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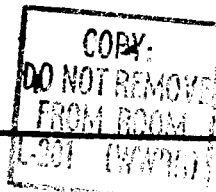
**GENERAL  
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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
17th meeting  
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New York



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MUBAREZ (Yemen)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 33: POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA  
(A/SPC/37/L.4/Add.1-22)

Requests for hearings

1. The CHAIRMAN said that he had received various requests for a hearing in connection with item 33. He proposed that those requests should be circulated as documents A/SPC/37/L.4/Add.23-26 and that the Committee should take a decision on them at its 18th meeting.
2. It was so decided.

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) 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)

3. Mr. LA ROCCA (Italy) said that his delegation had repeatedly stressed that international co-operation was of fundamental importance in improving relations among countries and was particularly necessary in the economic and technological fields where its contribution could give impetus to the developmental process. In the current period of international tension and crisis, it was all the more important to preserve and enhance that joint endeavour. The importance of common progress in that field was reflected by the increasing participation of the United Nations, and some of its specialized agencies, in space applications programmes.
4. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had provided an opportunity for participants to stress their determination to pursue co-operation at regional and global levels and had shown that countries with widely differing political systems, levels of development and culture could work together for mutual benefit. During the 1980s, space activities would gradually move towards the operational phase and UNISPACE 82 had shown the

(Mr. La Rocca, Italy)

need to give a global dimension to that dynamic process. Together with all Member States, his delegation would strive to gradually implement the recommendations of the Conference.

5. The main aim of Italy's space programme was increased international co-operation. In addition to Italy's ongoing participation in the activities and projects of the European Space Agency, its National Space Plan for 1982-1986 was directed mainly towards improving the industrial capacity of space applications. In the field of telecommunications, medium-term activities were focused on the ITALSAT project, although emphasis was also being placed on programmes relating to space transportation. In that connection, Italy was developing the IRIS propulsion system, the main purpose of which was to study atmospheric layers at a range of 125-150 kilometres. In the field of basic research, Italy planned to launch a SAN MARCO D satellite from Kenya in 1983 and was developing a scientific satellite for x-ray high energy observations. With regard to remote sensing applications, Italy was carrying out various pilot projects relating to such diverse disciplines as agronomy, hydrogeology and marine resources. It was also planning a programme for the development of active microwave sensors. Finally, in the field of geodesy, activities were under way in co-operation with NASA which would add significantly to the knowledge of tectonical phenomena in the Mediterranean area.

6. Turning to three specific issues dealt with in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees during 1982, his delegation believed first that remote sensing techniques were useful for solving a wide range of problems, particularly in the developing countries. In order to derive full benefit from such techniques, it must be ensured that the fundamental principle of the free dissemination of information was respected. His delegation also attached priority to the elaboration of a set of rules on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and believed that such sources should be used only if they were irreplaceable. Prior notice must be given of the launching of space objects equipped with such power sources and the liability régime should be strengthened. Finally, with regard to direct television broadcasting by satellite, his delegation was ready to contribute to efforts to resolve issues that remained pending. The principle of consensus must continue to guide the work on such an important question; any other solution would have a negative effect, particularly on the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

7. Mr. FATHALLA (Egypt) observed that the Special Political Committee's current debate was taking place 25 years after the launching of the first Sputnik which had marked the first stage in the conquest of outer space. The importance of the items under discussion was reflected in two conferences that had been held in the course of 1982, one of which, the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, had been an example of co-operation among 94 countries with different social and economic systems. The other conference held that year had been the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, which had codified rules governing the use of the seas. The main aspect of the Convention concluded by the Conference was Part XI, which governed the International Area and, like article 1 of the Convention, dealt with the sea-bed

(Mr. Fathalla, Egypt)

beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. Since outer space was also beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, some provisions of the Convention might serve as an example for the adoption of similar rules on outer space. Article 136 referring to the concept of the common heritage of mankind, and other provisions defining that concept, were also worth noting. A similar framework could be established for the common heritage of mankind represented by outer space. Those who possessed the necessary technology could not monopolize outer space; its benefits should be shared by all nations. Principles of international law must be drafted and the necessary machinery created to facilitate the application of outer space science and technology.

8. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held in 1979, had affirmed the concept of the equitable distribution and application of science and technology throughout the world. The Conference had also been regarded as part of the efforts of the international community to establish a new international economic order. The Vienna Programme of Action had also been a step forward in the study of space science and technology, which formed part of science and technology in general.

9. Appropriate means and an appropriate framework must therefore be found for the peaceful use of outer space. In particular, a way must be found for the United Nations to encourage and co-ordinate efforts for the benefit of all countries of the world, particularly the developing countries. In that context, UNISPACE 82 had offered Member States an opportunity to participate in all the activities being carried out by the United Nations in that field. As could be seen from the report contained in document A/CONF.101/11, the Conference had evaluated achievements in that field and the effectiveness of the methods used to institute co-operation. His delegation supported the recommendations contained in paragraphs 422 to 438 of the report, particularly those referring to the expansion of the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as the only standing committee of the General Assembly for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The importance of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should also be emphasized and the experts who had contributed to knowledge of space technology should be duly thanked. His delegation also supported the proposal to set up an international space information service which would provide basic information to all countries, particularly the developing countries, at a reasonable cost. At a later stage, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could evaluate its performance and examine the need to expand it. His delegation also agreed that the Outer Space Affairs Division should be expanded and strengthened or else converted into a Centre for Outer Space which would deal with the implementation of the resolutions of UNISPACE 82 and would be in charge of the international space information service. The Centre would work in co-operation with the specialized agencies, particularly ITU and WMO, trying to avoid duplication of effort and make programme execution more efficient.

10. The United Nations should play a predominant role in the peaceful use of outer space, although multilateral, bilateral and regional co-operation was an important complementary element. He drew attention to the success of the International

(Mr. Fathalla, Egypt)

Telecommunication Union's INTELSAT system, mentioned in paragraphs 340 to 380 of the report, which had benefited the developing countries. Regional co-operation was also important for the developing countries, because their financial difficulties and the lack of qualified manpower prevented them from exploring and using outer space individually, as was indicated in paragraph 195 of the report. The African Remote Sensing Council had played a commendable role, and he drew attention to the importance of participation by regional organizations in that connection. At the bilateral level, co-operation was limited to co-operation among the advanced countries or between them and the developing countries. However, there was no co-operation among the developing countries, despite the fact that the diversity of their development processes should favour mutually advantageous co-operation.

11. His delegation supported the recommendations contained in document A/37/20, particularly those referring to the Legal Sub-Committee. As his delegation had indicated repeatedly, in its opinion it was necessary to elaborate a draft convention on the use of satellites for direct television broadcasting. Such satellites should respect both the sovereignty of States and the regulations established by the International Telecommunication Union. Accordingly, he urged the General Assembly to adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/37/L.5.

12. Another important issue was the growing threat posed by the use of outer space for military purposes. As a result, the Committee should not merely study the peaceful uses of outer space but should prevent the arms race from being extended to that setting. In that connection, the agreement on the law of the sea offered useful guidelines. He also drew attention to the recommendation made by the Second Outer Space Conference to the effect that the specialized agencies should be asked to devote special attention to the need to prevent the arms race in outer space.

13. In conclusion, he observed that article IV of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, stipulated that objects carrying nuclear weapons could not be placed in outer space. However, that article should be corrected, because outer space could be used for military purposes without any objects being placed there.

14. Mr. KOLOSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that the current discussion of questions concerning international co-operation in the peaceful use of outer space was being held in an atmosphere that required the world community urgently to adopt measures to improve substantially the prevailing international situation and, in particular, to prevent it from sliding towards nuclear war. The Soviet Union based its approach to such questions precisely on co-operation and, as the Soviet Head of State, Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, had stated recently in his message to participants at the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, "Co-operation in outer space should bring peoples together; it should increase understanding of the fact that we are all living on the same planet and that it is up to each one of us to make this earth a place of prosperity for all".

(Mr. Kolosov, USSR)

15. It was therefore regrettable that co-operation among States in the conquest of outer space was encountering obstacles created by forces which were not in any hurry to eliminate the threat of nuclear war. There were clear indications that some forces wanted to make outer space an area for confrontation and military operations. In that regard, the appeals issued by the Second United Nations Conference on Outer Space were both important and timely with a view to creating conditions that would guarantee the peaceful use of outer space and would prevent the stationing of weapons or military objects of any kind in outer space. It should be remembered that, at previous sessions of the General Assembly, the Soviet Government had proposed that work should be begun on the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space, and the Soviet Union was not to blame if that initiative had not yet produced any practical results. In 1976, the Soviet Union had submitted a draft on the non-use of force in international relations. The draft had provided that States should assume the obligation to "refrain from the use of armed forces involving any types of weapons, including nuclear or other types of weapons of mass destruction, on land, on the sea, in the air or in outer space, and shall not threaten such use". Therefore, the Soviet Union had for a long time favoured the establishment of a legal régime to govern the use of outer space in today's complex interdependent world.

16. Referring to the agenda of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he observed that, in his delegation's opinion, it included items which required immediate decisions. For example, the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting was an item that could have been dealt with long ago. Moreover, the necessary conditions existed in the General Assembly, for the adoption of principles on that subject, since it was obvious that the use of those powerful mass media must be regulated. Both the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees had already worked on elaborating a draft set of principles on that subject; the draft was currently contained in document A/SPC/37/L.5.

17. The draft set of principles was based on the fact that the new mass media, which had very unusual features, should be utilized exclusively through international co-operation which, in turn, should be based on respect for the sovereign rights of all States and for the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other people; those media should also serve economic progress, should promote mutual understanding and should strengthen co-operation among States and peoples with a view to the maintenance of international peace and security. To that end, consultations could be held and the relevant agreements concluded whenever a State wished to carry out direct broadcasts, particularly if they were to be transmitted to other States. In his delegation's opinion, the adoption of such principles would further the cause of direct television broadcasting without giving rise to confrontation or to interference in the internal affairs of States. If the elaboration of those principles had not been successful, it was because, thus far, there had not been any frank, honest methodology to take into account international realities and because the political will of a number of States had been lacking. The Soviet Union, for its part, felt that the principles governing direct television broadcasting would be one of the pillars of the new world information and communication order.

(Mr. Kolosov, USSR)

18. As to the remote sensing of the earth, that technology had no doubt already produced beneficial results, but references were being made to its use to the detriment of certain States, a situation that had been clearly demonstrated by the transmission of data about the earth's surface to parties involved in a military conflict. Appropriate principles would lay the foundations for the dissemination of the information obtained from remote sensing and would further the maintenance of peace. In addition, they would help in formulating a legal definition of outer space and in its delimitation. In that connection, it should be remembered that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had, for many years, been considering a Soviet working paper which proposed that outer space should be considered to begin at an altitude of 100 or 110 kilometres above sea-level. However, the Committee's work on the elaboration of a legal order governing the development of outer space had been hampered by those whose policies gave priority to activities designed to destabilize international life in all its aspects.

19. His delegation regretted the fact that the United States had refused to extend for another five years the Soviet-American agreement on co-operation in the field of outer space research for peaceful purposes, article 4 of which called for co-operation between the two countries in that area and also referred to space law. The Soviet Union believed that those questions must be approached in a co-operative frame of mind, but it was aware of the attitude of President Reagan who, on 4 July 1982, referring to the United States space programme, had given priority to achieving United States supremacy in outer space and to attempting to dominate the conquest of space for practical purposes. The execution of such a programme would be contrary to the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. That attitude was an example of the above-mentioned destabilization activities, despite the fact that, without stability, there were clearly no bases for co-operation.

20. The Soviet Union was involved in that international co-operation and many participants, who had carried out very important scientific research, had worked on board Soviet space craft in the "Intercosmos" programme. The Soviet Union also held seminars attended by representatives of developing countries, which dealt with various questions relating to the practical application of space technology and, recently, the lives of a number of Canadian citizens had been saved with the help of Soviet satellites launched under the SARSAT-KOSPAS programme. That type of space co-operation showed that the Soviet Union was not seeking to dominate the field of outer space, in spite of the fact that 25 years earlier - on 4 October 1957 - it had launched the first cosmonaut into space and had thus opened a new era.

21. With regard to the report of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, it was hoped that that Committee would be able to carry out all the necessary work in order to implement the resolutions adopted at the Second United Nations Conference. COPUOS should try to speed up its work in order to elaborate binding international norms. International co-operation in the application of space technology and the development of relevant international law should proceed in parallel; otherwise international co-operation in that field would be impeded, which would cause various unnecessary international complications.

22. Miss ARIAS (Venezuela) said that, although the report of UNISPACE 82 had not fully met the expectations of Venezuela as a developing country, it represented a commitment on the part of all the countries represented at the Conference which could mark the beginning of genuine international co-operation between developed and developing countries in the field of outer space. It was hoped that the General Assembly would adopt by consensus resolutions endorsing the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

23. Her delegation reiterated its support for the Declaration adopted by the Group of 77 during the Conference in which the Group had expressed its profound concern at the extension of the arms race into outer space and had made a number of recommendations. The use of outer space for military purposes not only created a grave danger for the survival of mankind, but also represented a serious obstacle to international co-operation in the field of outer space. Venezuela was therefore, firmly convinced that the Committee on Disarmament should consider, as a matter of priority, questions related to the negotiation of the agreement or agreements which would be necessary in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, and for that reason it supported the establishment of an ad hoc working group which would deal with that question and could begin its work during the next session of COPUOS.

24. As a sponsor of draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.5 on the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, Venezuela was prepared to work towards a consensus and would negotiate on any text or constructive proposal which was universally acceptable. Her delegation attached particular importance to the participation of all Member States in the adoption of the principles governing the use of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting - activities which should serve to strengthen the sovereignty of States through relations based on friendship and co-operation. The regulation of those activities would prevent them from becoming another source of tension between countries and would contribute to the strengthening of peaceful coexistence between countries and to the preservation of peace.

25. Mr. ABOUCHAER (Syrian Arab Republic), referring to international co-operation and the role of the United Nations, said that the technologically advanced countries had made important progress in the last 20 years in the exploitation of outer space. Other countries, including his own, had also obtained positive results in spite of their limitations and the burden of their defence and development obligations. Despite the disparity between developed and developing countries, all countries should participate in international and regional co-operation relating to space activities. His delegation, therefore, supported the recommendations adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and particularly the recommendations contained in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report of the Conference (A/CONF.101/10). It was very important to distinguish between genuine international co-operation involving the exchange of benefits and the dissemination of knowledge, and a type of international co-operation which tended to sell space technology as a commercial product or to use it for military purposes. The countries which had space



(Mr. Abouchaer, Syrian Arab Republic)

capabilities should adopt a constructive attitude and co-operate with developing countries on a bilateral and multilateral basis. Through its relevant agencies, the United Nations could play a decisive role in efforts to bring about international co-operation in that field. He stressed that the United Nations should increasingly concentrate on programmes to benefit developing countries with regard to the application of space science and technology, and expressed support for paragraphs 422 to 438 of the report of the Conference.

26. Remote sensing of the earth by satellite was an extraordinary method but a double-edged instrument since it entailed grave dangers for the security of countries. That method could impair the ability of the developing countries to sell their agricultural products at equitable prices. It also increased the potential of the advanced countries for interfering in the internal affairs of the poor countries. The time had come for countries to reach agreement on the legal consequences of remote sensing and the basic principles governing it, which should include: (1) respect for the territorial sovereignty of the sensed countries and the obtaining of their consent before remote sensing was conducted and the information obtained was transmitted to third countries; (2) continuity of satellite services, so that all countries could benefit from them; and (3) a guarantee that the sensed country would receive the information in a manner which ensured continuity, compatibility and complementarity. His delegation supported the recommendations contained in paragraphs 204, 205, 270 and 309 of the report.

27. The use of satellites for direct television broadcasting permitted the exchange of information but, like remote sensing, it could lead to cultural interference in the lives of other peoples. Since there were differences between the moral values of different countries, programmes which were acceptable in one country might not be acceptable in another and could be actually harmful. For that reason, his delegation supported, in particular, paragraph 249 of the report and draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.5 and the relevant corrigendum. It believed that the broadcasting must have the agreement of the receiving country, whose national and cultural characteristics must be respected.

28. With regard to the possibility of the extension of the arms race into outer space, it was no secret that certain countries were deliberately planting that idea in the minds of the younger generations. Referring to paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report, he urged all countries, particularly those which had great space potential, to work for the adoption of measures to prevent an arms race in outer space and reaffirm the importance of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. He again stressed that the resources which were being allocated for military purposes could solve the economic problems of the modern world and, particularly, of the developing countries.

29. In conclusion, he summarized the space activities in which his country had participated. The Syrian Arab Republic had taken the necessary steps to establish a remote sensing centre which possessed the services and facilities for processing

(Mr. Abouchaer, Syrian Arab  
Republic)

photographic data. It had also set up a station which received meteorological photographs by satellite and benefited from the activities of telecommunication systems. The Syrian Government was convinced that the developing countries should familiarize themselves with the latest scientific and technological discoveries and take advantage of bilateral and multilateral co-operation, in particular the services of the United Nations.

30. Mrs. TNANI (Tunis), referring to the important work done by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies, which had enabled the General Assembly to prepare and approve various international legal instruments including the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space and the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, drew attention to the resolutions designed to promote the practical applications of space technology, above all for the benefit of the developing countries. The report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was also an important contribution.

31. The exploration and use of outer space should be viewed in the context of the international legal system above and beyond national interests, which were often divergent. Only international co-operation could guide space technology towards the economic and social development of all countries and guarantee progress for all and especially for the developing countries. A practical example was provided by meteorology. With regard to food and the agricultural industries, as well as hydroelectric power, the developing countries were particularly vulnerable to climate and its vagaries. It was essential for those countries to have advance information on possible natural disasters, so that they could adopt preventive measures to avoid the human suffering which such disasters caused. The world meteorological observation system included geostationary satellites and a system of meteorological satellites in polar orbit. India, a developing country, had launched a multi-purpose geostationary satellite which provided meteorological imagery over the Indian Ocean. Other developing countries could adopt the policy of equipping themselves with structures capable of promoting the full development of their technological possibilities and decrease their dependence on other countries. However, because of technical and financial limitations, it would be necessary to encourage initiatives to install regional machinery for organizing in the best possible way the information accumulated by developing countries in the application of space technology.

32. The consideration of outer space as the common heritage of mankind, by analogy with the new law of the sea, could facilitate the exploration and peaceful use of outer space. In the particular case of the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, it was possible to foresee the expansion of an objective system and an educational system which would be really useful to the developing countries needing them the most, although in that sector it was necessary to protect the independence of States and avoid hegemonic dependence. The most serious danger threatening outer space was that it should become a theatre for non-peaceful confrontation of States and for an extension of the arms race.

33. Mr. GIKAS (Greece) said that the regulation of outer space activities could not be the exclusive privilege of the space Powers, since such activities affected all countries. It was therefore necessary to establish, as soon as possible, a generally accepted régime which would safeguard and protect the legitimate interests of all concerned.

34. Referring to the legal implication of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles, he regretted that the results of the previous session of the General Assembly had been so limited. Indeed, the only outcome had been the formulation of various suggestions, which could be summarized as follows: first, the sensed States had an obligation to grant access for primary data to the sensing States; second, remote sensing programmes should be made public and a special mechanism devised to that end; third, the sensing State should not abuse its advanced technology to the detriment of the sensed State; and, fourth, there was a degree of responsibility involved in any remote sensing activity, which should be subject to international law. The very nature of the technological process involved in remote sensing called for more specific rules than those outlined. Such rules would serve to clarify the legal link existing between sensing and sensed States, as well as questions of State responsibility and sovereignty.

35. There was no prospect of establishing such a comprehensive régime in the near future. It was therefore all the more indispensable not to delay the adoption of a legal instrument incorporating those principles. At the twenty-first session of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Greek delegation had submitted two working papers, on the draft principle of State responsibility and on the draft principle of access to data. The views reflected in those working papers stemmed from the consensus which had emerged from the discussions in the Sub-Committee. It was therefore to be hoped that they would receive the attention and consideration which they deserved as a compromise solution and that, as a result, the Committee would be able to approve the first set of principles.

36. With regard to direct television broadcasting by satellite, it should be remembered that a consensus had been reached on a working paper submitted by Sweden, with the sole exception of a sentence contained in paragraph 2 of the draft principle on consultation and agreement among States. In that connection, it should be emphasized that Greece attached the greatest importance to the principle of consensus which had so far governed the work of the Committee and no effort should be spared to preserve it. To that should be added the obvious consideration that it was preferable to have a text accepted by everybody rather than one rejected by some of the very countries whose actions it was designed to regulate. Therefore, before the new draft text was adopted as a basis for discussion, his delegation proposed that a last effort should be made to reach agreement on the Swedish text. To that end, it formally submitted the compromise formula which had already been informally proposed at the most recent session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, so that the relevant paragraph would read as follows: "An international direct television broadcasting satellite service shall only be established after the conditions set forth in paragraph 1 above have been met and on the basis of agreements and/or arrangements as required only by

(Mr. Gikas, Greece)

international law and in accordance with these principles". His delegation appealed to all Member States present to give careful consideration to a formula which should enable the Committee to adopt a universally agreed set of principles on that very important matter.

37. With regard to the delimitation of outer space, his delegation was opposed to the opinion expressed at the twenty-first session of the Legal Sub-Committee to the effect that effective control was a necessary prerequisite for the recognition of sovereign rights over segments of air space. In his delegation's view, effective control could not be the criterion on which the existence of sovereign rights over any part of air space was based. In any event, that idea had been superseded by numerous international treaties. His delegation considered therefore that air space was governed and would continue to be governed by the existing rules of international law until the international community decided whether it was or was not necessary to supplement or modify the rules to establish new rules on the subject.

38. Greece had participated actively in the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the belief that one of its main aims had been to prevent the rivalry and inequalities which prevailed on earth from being extended into outer space. Outer space should, on the contrary, become the field of a new international legal order, to be based on the principle that all peoples contributed to and participated in scientific achievements in space and on close co-operation among advanced and less advanced countries in that field. It was to be hoped that the final report of the Conference would be an important instrument for the future work of the international community on that subject.

39. Mr. JAYAKODY (Sri Lanka) said that his delegation welcomed the opportunity to review international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and attached great importance to the report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It had not been easy to arrive at a consensus with regard to the report, but it was an expression of the common will of all Member States to strengthen and expand the framework of international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space. The conclusions and recommendations which had emerged from the Conference reflected the desire of the space Powers and other States to co-operate constructively in that field.

40. The conclusions and recommendations covered a wide spectrum of activities ranging from the national level to bilateral, regional and international co-operation within the United Nations system. The importance attached in the report of the Conference to the role of the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned could ensure that international co-operation was constructive and responsive to the varied needs of all developing countries. It was to be hoped that the financial constraints could be overcome and that a volume of voluntary contributions adequate to ensure the funding of new activities would be available.

41. No State wished to remain a passive observer of what was taking place in outer space, those States that could not, at least for the time being, be active in outer

(Mr. Jayakody, Sri Lanka)

space rightly desired to benefit from what was taking place. The Conference's recommendations offered a credible programme of action which could help those States to fulfil at least a part, if not all, of their needs. In that connection, his delegation stressed the urgency of setting up an international space information service which could be very useful and contribute towards greater knowledge and understanding of the opportunities and possibilities available in that field.

42. Although the international community had made progress in establishing a framework for international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, it was confronted with a situation which was causing serious concern and fear, namely, the extension of the arms race into outer space. The overwhelming majority of States had tried to induce the Conference to recognize the seriousness of the situation and to recommend steps that could be taken to prevent it from materializing, but, in his delegation's view, the consensus that had been reached on the relevant paragraphs did not adequately express the international community concern and fears. There was no need to elaborate on the dangers that that development held for all mankind.

43. Success in that field had been minimal at Vienna. At Geneva, little progress had been made on the issue by the Committee on Disarmament. The international community's efforts had been frustrated by the unwillingness of a few to contribute towards consensus on taking early steps towards the negotiation of an agreement or agreements that would prevent the extension of the arms race into outer space. In his delegation's view, at the current session, the General Assembly should in no uncertain terms express the will of mankind that outer space should be preserved exclusively for exploration and peaceful uses and that all attempts to militarize it or to use it for hostile and belligerent purposes should be prevented.

44. His delegation considered the question of adopting an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting to be one of great urgency. It was a source of disappointment for the international community that agreement had not been reached on the subject; a set of principles on the matter was urgently required.

45. Mrs. OULD DADDAH (Mauritania) said that the Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space and its Sub-Committees should be thanked for their efforts to ensure that scientific progress served peace and the well-being of all mankind. The world was growing smaller, and the need for solidarity, consequently, greater. The United Nations must strive to redress the imbalance in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. Monitoring by means of satellites needed to be governed by new principles which would improve the situation of the developing countries and reduce their vulnerability in that field. Naturally, the definition and delimitation of space was an essential prerequisite. With regard to the information collected through monitoring by satellite, the monitored State must have access to data relating to its territory; those data should not be disseminated indiscriminately to third parties and the State in question must first give its consent before confidential data were communicated.

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(Mrs. Ould Daddah, Mauritania)

46. Of particular interest among the recommendations of the Vienna Conference, was that relating to the role of communications, particularly in rural areas, as an element of development. It had to be recognized in that connection that co-operation in space sciences and their applications was meaningless for the third world unless it achieved a minimum of technological self-reliance. It was therefore important to identify existing experts, to give higher priority to pure and applied research activities, to try to meet the political, economic and cultural requirements for national research to flourish, to prevent the emigration of skilled people and, finally, to combine material and human resources in order to achieve common objectives conducive to the well-being of the population.

47. The CHAIRMAN said that some members had expressed their concern about receiving the summary records of only the Committee's first three meetings. The reason was that, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 36/117 B, summary records, like all other documents, had to be distributed simultaneously in the official languages. Since the summary records were prepared in Spanish, French and English, the versions in those three languages were generally available for distribution before other language versions. If he heard no objection, therefore, he would take it that the Committee wished to receive the summary records in Spanish, French and English as soon as they were ready, without waiting for them to be translated. It would receive the summary records in the other languages later.

48. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.