



SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
20th meeting
held on
Friday, 5 November 1982
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 20th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MUBAREZ (Yemen)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 62: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
(continued):

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/37/20)
- (b) REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/37/46)
- (c) REPORT OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and A/CONF.101/11)

AGENDA ITEM 63: 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
(continued) (A/37/20 and A/SPC/37/L.5)

AGENDA ITEM 131: QUESTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY SPACE OBJECTS (continued) (A/37/141)

1. Mr. AMIGO (Argentina) said that his delegation attached great importance to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which had produced numerous important legal instruments governing the activities of States in outer space and had made an enormous contribution to the promotion of international co-operation in the development of space science and technology. He expressed satisfaction that COPUOS had given priority to consideration of the question of remote sensing of the earth from space and had sought to achieve a consensus on the elaboration of a set of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. It should continue to orient its work towards the consideration of the possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear energy sources in outer space, matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, bearing in mind the need to regulate use of the geostationary orbit, consideration of the United Nations Programme for the Applications of Space Technology, the co-ordination of space activities within the system of the Organization, questions relating to space transport systems, and the examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit.

2. His delegation, as a member of COPUOS, sought to promote international co-operation in outer space, and the codification and progressive development of international law and to stress the full responsibility of States for their activities in that field and the need to respect the sovereignty of other States.

3. He expressed concern at the small degree of progress made in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, particularly during its last session, with regard to remote sensing of the earth and direct television broadcasting by satellite. The attempts of certain countries to ignore or deny the regulatory powers of COPUOS, particularly during the debate on paragraph 382 of the report of the Conference, were regrettable. His delegation stressed the importance

(Mr. Amigo, Argentina)

of the role of COPUOS in the codification and progressive development of international law in that field in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1472 (XIV). He expressed satisfaction that COPUOS had decided to invite the representatives of Bangladesh, Cuba, Peru and the United Republic of Tanzania, and the observers for the Holy See and Switzerland to attend its twenty-fifth session.

4. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had provided invaluable information on the consequences of the applications of space science and technology and had made an important contribution to the consideration of the questions relating to international co-operation and the role of the United Nations. He stressed the need to increase bilateral and multilateral co-operation, particularly between developed and developing countries, in view of the technological gap between them. In that regard the technologically advanced nations had a special responsibility.

5. It was unfortunate that UNISPACE 82 had not formally condemned the extension of the arms race into outer space. Although paragraphs 13, 14 and 426 of its report had been adopted by consensus, they were far from reflecting the position of the majority of countries on that question. His country associated itself with the Declaration of the Group of 77 contained in document A/CONF.101/L.5. In that connection, he stressed that the letter and spirit of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 should be observed. He expressed concern at the lack of political will on the part of certain countries to promote the development of legal norms governing the various aspects of that issue. It was not a question of restricting the capacity of a small number of countries but of regulating the activities of those countries in order to safeguard both their interests and the interests of the majority of the international community.

6. With regard to the elaboration of a draft set of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, his delegation felt that a formula maintaining the balance between the principle of free flow of information and respect for the sovereignty of States, including the defence of their cultural heritage, should be adopted. Draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.5 calling for the adoption of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for international direct television broadcasting met that criterion and had the support of the large majority of countries. The time had come for its adoption.

7. Mr. DELASABLIERE (France) expressed satisfaction at the development of international co-operation in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space over the past 25 years. The French outer space policy was based on co-operation with other States. France participated in a number of programmes with the member countries of the European Space Agency, such as the SPACELAB programme. It was developing a direct television broadcasting satellite in co-operation with the Federal Republic of Germany and was working on the SPOT remote sensing satellite with Sweden and Belgium. France had co-operated with the United States in a number of programmes in the field of astrophysics and had participated in several planetary exploration missions. Within the framework of Franco-Soviet co-operation, it had participated in experiments in a number of fields such as astronomy, medicine and biology, and had undertaken a joint manned space flight the previous June.

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(Mr. Delasabliere, France)

8. In order to promote the participation of many States in the applications of space technology France was conducting a number of joint programmes with the countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia. His country participated actively in United Nations training seminars and sought to provide training opportunities for all States. Global space application systems should be made accessible to the entire international community.

9. The report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was of unquestionable scientific value. The conclusions of the Conference would guide the work of the United Nations in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space for several years to come. However, time should not be lost. The General Assembly at its current session should take a decision on the recommendations of the Conference concerning the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should consider at its next session the question of the studies recommended by the Conference and should give particular attention to the need to establish priorities in that regard.

10. With respect to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, his delegation considered that remote sensing of the earth should promote development and international co-operation on the basis of the wide dissemination of the data obtained as well as the need to ensure the continuity of service. Furthermore, the necessary precautions should be taken with regard to the dissemination of "sensitive" data. Although the Legal Sub-Committee still had much work to do in the consideration of the possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear energy sources in outer space, the work undertaken on the question of assistance to States was promising. The Legal Sub-Committee should continue consideration of the question whether the existing rules sufficiently ensured that the victim State would receive compensation for damage.

11. A new approach should be taken in the study of matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind questions relating to the geostationary orbit. The field of application of space law could be limited by the definition of space activities just as by a conventional delimitation of outer space. Direct television broadcasting by satellite should be used to further develop international co-operation. The negotiations on the draft set of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting should lead to a text which would be acceptable for all delegations. His delegation would participate in that spirit and stressed the need to observe the rule of consensus within COPUOS.

12. Miss DEVERE (Belgium) expressed satisfaction that UNISPACE 82 had strengthened international co-operation in outer space and in the applications of space technology. It was gratifying to note that the decisions and recommendations of the Conference had been adopted by consensus. Although that consensus did not fully reflect the views of her delegation, Belgium would co-operate, to the extent of its ability, in the task of implementing the recommendations of the Conference. Her Government felt that the personnel of the Outer Space Affairs Division should

(Miss Devere, Belgium)

be increased without any institutional changes and by means of the reallocation of funds within the United Nations budget. In several years' time that question could be considered again in order to determine whether a new approach was necessary. Belgium was currently unable to commit itself financially with regard to UNISPACE 82 projects.

13. Her delegation was prepared to continue to co-operate fully in the elaboration of a draft set of principles governing the use by States of artificial Earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. It hoped that a true consensus could be achieved on the basis of a constructive spirit of co-operation. She stressed that the principles of freedom of information and free dissemination of ideas should be the basis of such a set of principles and could in no way be diminished. The draft set of principles should be firmly rooted in the relevant articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights concerning civil and political rights.

14. Her delegation attached great importance to remote sensing of the earth and was aware of its usefulness for developing countries in particular. Steps should be taken to overcome the differences of views on that subject. Nevertheless, the basic principle of the free dissemination of data obtained through remote sensing must be preserved.

15. Her delegation agreed with the delegation of Italy that legal norms should be elaborated clearly defining responsibility with regard to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. Lastly, she joined other delegations in expressing concern about the dangers posed by the arms race in outer space. Her delegation had already explained its position in that regard in the relevant debate of the First Committee.

16. Mr. BERNAL (Bolivia) said that space technology could be a powerful instrument in accelerating the economic, social and cultural progress of nations. Unfortunately, access to such technology was as yet limited and space applications were not geared to the needs of the vast majority of peoples. Space science and technology must be directed towards solving the major problems facing mankind, and all nations must have equal access to international co-operation in the use of outer space as a means of advancing their development process.

17. Although most developed countries had allowed the developing countries to participate in their space programmes, only a tiny proportion of such participation amounted to real co-operation. That was perhaps because the great Powers were too busy keeping watch on one another, since their main interest lay in militarizing outer space. The celestial bodies were the common heritage of mankind and the testing, emplacement and deployment of any kind of weapon in outer space posed a constant threat to man's existence. The developing countries were prepared to co-operate in programmes of international co-operation for the peaceful development of outer space, provided that they retained full control over their resources and that scientific and technological capacities were shared fairly among the nations of the world.

(Mr. Bernal, Bolivia)

18. Bolivia had been a member of INTELSAT since 1973 and the Bolivian Geological Service, through remote sensing of Bolivian territory by LANDSAT satellite, had been able to produce maps and take photographs which were invaluable to geological and cartographic research. Bolivia was eager to increase its participation in the space activities and programmes of the United Nations and the industrialized countries and in machinery which would permit all States to benefit from space technology and space applications. It had sponsored the draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.5 and urged other delegations to support that draft resolution, which, it was sure, would help to strengthen international co-operation in the use of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting.

19. Mrs. NOWOTNY (Austria) said that the final report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1) had combined a review of the state of science and technology with a broad survey of their practical implications, including ways and means to strengthen international co-operation. The preparatory work, regional seminars and background papers to the conference had also provided an important stimulus to space science and applications on a world-wide level. Of equal importance had been the numerous peripheral activities which had accompanied the Conference, including the large exhibition, the non-governmental organization conferences and the live satellite demonstrations. New methods of conference servicing via satellite had been tested and had proved to be efficient and economical; if the experience was properly evaluated, such methods would have a far-reaching influence on the conduct of international conferences in the future.

20. Austria was fully satisfied with the findings and recommendations contained in the report, which had stressed the applicability aspects and the solution of earth-bound problems. While stressing the need for broader co-operation, the report had struck a balance by emphasizing the importance of the growth of indigenous nuclei and an autonomous technological basis in developing countries.

21. The Conference had avoided recommending the creation of any large new structures for the conduct of space affairs but had assigned a number of new duties to the Outer Space Affairs Division which, in the view of her delegation should be strengthened both in terms of staff and resources.

22. Her Government attached particular importance to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and was in full agreement with the new orientation given to the programme. The new direction should be translated into proposals for action without delay by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its next meeting.

23. Her delegation was in agreement with the recommendations concerning the financing of projects through voluntary contributions but wished to emphasize that outer space activities were clearly becoming a priority area.

24. Because of its concentration on the preparations for the Conference, it was not, perhaps, surprising that the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had not progressed at the fast pace which its mandate would require, and there was reason for concern that the Committee might be overtaken by technical and scientific events and faced, in the near future, with a gap between its work and the evolution of space science. It was to be hoped that the Conference and the

(Mrs. Nowotny, Austria)

follow-up activities involved would serve as a stimulus to the Committee and would enable it to keep its work orientated towards the future. It was important that the principle of consensus, which had guided the Committee in the past, should continue to be applied in all aspects of its future work.

25. Considerable work had been devoted in recent years to the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. The final breakthrough remained elusive. Her delegation was convinced that any set of principles would be valid only if such principles were adopted by consensus so that all States would feel bound to adhere to them. Her delegation, therefore, welcomed yet another attempt to negotiate on the issue.

26. Increasing attention had been devoted to the danger of an extension of the arms race into outer space,. The substantive aspects of that question were rightly the concern of other United Nations bodies but the Committee could, nevertheless, not ignore the issue. The Conference had found language to express that concern and had thus set up a clear and unambiguous road sign in order to ensure respect for outer space as a strictly peaceful environment.

27. Mr. TAHINDRO (Madagascar) said that his delegation regarded UNISPACE 82 as one of the main successes of 1982. The Conference had taken appropriate steps to ensure more widespread use of space technology, for instance by enhancing the role of the United Nations systems in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space and co-ordinating international efforts in that field. It had also drawn international attention to the benefits which all countries, particularly the developing countries, could derive from outer space activities.

28. His delegation regretted that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had so far failed to reach agreement on the problem of satellite remote sensing data. Like many developing countries, it believed that remote sensing activities should respect fully the sovereign rights of States and that sensed States should have unrestricted preferential access, at nominal cost, to all primary data relating to their territories. Their consent should also be obtained by the sensing State before the latter could pass on such data to a third country, regardless of the height of the resolution at which such data were obtained. His delegation therefore hoped that the draft principles prepared on that subject by the Legal Sub-Committee would respect the principle of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources.

29. His delegation noted that, according to the report of the working group on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, nuclear power sources could be used in complete safety in outer space as long as the necessary safety precautions were taken. It none the less believed that further work was required on a number of aspects of that question. In general, it believed that satellites equipped with a nuclear power source should be placed in sufficiently high orbit so that, in the event of an accident, radioactive matter could disintegrate and fall at a lesser dose of radiation. Because of their low altitude, orbiting satellites should not, therefore, be equipped with nuclear power sources. The launching State must, in any case, be held fully liable for any damage caused to third States. It was from that standpoint that the review of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects should be approached.

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(Mr. Tahindro, Madagascar)

30. With regard to the delimitation of outer space, his delegation believed that a conventional delimitation was more rational than a functional or even a scientific delimitation. The proposal to fix the lower limit of outer space at 100 to 110 kilometres above sea-level, therefore, seemed perfectly reasonable. The geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource which could be saturated. It was, therefore, in the interest of all States, particularly the developing countries, to ensure that the orbit was used rationally. His delegation sympathized with the legitimate concerns voiced by equatorial countries as to their rights and interests in relation to the geostationary orbit and believed that an appropriate legal régime based on the concept of the common heritage of mankind would benefit the interests of those countries and all other developing countries.

31. His delegation noted with appreciation the draft set of principles on the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. While it was aware of the tremendous potential which direct television broadcasting offered for educational, medical and social activities, particularly in remote rural areas, it believed that such broadcasting should be conducted with the prior consent of the receiving State and fully respect the latter's sovereignty. It therefore regretted that the set of principles contained in the annex to draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.5 did not include an obligation on the broadcasting State to obtain the prior consent of the receiving State but instead referred only to prior notification and consultations. The set of principles none the less marked a step in the right direction.

32. His delegation was deeply concerned at the threat posed by the intensification of the arms race in outer space and appealed to the countries concerned to cease all military activities or preparations therefor in outer space, so that space technology could be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

33. Although his country did not have the necessary technical and financial means to participate in the exploration of outer space, it was like many developing countries, interested in the application of space technology to solve a variety of problems on earth. In the field of telecommunications, for instance, the Arivonimano earth station was being modified so that it could work with the new generation of INTELSAT satellites. The Madagascar International Telecommunications Corporation was planning to buy terminals which would permit the national earth station to establish new direct satellite links with a number of countries. A large number of countries throughout the world already had direct satellite links with Madagascar's main cities, the Antananarivo automatic international telephone exchange having been brought into service in June 1980.

34. His delegation wished to reiterate its interest in the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, in particular the holding of seminars and the granting of training fellowships to nationals of developing countries.

35. His delegation supported the conclusions and recommendations of UNISPACE 82 and hoped that they would be implemented soon so that outer space might become a zone of peace and international co-operation.

36. Mr. BOLD (Mongolia) said that the fruitful co-operation of the socialist countries under the "Intercosmos" programme was continuing. The joint experiments carried out by Soviet and French scientists and the flight of the Franco-Soviet crew into outer space were examples of growing international co-operation in space research. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was an important landmark in outer space activities. His delegation fully supported the recommendations of the the Conference.

37. Although the question of the danger of the utilization of outer space for military purposes had not appeared on the agenda of the Conference, the overwhelming majority of States had expressed profound concern during the Conference at the increasing danger of the extension of the arms race into outer space and the efforts of certain circles to make outer space a theatre for future military operations. That profound concern on the part of the world community had been expressed in the report of the Conference. Furthermore, the Conference had urged all nations, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space and to refrain from any action contrary to that aim.

38. It should be pointed out that, at the Conference, the representatives of the United States had not only ignored that question but had attempted to prevent the inclusion of such views in the report. That was scarcely surprising, in view of the fact that the current American administration had undertaken a programme for the militarization of outer space and had allocated vast sums of money to that end. A new series of outer space weapons was being developed in order to strike targets in outer space, the atmosphere and on earth. Particular attention was being given to the development of a laser weapon to be stationed in outer space. The Government of the United States was invoking the myth of the Soviet military threat to justify its militarist designs to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union in outer space.

39. Mongolia, along with the overwhelming majority of States, advocated that outer space, as the common heritage of mankind, should always remain an area for peaceful co-operation and that the enormous potential of space science should be used for the good of mankind. In that connection, his delegation considered the Soviet proposal concerning the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space an important new initiative designed to ensure the peaceful use of outer space. It was hoped that all States would show the necessary political will to conclude such a treaty.

40. His delegation viewed favourably the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space over the past year. Nevertheless, the marked delay in elaborating the necessary international legal norms governing the activities of States in outer space and the application of space technology on earth was regrettable. He reiterated the position of his Government that all legal documents concerning the activities and co-operation of States in outer space should be based on the generally accepted principles of respect for the sovereignty of States, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit. Direct television broadcasting by satellite to the territory of another State should not be carried out without that State's prior consent. No sovereign State could permit data concerning its territory and industrial and military potential obtained by

(Mr. Bold, Mongolia)

remote sensing to be used by other States without its knowledge and consent. Lastly, it was hoped that COPUOS would contribute to the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Conference. Mongolia, as a member of COPUOS, would actively participate in that task.

41. Mr. WABUGE (Kenya) observed that UNISPACE 82 had provided the world community with an opportunity to strengthen international co-operation in the exploration of outer space and with a forum for considering the social, industrial, educational and cultural potential of space science and technology. The Conference had been convened in response to rapid developments in space science and technology and to the need to regulate space activities on the basis of international law.

42. His delegation attached great importance to the use of remote sensing techniques for surveying the earth's resources and environment. The technical progress made in remote sensing had been of great assistance to the developing countries, which would welcome greater access to remote sensing science and technology. The United Nations must play a greater co-ordinating role in order to promote further international co-operation in that field. His delegation shared the view that adequate education and training facilities in all aspects of remote sensing should be provided, in particular to the developing countries, and noted with satisfaction the part played by the FAO Remote Sensing Centre. It hoped that the Centre would be strengthened to accommodate the specific education and training needs of the developing countries. While his delegation recognized the benefits to be derived from remote sensing, it wished to stress that no remote sensing activities could be carried out without the prior notification or consent of the sensed State. The latter should have direct access to primary remote sensing data collected concerning its territory and natural resources and should be entitled to decide whether such data could be disseminated to third countries.

43. His delegation hoped that the General Assembly would adopt the draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. Kenya believed in freedom of information and was convinced that the technology in question would certainly increase the flow of information. The principle of freedom of information could, however, be abused. The principle should not be used as a means of spreading political propaganda, which would only lead to political misunderstandings and encourage conflicts and disputes, particularly among neighbouring States.

44. His delegation requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to pursue its consideration of the question of the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities.

45. Kenya, like other equatorial States, believed that those States had a legitimate claim to the segment of the geostationary orbit located above their territory, since the existence of that orbit depended exclusively on its relation to gravitational phenomena generated by the earth and the orbit could not therefore be included in the concept of outer space.

(Mr. Wabuge, Kenya)

46. Outer space science and technology should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Considerable concern had, however, been expressed recently at the possibility that the arms race might be extended to outer space. While UNISPACE 82 had noted the growing possibility of the use of outer space for military purposes, it had not adequately exposed the danger and the world community's concern at what was a very real problem. The military use of outer space would significantly increase the threat of nuclear war. If mankind was to enjoy fully the benefits of outer space technology, everything possible must be done to persuade the super-powers not to militarize outer space in any way. It was imperative that a treaty prohibiting the use of outer space for military purposes should be concluded. The earth was already saturated with all kinds of weapons and the arms race must not be allowed to extend to outer space.

47. Mr. NISIBORI (Japan) expressed satisfaction at the success of UNISPACE 82 and at the fact that its report (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1) had been adopted by consensus. The convening of the conference had been a timely response to space development activities and had been of great significance in fostering mutual understanding in that field. He hoped that international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space would continue to be strengthened.

48. His delegation regretted that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had yet to complete its work on a draft set of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. Such principles could be adopted by the General Assembly only after that Committee had agreed on them by consensus. In that connection, it should be stressed that freedom of information and freedom of broadcasting were basic national rights.

49. With regard to the work being done by the Legal Sub-Committee on the legal implications of remote sensing, his delegation believed that regulations should not be imposed in a manner that would obstruct the development of remote sensing activities and that all remote sensing data should be disseminated freely.

50. His delegation believed that, since the technical aspects of the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, as well as those of the geostationary orbit, were dealt with by ITU, it might be more appropriate for the Legal Sub-Committee to devote itself to such priority issues as the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. It hoped that both Sub-Committees would continue to conduct thorough deliberations on that subject since it was absolutely essential that such space activities should be carried out with a minimum of risk to human life and the environment.

51. The extension of the arms race into outer space was a matter of universal concern, and his delegation hoped that, in the deliberations of such forums as the Committee on Disarmament, progress would be made towards preventing an arms race in space.

52. As part of his country's own space programme, Japan's seventh scientific research satellite, launched in February 1981, was still collecting its observation data on solar flare phenomena. The tenth such satellite would be launched into heliocentric orbit in 1985 to observe Halley's Comet. In the area of space applications, a geostationary meteorological satellite had been launched in

(Mr. Nisibori, Japan)

August 1981 and an experimental technical satellite launched in September 1982. The launching of communications satellites, broadcasting satellites, a geostationary meteorological satellite and a marine observation satellite was also scheduled for the near future.

53. Japan also actively promoted multilateral and bilateral co-operation in space development. It co-operated with member countries of ESCAP by providing data on cloud imagery obtained from its geostationary meteorological satellite and holding seminars for remote sensing experts under the auspices of the Japan International Co-operation Agency.

54. His delegation wished to stress the importance of maintaining the tradition of consensus decision-making in the various forums dealing with international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. That would ensure that deliberations were harmonious and would ultimately be rewarded with success.

55. Mr. STARČEVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the results of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space fully justified the efforts which had gone into its preparation. The Conference had concluded that outer space activities had produced valuable benefits for the development of all States but that, for the time being, those benefits were enjoyed for the most part by the developed countries only. The problems preventing the developing countries from deriving benefits had been identified and a number of recommendations had been adopted on ways and means to deal with the problem. Of particular importance had been the recommendations concerning studies on the need and viability of operational international satellite systems for meteorology, remote sensing and navigation, the programme of fellowships for the developing countries, greater co-operation among developing countries, the establishment of an international space information service, the rational use of the geostationary orbit and the need to prevent an arms race in outer space. In the view of his delegation, the recommendations should be implemented as speedily as possible.

56. Significant obstacles to international co-operation had emerged from the increasing militarization of outer space and the extension into it of the arms race. Almost all delegations had spoken in favour of preventing the arms race from spreading into outer space and had expressed grave concern in that regard. The Group of 77 had stressed that the militarization of space was detrimental to the whole of humanity and that the testing, stationing and deployment of any weapons in outer space should be banned. The Group had expressed the view that it was necessary to adopt a legal instrument which would ban the deployment of weapons in outer space; verifiable controls and guarantees should also be adopted. His delegation fully supported that position and believed that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should join in the efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space. That position should be reflected in the draft resolution on the Conference to be adopted by the Special Political Committee.

57. It was true that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had devoted considerable time to the preparations of UNISPACE 82 but, nevertheless, the results of its work during the current year had been disappointing. Political differences were still hampering progress, and it was to be hoped that the conclusions and recommendations of UNISPACE 82 would give impetus to agreement on those issues.

(Mr. Starčević, Yugoslavia)

58. The problems related to remote sensing of earth by satellites should be resolved as soon as possible. His delegation agreed with the views of the Group of 77 to the effect that activities in the field of remote sensing should be carried out with full respect for the sovereign rights of States. The sensed States should have timely and unhindered access on a priority basis at minimal cost to all data and information obtained over their territories. Dissemination of such data to a third party should not be permitted without the prior consent of the sensed country. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should elaborate draft principles on that issue as a matter of urgency. In that connection, his delegation supported the establishment of a data bank within the United Nations.

59. In regard to the problem of the geostationary orbit, his delegation agreed with those delegations which considered that its limited resources should be utilized for the benefit of all countries, that the current regulatory mechanism for assigning orbit positions and radio spectrum needed to be changed and that the principle of guaranteed and equitable access, particularly by developing countries, should be the essence of any new regulatory mechanism.

60. His delegation fully supported the draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting which had been submitted. After 10 years of effort it was indeed time for the adoption of those principles, as had been recommended by the entire Group of 77 at UNISPACE 82.

61. Mr. XHAFA (Albania) said that outer space, together with the earth and sea, had been transformed into a field where the two imperialist super-powers were attempting to maintain their monopoly of domination and turn it into a springboard for aggression against the freedom and independence of peoples. The leader of the Albanian people, Comrade Enver Hoxha, had pointed out that the Soviet Union and the United States had reached outer space and were launching numerous satellites but that, while claiming that such inventions belonged to mankind, the two super-powers were, in fact, using them to spy against peoples and States. The American imperialists, as well as the Soviet social imperialists, continued to cover outer space with military satellites regardless of the nomenclature employed. In fact, all such satellites carried out broad espionage activities, observing the most significant sea routes and military bases. The spy satellites were employed to register civilian and military communications, to localize radio and radar stations and to take pictures of various objects. The demagogic slogans and proposals on the peaceful exploration of outer space which the imperialists and the social imperialists had repeated during previous sessions of the General Assembly had been nothing more than efforts to divert international public opinion from the danger which the use for military purposes of satellites and other outer space apparatus by the United States and the Soviet Union posed to world peace. In fact, outer space had ceased to be a peaceful environment for scientific co-operation.

62. The possibilities for the use of outer space in the service of mankind were broad and would become broader with the further development of science and technology. Outer space was an important field for scientific activities and deserved great attention. Many States and scientific institutions, including international agencies, had shown great interest in exploring outer space for beneficial purposes. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and

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(Mr. Khafa, Albania)

Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had served to illustrate the possibilities for the exploration of outer space and the various technical scientific, political and juridical problems involved. Hitherto such goals had been frustrated by the harmful activities and practices of imperialism and social imperialism. It was not realistic to expect that the imperialist super-powers would limit the activity of military satellites or explore outer space for peaceful purposes. On the contrary, they would try to use every opportunity, including exploitation of the United Nations, to cover up the implementation of their aggressive plans in outer space. In the view of his delegation, the imperialist super-powers' policies and practices in outer space, as in every other field, must be exposed and opposed.

63. Mr. SHANKAR (India) said that it was heartening that the report of UNISPACE 82 had been adopted by total consensus which could signify the advent of an era of increasing co-operation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.

64. Achievements in the field of outer space and technology had been spectacular but they had nevertheless raised new issues concerning the code of conduct governing relations among nations on earth. The disparities between nations had unfortunately widened. If the benefits from space, which were the common heritage of mankind, were to be equitably shared by the international community, nations must work together to create a climate in which it became an agreed obligation for everyone to co-operate and contribute to the welfare and advancement of all.

65. His delegation congratulated the United States and the Soviet Union for their achievements in space exploration and space technology, as well as the European nations, Japan and China for increasing the opportunities for the developing world to co-operate and learn from them. During the past 15 years the efforts of his own country had been focused on understanding and mastering those aspects of space science and technology which could help development. A few thousand young men and women had been successfully trained in space activities; six satellites had been designed and launched, two of them by an Indian-launched vehicle. A nationwide natural resources management system based on an indigenous remote sensing satellite was planned for the late 1980s. Assistance in several of these programmes had been received from the space agencies of the Soviet Union, the United States, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the European Satellite Agency and the agencies of the United Nations system.

66. Space technology wisely used could act as a powerful catalyst in speeding up the overall development of developing countries. His Government had decided to allocate a portion of its space budget to promote co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space within the developing countries.

67. An issue which was of major concern to all nations was the growing danger of the escalation of the arms race into outer space, which hitherto had been a domain of peace. His delegation hoped that all nations having a space capability would honour space as a zone of peace, for the pursuit of knowledge and for the benefit of all nations.

68. The question of how to accommodate present and future needs of all countries to the finite nature of the radio frequency spectrum and the scarce stationary

(Mr. Shankar, India)

orbit resource must be addressed collectively. His delegation shared the view that international direct broadcast from satellites should be subject to consent and agreement arrangements. There was urgent need to establish a healthy code of conduct among nations and, in that connection, his delegation commended the draft resolution (A/SPC/37/L.5) which it had co-sponsored for favourable consideration by the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 67: QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION (continued) (A/37/174):

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION (A/37/21)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/37/446)
- (c) REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (A/37/453)

69. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to document A/SPC/37/WG.1/WP.1, which contained a working paper relating to agenda item 67 submitted by the delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of 77.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.