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Chairman: Mr. Otto R. BORCH (Denmark).

AGENDA ITEMS 30 AND 31 (*continued*)

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/9020 and Corr.1)

Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/9020 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. CHRISTIANI (Austria): I have the honour, on behalf of the sponsors, to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/L.669, covering both items 30 and 31 of our agenda.

2. As in previous years, the draft resolution is the result of informal consultations conducted by members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Admittedly, the draft is rather long, but the reason is that it covers, as I have said, both items on our agenda and also that the sponsors felt that a presentation of the Committee's activities in a comprehensive manner would contribute to a better understanding of the United Nations activities in space-related matters on the part of the entire membership. The present draft follows in its structure and to a great extent also in its language resolution 2915 (XXVII), which was, as members know, unanimously adopted by the General Assembly.

3. I shall now briefly comment on the provisions of the draft resolution before us. As far as the preamble is concerned, the sixth paragraph stresses the necessity for wider participation by Member States in space-related activities of the United Nations, while the seventh paragraph, which has to be seen in conjunction with operative paragraph 28, refers to the discussion in the Committee on the question of the enlargement of its membership.

4. As far as the operative part is concerned, I will single out only the most important provisions.

5. In operative paragraph 3 the General Assembly would be endorsing the decision of the Outer Space Committee to reconvene its Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites in 1974.

6. Paragraphs 4 through 8 deal with legal matters and reflect the decision taken by the Committee in this regard. Paragraph 6 in particular covers the question of elaborating principles for direct television broadcasting. That text is the result of a carefully worked out compromise between the Committee's recommendations as they appear in paragraph 28 of its report [A/9020 and Corr.1] on the one hand, and the provisions of resolution 2916 (XXVII), on the other.

7. Paragraphs 9 to 16 of the draft resolution deal with scientific and technical matters, especially with regard to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites and the United Nations programme of space applications. Here I should like to draw the attention of members of this Committee to paragraphs 11 and 12, dealing with the questionnaire which has been sent out to Member States. Paragraph 16 generally endorses the space applications programme as set out in paragraph 36 of the Committee's report.

8. Paragraphs 17 to 25 deal with various matters, *inter alia* the offer of training facilities by Member States and the activities of specialized agencies. I would lay particular emphasis on paragraphs 24 and 25, which stress the importance of proper co-ordination in space matters within the United Nations family.

9. Paragraph 26 was included quite recently, at the request of the representative of the Philippines. I must admit that it was technically not possible to consult all the co-sponsors, although I consulted a few of them. I took it upon myself to put this paragraph into the draft, and I trust and am confident that it can be accepted by the sponsors.

10. Finally, I wish briefly to comment on operative paragraph 28 of the draft resolution, dealing with the question of the enlargement of the Committee's membership. Paragraph 67 of the Committee's report reflects the discussion in the Committee on this particular issue. There was, as can be seen, no consensus on this point. However, the majority of the Committee members took a position which is also reflected in paragraph 28 of the draft now before the Committee. The sponsors feel that the paragraph as it appears in the draft reflects mainly two things: first, the acknowledgement in principle of the desirability of enlarging the Outer Space Committee and, secondly, the suggestion to proceed in this respect in a manner which, in the view of the co-sponsors, would seem

to hold the best prospects of coming to a generally agreed solution, taking into account in particular the aspirations of those countries which have expressed interest in membership. The formulation of this paragraph, in the view of the sponsors, will ensure that the Committee would have to do its best to present the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session with specific proposals on the basis of which a final decision could be taken then. It is, of course, understood that the Chairman of the outer space Committee, once entrusted with carrying out the necessary consultations, will consult with all regional groups and interested members on this matter.

11. The sponsors hope that the draft resolution will find general support and will be adopted unanimously by this General Assembly.

12. Mr. CHAKRAVARTY (India): The recent advances in outer space technology have been truly spectacular. Man landed on the Moon for the first time on 20 July 1969, and since then there have been a number of manned missions to the Moon. At least for the time being, such missions seem to have come to an end, but machines in unmanned missions have been continuing the exploration not only in the outer space near the Earth's orbit, but in distant areas of the solar system. Man succeeded in walking on the Moon and in outer space, and now man has started living and working in space.

13. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to convey our heartiest felicitations to the United States and to the Soviet Union for their spectacular and astonishing achievements during the past year in the field of outer space technology and its applications. We should like to congratulate in particular the United States astronauts and all the scientists, engineers, and others who assisted in bringing about the successful completion of the Skylab project. The third team of astronauts has already begun an historic journey in the Skylab, which is planned to be the longest so far, requiring the astronauts to stay in space for 84 days. My delegation wishes the entire Skylab mission all success.

14. The unmanned space craft Pioneer 10, launched by the United States on 2 March 1972 to probe the planet Jupiter, is already more than half a billion miles away from the Earth and would perhaps be the first man-made object to leave the solar system after having successfully sent invaluable data regarding Jupiter through remote sensing instrumentation. These are indeed giant steps for mankind.

15. It is also noteworthy that the Soviet Union put into orbit on 19 April 1973 its scientific research satellite Intercosmos-Copernicus-500, a joint mission by the Soviet Union, Poland and Czechoslovakia in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus.

16. We welcome the co-operation between Soviet and United States astronauts and scientists for the joint flight of Soyuz and Apollo space craft in 1975 and look forward with keen interest to the successful completion of this project of collaboration in outer space.

17. Before making our observations on the reports relating to the two agenda items under discussion, I should like to

indicate briefly my country's plans and programmes in the field of space technology and its applications. Some details of our space activities are contained in the note by the Secretary-General [*A/AC.105/L.68*] transmitting information on space activities submitted by Member States.

18. India has been consistently taking keen interest in the fast developing technique of remote sensing as we realized quite early its great potentialities. Recognizing the major role that could be played by space technology in the field of earth resources survey by remote sensing, and conscious of the vital importance of meteorology to India's predominantly agricultural economy, a Remote Sensing and Meteorology Application Division (RSMD) has been set up as part of our National Space Applications Centre. The main objective of this Division is to adopt the new methods which are becoming available as a spin-off from space technology to improve earth resources survey and management, and thereby to contribute to our economic advancement. While the research and development aspects will be the main object of the Division operational aspects will be looked after by the well-established organizations concerned in the Government of India. In the research and development phases, it is planned to have active co-operation and participation of the user agencies, so that full benefits from this new technology of remote sensing can be reaped in as short a time as possible.

19. The main activities of the Remote Sensing and Meteorology Applications Division since our last report [*A/AC.105/106*] at the twenty-seventh session have been the following: first, acquiring expertise in the analysis and interpretation of space imagery; secondly, developing sensors for use of aerial resources survey; and, thirdly, carrying out a field experiment involving aerial photography to demonstrate the application of remote sensing in agriculture and land use.

20. An experiment in remote sensing, as applied to agriculture and land use, was successfully carried out near Kedgaon village, near Poona in western India, in November and December 1972. The experiment involved aerial photography with special false colour infra-red films. A helicopter was used for the experiment. The French space agency, the Centre national d'études spatiales (CNES), collaborated in this experiment and provided the special films and the services of an expert.

21. The Experimental Satellite Communications Earth Station (ESCES), at Ahmedabad, which was set up with the assistance of the United Nations and ITU, has been conducting two international training courses every year in satellite communications technology. The courses are attended by candidates sponsored by various developing countries as well as by Indian organizations. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) also awards fellowships to some of the trainees from the developing countries during their periods of training at the Station at Ahmedabad, where so far eight training courses have been conducted.

22. The Indian Space Research Organization had already offered up to 10 fellowships annually for advanced training in space technology at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, and the details in respect of these fellowships will be

worked out in consultations with the United Nations expert on space applications.

23. The seventh meeting of the International Advisory Panel for the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) was held on 15 May 1972, at Madrid, and was attended by the members from India, France, the United States and the USSR. At that meeting the members examined the details of the activities of TERLS and expressed their satisfaction with the working of the range. We look forward to the next meeting of the TERLS Advisory Panel at the Thumba Station in India.

24. During 1972-1973, one Nike-Apache rocket was launched for the study of the ionosphere as a collaborative project between ISRO of India and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States. Two Nike-Apache and two Centaur rockets were launched for the study of equatorial electrojet as a collaborative project between ISRO and NASA, and CNES of France. Fifty-three meteorological rockets of the M-100 type were launched by ISRO in collaboration with the Hydrometeorological Services of the Soviet Union.

25. In the light of what I said just now about the activities of TERLS, my delegation is happy to note that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixteenth session recommended continued sponsorship for that Station [A/9020 and Corr.1, para. 54].

26. Although most members of the Outer Space Committee are aware of the proposed satellite instructional television experiment we are planning to conduct in 1975 in collaboration with NASA, I should like to make a reference to it specifically in view of the great importance and significance of the experiment and the possible effect the successful completion of the experiment would have on our national development and planning, and perhaps that of certain other developing countries also. Our collaboration with NASA has been extremely close and we have benefited considerably from the assistance and advice we have received from it.

27. In the area of space science and space technology, an experiment of considerable importance is the current Indian scientific satellite project which is scheduled for launching in 1974, with the generous assistance of the Soviet Union. The scientific satellite, weighing about 250 kilogrammes, is being designed for three major experiments by Indian scientists and is being fabricated entirely by India. The satellite will be launched by a Soviet vehicle from the Soviet Union. Thanks to the close collaboration and working arrangements we have with the Soviet Union, this project has made considerable progress. Apart from the United States and the Soviet Union, we have collaboration agreements with France and the Federal Republic of Germany also.

28. Turning now to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [A/9020 and Corr.1], I should like to express my delegation's views on some of the important points covered in that report. The Outer Space Committee, at its sixteenth session, considered the reports of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee

[A/AC.105/116], the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites [A/AC.105/117] and the Legal Sub-Committee [A/AC.105/115].

29. In paragraph 14 of its report, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee recommended, *inter alia*, that a second survey of potential users of remote sensing from space be undertaken by the Secretary-General. My delegation strongly supports that recommendation.

30. Regarding the United Nations programme on space applications, my delegation regrets to point out that this programme is totally inadequate and lacks required budgetary support and staff strength. Considering the extreme importance and relevance of applications of space technology, especially for developing countries, it is extremely important to take urgent steps to overcome these handicaps. It will be recalled that our representative stressed these points in his statement at the sixteenth session of the Outer Space Committee.

31. The United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held at Vienna in 1968, highlighted many positive and constructive ideas in this area of space applications. The late Mr. Vikram Sarabhai tried his best, at the sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, in 1969, to initiate some positive steps in this area, but although he received much verbal support from most of the members of the Committee, the action taken was confined to the appointment by the United Nations of an Expert on Space Applications. In 1969, on the basis of a recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, a special report was prepared by an Indian team on the application of space technology to development. The report, which had been prepared after a great deal of study on the subject and visits to several developing countries, identified the following applications: the use of satellites for point-to-point communications, the use of direct broadcast satellites, the use of meteorological satellites and the use of remote sensing.

32. It is a matter of some concern to my delegation that there has been hardly any follow-up of those recommendations. Within the limited annual budget of less than \$100,000 which is available for the United Nations programme on space applications, all that the Secretariat is able to do is organize a few seminars in different parts of the world. One such seminar was held in Delhi, in December 1972, on the satellite instructional television system, and another recently at Addis Ababa. The lack of encouragement to the United Nations programme on space applications, particularly by the major Powers, appears to be striking when one realizes that the technical assistance provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), not including funds available from UNDP for larger projects, amounts to about \$3 million per annum, whereas the request of the Expert on Space Applications for a modest budget of \$130,000 was turned down and all he succeeded in getting was a meagre \$87,000 for the whole year. My delegation therefore stresses once again the need for more adequate support from the United Nations and its Member States in the area of space applications.

33. What we need is a constructive and meaningful programme in this area which will fully take into account the specific needs of the developing countries. Apart from funds required for the programme, it is necessary to strengthen the staff of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat. My delegation fully supports all the recommendations in the area of space applications made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, I should like to refer in particular to paragraph 35 of the main Committee's report wherein the Committee supported the view put forth by the Expert on Space Applications that future planning for the United Nations programme on space applications should be based on long-range considerations similar to those now in effect for other United Nations programmes.

34. Specialized agencies and other international organizations also are involved in applications of space technology. My delegation expresses its deep appreciation of the valuable contributions made by the specialized agencies, particularly WMO, ITU, UNESCO and FAO. We also commend the contributions made by UNDP in this field.

35. Paragraph 28 of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's report contains a recommendation, endorsed later by the main Committee, that the Secretary-General be requested to prepare a comprehensive report on the various types of assistance extended by the United Nations system, and in particular UNDP and the specialized agencies, to developing countries in the field of space applications. My delegation strongly supports this recommendation as we believe that such a report will undoubtedly expose the totally inadequate nature of assistance available and activities maintained at present in the area of space applications.

36. My delegation is glad to note that the Governments of Brazil, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States have renewed their offers of fellowships for advanced training courses of study in the disciplines connected with space science and technology for the benefit of the developing countries. Unfortunately, many of these fellowships have remained unutilized because they do not cover the cost of international travel. Any steps that could be taken to remedy this deficiency would be welcome.

37. Paragraph 39 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee indicates that among the priority items which should be considered at its next session are remote sensing of the Earth by satellites in all its aspects, including the contribution of satellites to the solution of environmental problems, and the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. In this connexion, the Sub-Committee requested the Secretary-General to prepare the relevant background documentation. My delegation continues to support this stand and hopes that the background paper will be prepared soon and will be dealt with at the next session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, to be held in 1974.

38. The Committee agreed on a schedule of meetings for 1974 as indicated in paragraph 73 of its report. My delegation agrees with this schedule of meetings and would support it.

39. One of the main issues raised during the discussion at the sixteenth session of the Committee related to the enlargement of the membership of the Committee. Several members spoke of the need for enlargement of the membership in order to reflect the present membership of the United Nations. It may be recalled in this connexion that when the Committee was set up in 1961 the representation therein of developing countries in general was extremely weak. Therefore, the demand expressed by many delegations for enlargement of the Committee appears to us to be justified. However, the question arises regarding the way in which such enlargement could be achieved. Possibly the way to go about this matter would be for the General Assembly to request the Chairman of the Committee to initiate consultations on the subject so that agreed proposals could be formulated for the consideration of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, as suggested in paragraph 67 of the main Committee's report.

40. I should like now to make a few comments regarding the report of the Legal Sub-Committee. The issues that remain unsolved regarding the international treaty relating to the Moon are the following: first, the legal régime over the natural resources of the Moon; secondly, the scope of the draft treaty—that is, whether this treaty should apply to activities on the Moon as well as to the activities on the other celestial bodies; and, thirdly, the question of advance notification of intention to launch missions to the Moon or other celestial bodies.

41. My delegation is of the view that the draft treaty relating to the Moon should categorically declare that the resources of the Moon are the common heritage of mankind and that these resources should not be exploited except in accordance with an internationally agreed régime.

42. Our views regarding the other two points are well known and we do not wish to reiterate it here except to say that on these issues our stand is not inflexible and we look forward to co-operating with other delegations in the interest of an agreement on these issues.

43. Regarding the draft registration agreement, the outstanding issues that remain unsolved relate to marking of space objects and the review clause.

44. As regards marking of space objects our preference is for compulsory marking, which appears to be technically feasible. It is difficult to believe that space Powers which can land a man on the Moon, retrieve lunar rock samples or probe Jupiter are incapable of devising a suitable marking of space objects. In any case attempts should be made, we think, to develop a technically and economically feasible marking system, without which satisfactory identification of the debris of objects launched into space would be difficult and the actual implementation of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects [*resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex*] would remain subject to a serious handicap. We are also of the view that registration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of objects launched into space should be compulsory. We are in favour of the retention of a review clause, as indicated by our representative at the 207th meeting of the Legal Sub-Committee.

45. Turning now to agenda item 31 regarding direct television broadcasting, it may be recalled that the General Assembly, in operative paragraph 1 of its resolution 2916 (XXVII), considered it "necessary to elaborate principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements", and in paragraph 2 thereof requested "the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to undertake the elaboration of such principles as soon as possible".
46. My delegation supported the view that the General Assembly had, in fact, decided upon the necessity for concluding a convention on this subject and asked the Committee to undertake, as a first step, the elaboration of the principles on which such a convention should be based.
47. Some delegations, however, were of the view that direct broadcasts by satellites to home receivers was something that could perhaps materialize only after a decade, or even later. In their view it was premature, therefore, to talk of a convention on the subject, particularly because satellite broadcasting of television programmes into community receivers, which is currently being planned in some countries, could easily be controlled by the national authorities.
48. My delegation wishes to point out that considerable research work is being carried out in the area of direct broadcasting of television programmes into home receivers. It was reported in *The New York Times* of 27 August 1973 that "the Japanese tele-communications system has placed a study contract with Hughes Aircraft and other equipment makers to investigate a possible high power satellite for broadcasting television to home sets in Japan, particularly to remote mountain valleys and skyscrapers-shadowed areas".
49. The magazine *Broadcasting* of 27 August 1973 also referred to the fact that the Federal Communications Commission of the United States had, on 31 July 1973 permitted authorization of systems in the fixed satellite (point-to-point) service and broadcasting satellite (direct-to-home) service in the 11.7-12.2 GHz band on a case-by-case basis. Those items of information indicate that, although satellite television broadcasting direct to home receivers is not currently used, such service might become operational earlier than is now generally anticipated. There is no doubt that it would be sensible to begin work on the draft convention at this stage rather than after direct television broadcast service becomes operational.
50. One important development in this area was the adoption by UNESCO at the seventeenth session of the General Conference held in 1972 of the Declaration of Guiding Principles on the Use of Satellite Broadcasting for the Free Flow of Information, the Spread of Information and Greater Cultural Exchange. My delegation expresses its appreciation of the valuable work done by UNESCO in adopting that Declaration.
51. Since the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites will meet in Geneva in March 1974, it is unnecessary to go into the details of the convention proposed by the Soviet Union [A/AC.105/117, annex III] or the governing principles proposed by Canada and Sweden [*ibid.*, annex II]. It is for the Working Group, when it meets next year, to study this problem in depth. My delegation reiterates its support for the Soviet initiative in this regard and also commends the Canadian and Swedish delegations for their consistent and positive contributions in this field.
52. Before I conclude, I should like to express our deep appreciation of the dynamic leadership of Mr. Jankowitsch as Chairman of the Outer Space Committee and of the good work being done by the Outer Space Affairs Division in spite of a lack of adequate resources. I wish also to reiterate that my delegation will continue to co-operate fully with the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee and with other delegations in achieving progress in respect of the various issues at present under consideration and in utilizing space technology for economic development and other useful purposes.
53. Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom): My delegation listened with great interest yesterday to the introductory statement by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the representative of Austria. It is clear that under his wise guidance the Committee has indeed prospered. We are convinced that that will continue to be the case.
54. In the past year the United Kingdom has continued to devote considerable efforts to developments in outer space. I shall not take up the time of the Committee in describing them, however, since they have already been set out in the annual return submitted to the Secretary-General and published in document A/AC.105/L.68. I would, however, add that in addition a major part of our effort has been directed towards setting up the European Space Agency, (ESA), which it is hoped will commence operation in April 1974. The purpose of ESA is co-ordination of the functions of the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) and the European Space Vehicle Launcher Development Organization (ELDO) and creation of a unified European space policy. The declared objectives of the Agency are the gradual assimilation of all national space programmes into a single European programme in which all Member States will have the opportunity to participate according to their specific interests. The present agreed programme consists of three practical projects, in all of which the United Kingdom is participating to a greater or lesser extent: Spacelab, the United Kingdom-led maritime telecommunications satellite (MAROTS) and the French-led LS3 heavy rocket launcher (Ariane). We attach particular importance to the establishment of the MAROTS programme, which we see as a major new contribution to maritime telecommunications.
55. To return now to the Outer Space Committee's report [A/9020 and Corr.1], it is clear that the Committee has had a very busy year, and, judging from the heavy schedule of meetings, that will be true also of 1974. This activity is indicative of the increased interest being shown in outer space affairs, particularly in the fields of direct television broadcasting by satellite and remote sensing of the Earth's resources by satellite.
56. I am aware that for those delegations not represented on the Committee this debate is the only opportunity to discuss outer space affairs. I shall therefore confine this

statement to singling out for comment two or three of the most important points in the Committee's report. This does not, of course, mean that my delegation does not have views on other aspects or that these views are in any way definitive. My delegation reserves its right to intervene again if necessary in the course of detailed consideration of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.669.

57. We were disappointed that the Legal Sub-Committee was at its last session unable to complete its work on the draft treaty relating to the Moon and on the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. We know the nature of the outstanding difficulties. We appreciate the strength of views that are held by different delegations. We believe that given the political will it should be possible to reconcile those conflicting views and complete the texts of both those instruments. We therefore think it entirely right that the Legal Sub-Committee should at its next session devote its best efforts and give highest priority to completing the Moon treaty and the registration convention.

58. Thereafter we think it right that the Legal Sub-Committee, in conformity with the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.669, of which my delegation is glad to be a co-sponsor, should take a first look at the question of elaborating principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. It is a source of satisfaction to my delegation that the Committee was able to reach agreement on language describing its future activities in this important field. That was no small achievement, given the widely differing views held on the subject by a number of delegations. It is a good example of how agreement on a controversial subject can be reached given goodwill and international co-operation.

59. However, different views have been expressed about the meaning of General Assembly resolution 2196 (XXVII), and as an illustration of those differing views—differences brought out in the records of the discussions in this Committee last year—I should like to quote paragraphs 74 and 75 of the report on the fourth session of the Working Group on Direct Broadcasting Satellites. They read as follows:

“There was discussion of the interpretation of General Assembly resolution 2196 (XXVII) which considered it ‘necessary to elaborate principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements’.

“In the view of some delegations, the intention of the General Assembly was to request the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to elaborate principles concerning television broadcasting via satellites, whereafter a decision would be taken as to whether an international agreement or agreements were needed. Other delegations maintained that the decision by the General Assembly should be understood to mean on the one hand a request for elaboration of principles, on the other a decision to adopt international agreement or agreements even if the Assembly had not wished to prejudge the nature of the agreement or agreements to be concluded.”

60. Turning to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the doubts that my delegation has for some time felt about the effectiveness of that body led us to propose that the Sub-Committee should itself discuss its role and future functions. This led to a useful discussion in the Sub-Committee, which is reflected in paragraph 57 of the report. We believe that further discussion of the assumptions underlying the role and work of the Sub-Committee, as well as the frequency of its meetings, could have a beneficial effect on the effective operation of the Sub-Committee.

61. Another important subject dealt with by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and also by its specialized working group, is the remote sensing of the Earth's resources by satellite. Here is an area that is clearly of immense potential benefit to mankind. The Committee's subsidiary bodies are doing valuable work in seeing how that potential can best be brought to flower. Already the results that have been made available from the United States ERTS A experiment and that are becoming available as a result of the Skylab programme show what can be done. We have set out our views in detail on this matter on other occasions, and I do not wish to repeat them here. I would, however, say that we cannot agree with those who think the right way to proceed is by means of studying the legal aspects of the subject in isolation. We need to take into account fully the practical aspects, and study of the technical and organizational aspects must go hand in hand with the study of the legal aspects. Such an approach would mean that many of the legal problems that now seem so intractable would fall into perspective.

62. Finally, I should like to say a few words on the subject of the enlargement of the Committee mentioned in paragraph 67 of the report. I have already spoken of the enhanced interest in outer-space affairs. It is understandable that this enhanced interest should result in pressure for the enlargement of the Committee, and indeed the representative of Indonesia at the 1978th meeting put forward the case for enlargement in a most eloquent and persuasive way. We are certainly not opposed in principle to any such enlargement, but we do consider that the subject needs to be approached with a certain degree of caution. For example, any enlargement should not be such as adversely to affect the efficient working of the Committee. We need to know more clearly who is interested in joining. We need to examine the possible modalities for enlargement. Are there some already represented on the Committee who would be willing to stand down in favour of others? What are the prospects for rotation of some of the existing seats? These are difficult and delicate questions. That is why my delegation fully supports the proposal contained in paragraph 28 of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.669 that this task should be entrusted to the Outer Space Committee itself. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should make concrete proposals, after taking into account consultations to be held by the Chairman, and report to us at the next session of the General Assembly so that we can take an appropriate decision.

63. The opportunity for the United Nations in the field of co-operation in outer-space affairs is very great. As the focal point for promoting co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space in the United Nations family, the Outer Space

Committee has a key role to play. We shall continue to support its work now and in the future, as we have done in the past.

AGENDA ITEM 39 (continued)*

Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security: report of the Secretary-General (A/9038, A/9057, A/9078, A/9083, A/9122, A/9129, A/C.1/1037, 1040, 1041, A/C.1/L.670)

64. The CHAIRMAN: As members are aware, draft resolution A/C.1/L.670 has been distributed. I would inform the Committee that Kuwait is added to the list of sponsors.
65. Mr. AZZOUT (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): On behalf of the sponsors, the delegations of the non-aligned countries, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/L.670 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. This draft resolution is the result of consultations between the non-aligned countries and the other political groupings of our Organization.
66. I would say, on behalf of the co-sponsors, that it was our concern to reflect in this text, as far as possible, the trends that have become evident in the course of our debates on this particular item, in the light of the Political Declaration adopted by the fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers last September, and also bearing in mind the international situation.
67. The draft resolution takes note of the détente which at the present moment characterizes relations between the great Powers, but it also stresses that that détente, which has for so long been desired by the non-aligned nations and in the achievement of which they actively participated, still remains a limited one, applying, in terms of space, to certain privileged areas only.
68. We are convinced that détente will not become a permanent way of life in relations among States until it is extended to include the whole world. In order to achieve this, the international community must spare no effort for the purpose of creating the necessary conditions that will make possible a just settlement of the problems arising from hotbeds of warfare and tension which, as long as they exist, will pose a threat to any détente and thus render it but a fragile phenomenon.
69. For example, the war imposed by Israel on the Arab nations in the Middle East may lead to the risk of a global confrontation, and indeed in the last few months we have had ample proof, as a result of that situation, of the fragility of the détente.
70. The draft resolution also emphasizes the increasing interrelationship between the strengthening of international security, on the one hand, and disarmament and development, on the other.
71. In fact, the gap between the developing and developed nations has been growing constantly, with all that that entails in threats to international peace and security. International peace and security can be neither conceived of nor established in the atmosphere of instability that prevails in most parts of the world. The economic and social development of the developing nations is the very foundation of any political stability, and thus the developing nations have to exploit their natural resources to benefit their own people, first of all, in their struggle against underdevelopment and to do so without foreign interference or pressure. Since peace in the world is one and indivisible it cannot be envisaged except as a joint effort by all nations, and they in turn must make the United Nations that true centre to harmonize the efforts of nations where the effective sovereignty and inalienable rights of all States and peoples, as well as their right to self-determination and independence, will be ensured.
72. The development of international relations and the creation of peace and détente are a permanent and daily endeavour. That is why the non-aligned States feel that a yearly study of the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security is called for. Such a study would allow us to assess at their true worth the efforts being made by the international community, and particularly by those who have a special responsibility under the Charter. Some would have preferred this item to be dropped from the agenda of the United Nations as though it were sufficient to have adopted the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. But that is not the view of the non-aligned nations. On the contrary, we believe that a yearly study of the implementation of the Declaration will allow us to assess the degree of its implementation by Member States.
73. As long as our people are confronted by colonialism or neo-colonialism, as long as they have to watch foreign domination and economic pressures, we must inevitably call for the implementation of the principles and purposes of the Charter and of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.
74. We would have preferred to see more members of the Committee participate in the debate and make useful suggestions since our aim is not to reiterate the same principles year after year but to progress and to continue the analysis of international relations in order to promote true détente and peace among States and peoples. We would, however, express the hope that this draft resolution, which contains the aspirations and the concern of a great many Members, will commend itself to all members of the Committee.
75. The CHAIRMAN: I wish to inform members of the Committee that Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia and Poland wish to be included among the sponsors of draft resolution.
76. Mr. GROZEV (Bulgaria) (*translation from Russian*): On behalf of the delegations of the People's Republic of Poland, the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, the People's Republic of Mongolia and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, I should like to inform the Committee why these delegations have decided to become sponsors of draft

*Resumed from the 1976th meeting.

resolution A/C.1/L.670, which is to be examined and, we hope, adopted by the First Committee.

77. In resolution 2993 (XXVII) adopted last year, the General Assembly expressed the hope that the present favourable trends in bilateral, regional and multilateral relations would continue and that efforts to that end would be pursued and intensified, thus furthering the strengthening of international security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The results of these efforts and the goodwill that has been shown on all sides have become manifest and can be noted by all. In the course of the lengthy discussions in this Committee regarding the item on our agenda, a number of delegations have expressed their gratification at the extension of détente and the increase in confidence, and their desire to extend co-operation and friendship among nations.

78. We believe that this Committee and the General Assembly itself will confirm the assessment made in the draft resolution of this trend towards détente. The draft resolution quite correctly stresses the need to see this trend widened and extended to the entire world. We believe it important to express once again the hope that the favourable currents noted lately in bilateral, regional and multilateral relations will be maintained and that greater efforts will be made along these lines in order to strengthen international security.

79. The draft resolution that has been submitted is also an expression of the events which took place between the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions of the General Assembly, including certain elements of tension and certain conflicts, and thus we appeal to States to avoid any further steps that might hinder the development of friendly relations among nations. Constant sources of tensions and threats to international peace and security flow from colonialism, neo-colonialism and racial discrimination, and that is why in the resolutions thus far adopted on the implementation of the Declaration and again in this draft resolution the need is stressed to adopt effective measures to eliminate colonialism and neo-colonialism and to fight against racial discrimination and *apartheid* in all its forms and manifestations.

80. The draft resolution also stresses the need to combine efforts to extend the political détente so far achieved to military détente, which is in keeping with the views expressed by the majority of States at the present session during the debate on disarmament and during the debate on the question of the strengthening of international security. In the light of those views, it is perfectly obvious that an appeal should be made to stop the arms race and to reduce armaments in the world since this would allow considerable resources to be liberated which could then be channelled towards economic and social development, particularly that of the developing nations.

81. Furthermore, the document stresses the contribution which the United Nations can make to the process of

improving the international atmosphere, strengthening of confidence among States and establishing lasting and stable peace and security.

82. The new draft resolution also stresses the need to keep the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security on the agenda of the General Assembly and to make that important Declaration a practical guideline for international life. It is for this reason that the draft resolution would decide that the question of the implementation of the Declaration should remain on the agenda of the General Assembly, and that the Secretary-General should be requested to submit an appropriate report to the Assembly, at its twenty-ninth session.

83. The draft resolution also responds to the main concerns and reflects the main changes that have taken place in international life and have been confirmed in the course of the discussions during the present session. For these reasons, as I have said, the sponsors hope that the draft resolution will commend itself to the members of the First Committee and will be supported by them, and in due course by the General Assembly.

84. The CHAIRMAN: If there are no other representatives who wish to speak on this draft resolution may I take it that the Committee is prepared to consider the debate on it concluded, so that there will remain only the voting to be taken care of at a subsequent meeting? I understand that there is one further representative who would like to speak on the draft resolution, but preferably at a later stage.

85. Mr. ELIAS (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Although I had expressed the desire to speak on this draft resolution I should like to say that if that might mean a delay or obstruct the Committee's programme of work I should be quite satisfied to limit myself to an explanation of vote in due course.

86. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Spain for his co-operation. I do not think we need to have a formal arrangement. If time allows, I shall call upon him. Otherwise perhaps I may take advantage of his kind suggestion.

87. I just felt that if we could bring the debate on the draft resolution as near to conclusion as possible today, without having a formal closure, it would be advisable. It is my understanding that the members of the Committee are agreed that we should utilize restraint in taking up time in debating the draft resolution, but those who feel a strong urge to speak will, of course, be given the chance to do so at a later stage. The draft resolution will, then, be put to a vote either on Friday, 7 December or Monday, 10 December.

88. I have been asked to announce that Syria has become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/L.670.