Assembly would adopt the recommendations of COPUOS concerning the renewal of the mandate of the Working Groups of both sub-committees.

16. Mrs. NAVCHAA (Mongolia) said that her delegation attached particular importance to the question of international co-operation in the peaceful use of outer space. It was gratifying to note that an increasing number of developing

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(Mrs. Navchaa, Mongolia)

countries were participating in international co-operation in that field. Mongolia was actively taking part in the INTERCOSMOS and INTERSPUTNIK programmes and was making extensive use of the results of the international co-operation by the socialist countries in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

17. Her delegation was convinced that there was great potential for developing comprehensive international co-operation in that field. Nevertheless, that possibility was jeopardized by the danger of the spread of the arms race to outer space, specifically the "Star Wars" programme. The Mongolian Government supported the taking of immediate measures to prevent the militarization of outer space. It had welcomed the Soviet-American negotiations in Geneva, and it hoped that those negotiations would lead ultimately to agreement on concrete measures to prevent an arms race in outer space and halt it on Earth.

18. The views expressed in COPUOS on ways and means for maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes merited careful consideration. Outer space must be kept free of all weapons. That was a prerequisite for the development of constructive and full international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. COPUOS should also consider that urgent question at its next session. It was particularly timely in the light of the new proposals put forward by the Soviet Union on main lines and principles of international co-operation in the peaceful exploitation of outer space under conditions of its non-militarization. Mongolia fully supported those proposals and was prepared to participate actively in an in-depth discussion of them.

19. In order to promote the participation of all States in the peaceful use of outer space, her Government supported the idea of convening an international conference and establishing a world space organization for co-operation in that field. Her delegation also supported the proposals made by Poland on preparations for a study of the results of the militarization of outer space.

20. Mongolia viewed favourably the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/40/20) and called for the full implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. Her Government attached particular importance to the activities carried out within the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and participated in them as much as possible.

21. With regard to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, she noted the results achieved in reaching agreement on the principles governing remote-sensing of the Earth from outer space. The draft principles submitted by the delegation of Austria could serve as the basis for their final elaboration in 1986.

22. Mongolia also supported the proposal to supplement and clarify further the principles concerning direct television broadcasting. Lastly, she stressed the need for further consideration of such important legal questions as the delimitation of airspace and outer space and the use of the geostationary orbit.

23. Mr. MITAU (Kenya) said that his Government felt that outer space should be maintained as an international zone of peace and supported all efforts aimed at halting the spread of the arms race to outer space. The recent Soviet-American

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(Mr. Mitau, Kenya)

negotiations in Geneva had been an important step toward international co-operation in that field. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Legal Sub-Committee had made progress with regard to the legal implications of remote sensing of the Earth from space. In that connection, he stressed that the sovereign rights of States must be respected and that no State should be sensed without its consent. Furthermore, data collected through remote sensing should not be made available to a third party without the prior consent of the sensed State. He hoped that, after consultations, the Legal Sub-Committee would be able to adopt a text by consensus at its next session.

24. Little had been achieved in the definition and delimitation of outer space. His delegation urged COPUOS to continue its important work in that field. All equatorial States had a legitimate claim to the segment of the orbit over their territories. Equatorial countries should therefore be given special rights with regard to the use of the geostationary orbit. Little progress had been made on the topic of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The emergency procedures in case of unplanned re-entry of nuclear power sources were unclear. Furthermore, most countries which were not involved in outer space programmes would be unable to deal effectively with such accidents. It was hoped that at its next session, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee would be able to reach agreement on ways to assist countries in that respect.

25. Although Kenya supported freedom of information, it was also aware of the danger of the misuse of technology in order to disseminate political propaganda and disinformation. Accordingly, he urged all countries to consider the interests of other States in direct broadcasting by satellite. Lastly, his delegation called upon all States to work in a spirit of co-operation to enable COPUOS to make progress at its next session.

26. Mr. DUONG (Viet Nam) said that peaceful co-operation in outer space had helped nations to explore and make better use of their natural resources, to avoid or minimize damage caused by natural disasters, to improve transport and communications, to develop or produce new materials and technologies and to open up new prospects for medical research. Recently, however, the danger that outer space might be militarized had arisen. Such a development could only lead to an arms race in outer space which would threaten the ongoing process of international co-operation and the peaceful uses of outer space and endanger international peace and security and even the very existence of mankind.

27. His delegation was concerned that the United States was taking its first fatal steps to implement the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative which would result in pushing the arms race into a new dimension of a much more dangerous character, gravely undermining strategic stability and seriously violating a number of important treaties in the field of disarmament. It would also create insurmountable obstacles to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The developing countries would be among the first victims of the militarization of outer space. They could never defend themselves from nuclear attack. Moreover, trillions of dollars would be spent on such a programme, and there would be nothing left for the developing countries to develop their own space capabilities and benefit from international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

(Mr. Duong, Viet Nam)

28. Viet Nam had repeatedly condemned the Strategic Defense Initiative in the strongest terms together with any other activities that could lead to the militarization of outer space. It had associated itself with many initiatives reaffirming the principle that outer space should be preserved exclusively for peaceful purposes and that there should be a complete cessation of the testing, production and deployment of nuclear arms and their delivery systems and calling for the prevention of an arms race in space.

29. His delegation strongly supported the successive initiatives of the Soviet Union aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space. His delegation had studied carefully the new Soviet proposals contained in document A/SPC/40/3. The five proposed steps, including in particular the proposal to set up a world organization dealing with international co-operation in the peaceful use of outer space under conditions of its non-militarization and the proposal to convene a representative international conference to consider all aspects of the question of international co-operation in the peaceful exploitation of space were of great importance and deserved the strongest support. COPUOS should pay particular attention to those two specific proposals.

30. COPUOS had, as a matter of priority, considered ways and means whereby outer space could be reserved for peaceful purposes. It had agreed that it could contribute to that end, but it was a matter for regret that no specific agreement had been reached on the role that COPUOS should play in that matter. It was the view of his delegation that a new and unambiguous formulation for the item should be found so that COPUOS and its two Sub-Committees would be able to consider specific ways and means for reserving outer space for peaceful purposes.

31. Viet Nam had co-operated actively within the framework of the INTERSPUTNIK, INTERCOSMOS and LOTUS programmes. In order to develop its own meteorological forecasting capacity, Viet Nam needed to acquire ground stations for receiving information from satellites. His delegation hoped that Viet Nam would receive assistance from international meteorological organizations and from other United Nations agencies in that regard. The second phase of Viet Nam's joint programme with UNDP and FAO for developing remote sensing by aircraft and some new space technology for high-resolution capacities was expected to be completed by 1987. Other projects undertaken with the assistance of United Nations agencies had led to pragmatic results in Viet Nam's national economic development.

32. His delegation welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the 1985 programme of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. It regretted that COPUOS had not been able to adopt principles relating to remote sensing of the earth from space. The draft submitted by Austria in that connection could serve as a good basis for further consultations.

33. His delegation was also concerned at the continuing lack of progress on the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit. There was an urgent need for a multilateral agreement on the delimitation of outer space. The Soviet proposal in that regard should be given serious consideration, and the Legal Sub-Committee should concentrate its efforts on solving that urgent problem at its next session. His delegation supported a

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(Mr. Duong, Viet Nam)

separate legal régime for the geostationary orbit that would take special account of the interests of all countries, particularly the developing countries, in the planning of the effective and economic use of the geostationary orbit and the corresponding frequency bands. Viet Nam supported the principle that the geostationary orbit was inseparable from outer space and that it could not be the subject of national appropriation as it was a limited natural resource. His delegation hoped that the Committee would be able to adopt by consensus a resolution that would make it possible to further strengthen efforts for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

34. Mr. ISTWANI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the successful launching of the ARABSAT satellite into its planned orbit reflected the interest of Arab States in making use of international co-operation on space activities. His country also co-operated with the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) and the International Organization of Space Communications (INTERSPUTNIK). The remote sensing centre in his country was expected to be completed next year, and Syrian universities had recently begun to give instruction in the science of remote sensing. His country had also co-operated with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in establishing an Arab regional course on the applications of remote sensing to arid lands. Such international co-operation on outer space activities was vital for a country such as his.

35. The United Nations and COPUOS had a special role to play in enabling all States, particularly the developing countries, to make use of the technology relating to outer space. It was also possible for the United Nations to play a decisive role in efforts to use outer space for peaceful purposes. His delegation wished to emphasize the need for the Organization to devote greater attention to programmes which helped developing countries to apply space technology, welcomed progress made in implementing the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and urged that the means by which the Programme was currently financed should be reconsidered, particularly with regard to the training and education sectors. His delegation also urged the developed States to contribute generously towards effective implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 and observed that the level of such contributions provided an effective measure of the political will of those States to ensure their implementation. The recommendations should be implemented as soon as possible, in order to prevent their being forgotten.

36. His delegation believed that the remote sensing of Earth by satellites must be based on the broadest possible international co-operation. Information on outer space should be placed at the disposal of members at acceptable token costs.

37. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Legal Sub-Committee had achieved substantial progress at its recent session on the formulation of principles relating to remote sensing but regretted that it had not been possible to reach final agreement on those principles.

38. With regard to the geostationary orbit, his delegation hoped that the International Telecommunication Union would reach an appropriate decision on its use and believed that the definition or delimitation of outer space would help to solve problems arising with regard to its legal regulation. Nuclear power sources

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(Mr. Istwani, Syrian Arab Republic)

should not be used in outer space other than for purposes which served the well-being of mankind. His delegation supported the view of COPUOS, expressed in paragraph 59 of its report, to the effect that more specific attention should be given to the needs of developing countries with regard to the use of nuclear power sources. The use of nuclear power in outer space should be subjected to the same controls and regulations as had been adopted for the use of nuclear power sources on Earth.

39. His delegation expressed grave concern at the dangers inherent in the utilization of outer space for military purposes and re-emphasized its conviction that such use should be for peaceful purposes only. It was unfortunate that the principal developments in outer space were often linked to military programmes. The arms race in outer space was at variance with the principle of international co-operation, apart from being inordinately expensive and a source of threat to international security. His delegation supported all proposals and initiatives designed to prevent the extension of the arms race to outer space and its militarization, and believed that COPUOS could contribute effectively to the promotion of activities carried out by the Committee on Disarmament.

40. In conclusion, he affirmed his country's desire to make use of services in connection with outer space provided by the United Nations, on the basis of its belief that the developing countries had a genuine interest in keeping up with the most recent science and technology in that connection.

41. Mr. OKUN (United States of America) said that the flights of the United States Space Shuttle had made space travel almost routine. His Government was planning to establish a permanently manned space station in co-operation with the European Space Agency, Japan and Canada. In recent months the Space Shuttle had undertaken a series of important missions with international crews for a number of countries such as Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Mexico and the Netherlands. The details about United States co-operation with over 100 such countries could be found in the review of national and international space activities in document A/AC.105/353/Add.3.

42. Few developments in modern history had stirred the hopes of mankind more than the exploration of outer space. It had become clear that in spite of all the things dividing countries, they all lived together on the same planet and were all affected by the achievements of science and technology. His country rejected the claims to sovereignty over the geostationary orbit and upheld the relevant provisions of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, because it strongly believed that international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space should be expanded by all appropriate means. The United States had given freely of its knowledge and resources to help make the benefits gained in such diverse areas as satellite communications, remote sensing and space transportation available to all nations. That record contrasted very sharply to the closed nature of the space programmes of certain other countries with comparable technical means.

43. In order to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, effective agreements should be reached to limit and reduce nuclear arms, strengthen strategic stability and prevent an arms race in space and halt it on

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(Mr. Okun, United States)

Earth. The First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament were the competent multilateral forums for discussing the disarmament aspects of outer space.

44. The Special Political Committee and COPUOS could play an important role in promoting practical international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. A number of countries had submitted a working paper on revitalizing the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was contained in annex II of the report of COPUOS (A/40/20). The main objective of the working paper was to initiate a process of co-operation and dialogue on all aspects of the Committee's work. His country was disappointed that that working paper had not been supported by all Member States at the last session of COPUOS. Nevertheless, his delegation had been encouraged by informal consultations conducted since that time and it hoped that a consensus could be reached on major portions of those proposals at the current session of the General Assembly. It was also disappointing that COPUOS had not completed work on a set of draft principles on remote sensing in spite of the general acceptability of the proposal by Austria contained in annex V of document A/40/20. The continued functioning of COPUOS depended on observance of the principle of consensus. The failure of COPUOS to agree on the Austrian proposal and make progress in enhancing the effectiveness of its work had implications on which his Government continued to reflect very carefully.

45. Similarly, it was regrettable that consensus had not yet been reached in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on reconvening the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. The deadlock seemed to be due largely to the behaviour of a few delegations which participated in the work of COPUOS only when it served their own narrow purposes.

46. He reiterated his delegation's position that document A/SPC/40/3 was irrelevant to the work of the Special Political Committee under agenda item 76. That document had been introduced into the Committee's deliberations at the last minute and in total disregard for the orderly functioning of the General Assembly.

47. The proposals contained in that document were feckless and their underlying assumptions were specious. The concept of "non-militarization" had no real meaning and had been put forward by the authors of the document solely for propaganda purposes. In making proposals on an international conference on outer space, the establishment of a world space organization and the prospect of comprehensive assistance to developing countries, the authors of the document hoped to portray their Government as a beneficent one and gain support for their disarmament initiatives. It was doubtful that anyone would be fooled by such ploys. Document A/40/476 provided the facts about contributions to the development activities of the United Nations system. Approximately 92 per cent of the total contributions to the development activities of the United Nations were provided by the Western developed countries, as compared with less than 1 per cent by the Soviet Union and the countries of eastern Europe. By contrast, the developing countries themselves provided approximately 7 per cent of such contributions. The United States had no interest in the proposals in document A/SPC/40/3 and therefore would not be prepared to finance them.

(Mr. Okun, United States)

48. Document A/SPC/40/3 sought to propagate the notion that the Soviet disarmament proposal must be accepted as a pre-condition for increased international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. On 13 November 1985, in a statement at a meeting with a delegation of the Nobel Prize winners' congress, General Secretary Gorbachev had referred to the joint American-Soviet space mission in 1975. The United States also viewed that mission as indicative of the kinds of co-operation which were possible. That mission had taken place, however, in spite of the fact that the Soviet Union had already developed an anti-satellite weapon system. Furthermore, the Soviet Union had not set any pre-conditions to co-operation at that time. The United States was continuing to expand, without any pre-conditions, its extensive programme of co-operation with other States in the peaceful uses of outer space. It supported the long-standing role of the United Nations in encouraging peaceful space activities through COPUOS and invited the Soviet Union to join with it in that effort.

49. Lastly, his delegation rejected the false allegations made by the representative of Viet Nam concerning the policies and programmes of the United States in outer space. As the representative of Viet Nam himself had stated at the 10th meeting of the Special Political Committee with regard to another agenda item, to mention a particular country by name was inappropriate because it was a biased and incomplete manner of presenting the truth. Such an attitude did not contribute to solving the problem; it only created more obstacles in the search for a solution.

50. Mr. DUONG (Viet Nam), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that in his statement he had expressed the great concern of his country, which had been the victim of a war launched by the United States, at that country's activities in outer space. Viet Nam knew the horrors of war. Nuclear war or "Star Wars" could only be far worse. If the United States Government was really interested in the concerns of other countries, especially developing countries and those which had been the victims of its wars, it should give serious consideration to their views.

51. Mr. KOLOSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that in explaining the goal of the proposals submitted by the Soviet Union, his delegation had stated that peaceful co-operation in the use of outer space was not subject to any pre-conditions. Furthermore, the statement made by General Secretary Gorbachev to a delegation of the Nobel Prize winners' congress had not put forward any pre-conditions in that regard either. His delegation had stressed that peaceful coexistence required the strict observance of three principles: the non-use of force, arms limitation and disarmament, and comprehensive international co-operation. The broader such co-operation was, the better the chances were of avoiding confrontation and of reaching agreement on disarmament. The proposals put forward by the Soviet Union in document A/SPC/40/3 should be seen in that light.

52. The development of co-operation therefore was one of the main components of the policy of peaceful coexistence. The Soviet Union was prepared to discuss the question of peaceful coexistence. In addition to the bilateral negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States on that question, COPUOS too could deal with the three principles linked to peaceful coexistence. The working paper

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(Mr. Kolosov, USSR)

submitted by the Western countries and contained in annex II of document A/40/20 dealt with secondary problems. The proposals put forward by the Soviet Union went further in order to deal with the question of co-operation within the framework of the establishment of a world space organization to develop positive, peaceful co-operation in outer space. It was incomprehensible, therefore, why one delegation was opposed to those proposals.

53. Mr. OKUN (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the statement which the representative of the Soviet Union had just made was inconsistent with the contents of document A/SPC/40/3. The proposals in that document were contingent on the so-called condition of the non-militarization of outer space. That condition was central to all documents which the Soviet Union had submitted at the current session of the General Assembly on that question. Furthermore, he reiterated his delegation's view that the Soviet proposals did not go further than the Western proposal. On the contrary, they represented a step backward.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.