

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**
THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION
*Official Records**



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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
19th meeting
held on
Friday, 4 November 1983
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. STARČEVIĆ (Yugoslavia)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/SPC/38/SR.19
8 November 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 70: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
(continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued)
(A/38/20)
- (b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/412)

1. Mr. FRANCIS (International Telecommunication Union), introduced the report on the studies envisaged by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on matters falling within the field of competence of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in document A/AC.105/327. Section 1 of the report provided basic information on the work of ITU, particularly the Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union at Nairobi in 1982 and the function of ITU in the planning and regulation of space telecommunications and recommending to Governments standards for telecommunication services including space radio communications.
2. The two studies, which were outlined in section 2 of the report, dealt with direct broadcasting satellites and the spacing of satellites in the geostationary orbit. Annexes I and II to the report provided additional information on the two studies in question. Lastly, he expressed the hope that the information would be of use in the consideration of the recommendations of COPUOS in respect of the studies to be undertaken and reiterated the earnest desire of the Union to develop its collaboration in the field of satellite communications with the United Nations and other specialized agencies and international organizations.
3. Mr. CANALES MARQUEZ (Chile) drew attention to the evolution of international law towards recognition of the need for co-operation based on the right of peoples to general minimum levels of well-being and development. The political and legal framework of international law was being expanded through outer space law, which included new ideas such as the concept of the "benefit of mankind". In the contemporary world co-operation must be carried out on the basis of that concept. Furthermore, it was essential that outer space activities and applications should be used for peaceful purposes. It was regrettable that, because of the lack of political will of the technologically advanced countries, the elaboration of legal norms had not kept pace with the rapid advance of technology.
4. The questions related to remote sensing of the earth, which were of crucial importance to the social and economic development of peoples, had still not been given a proper legal framework. That situation could further erode the credibility of the United Nations in an area of crucial importance for present and future generations. While recognizing the right of the advanced nations to a just and equitable remuneration for their technological contributions, he stressed that the

(Mr. Canales Marquez, Chile)

results of the exploration and use of outer space must be used to promote peace and co-operation for the benefit of mankind.

5. The use of outer space for military purposes by the great Powers constituted a serious obstacle to the achievement of those goals. In that regard, existing legal instruments in the field of outer space should be further elaborated to keep pace with technological change. To that end, the Latin American countries favoured the elaboration of an additional protocol to the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. It was regrettable that the nations which explored outer space ignored the concern shared in that regard by the overwhelming majority of countries. COPUOS should re-examine its methods and procedures in order to overcome the growing imbalance between the legal norms and concrete reality. His delegation was prepared to support draft resolutions designed to improve existing outer space legislation. It was necessary to elaborate legal provisions to prevent the use of outer space for military purposes and to monitor, through the use of satellites, compliance with disarmament treaties. In that regard, his delegation fully supported the proposal for the establishment of an international satellite monitoring agency. The work on the definition and/or delimitation of outer space should lead towards an international convention, which would define, inter alia, the responsibilities and obligations of States towards mankind. Furthermore, a world authority should be established in order to supervise outer space activities and to ensure that they were conducted in the interests of international co-operation.

6. The Latin American members of COPUOS had actively contributed to efforts to elaborate new norms and principles governing the peaceful uses of outer space. They had proposed the establishment of a Latin American space agency in order to make use of the best available technology to bring about a rapid improvement of living conditions in those countries. In that regard, he stressed that the tasks to be carried out by the agency should have an immediate and positive impact on the social and economic development of the hemisphere. His delegation endorsed the invitation extended by the Government of Argentina to hold the first meeting of governmental experts in Buenos Aires. That meeting should establish the basis for regional co-operation in the field of outer space. At the same time, Chile would continue to contribute to efforts to ensure that outer space activities were conducted for the benefit of all the peoples of the world regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development.

7. Mr. VALLE (Brazil) said that the lack of progress in the work of the two Sub-Committees of COPUOS was due to the unwillingness of a small number of countries to agree to a compromise. A certain degree of flexibility and a readiness to work in the common interest of mankind was required. It was time to overcome the current deadlock and achieve positive results.

8. Nevertheless, there was still hope for a mutual understanding and effective co-operation. The two Sub-Committees had made some progress on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space by reaching agreement on a text on the format of notification, which was much more useful than the previous one. Although his delegation still felt that the establishment of a legal framework in that field was

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of paramount importance, it supported the reconvening of the Group of Experts of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to discuss the main issues involved, including the fundamental question of radiological protection. Furthermore, that new approach should in no way prejudice the efforts of the Legal Sub-Committee in that regard.

9. With respect to the geostationary orbit, he endorsed the recommendations in paragraphs 62 and 63 of the report of COPUOS (A/38/20). It was time to stop quarrelling and to analyse seriously the technical and legal aspects of the geostationary orbit. He fully supported the Working Group of the Legal Sub-Committee in that regard and expressed the hope that it would concentrate on establishing the basis of a legal régime which would take due account of the needs of developing countries and the special geographical situation of particular countries.

10. His Government viewed the militarization of outer space with growing concern for the future of mankind. There were already too many areas of constant confrontation and friction in the world. Instead of militarizing outer space, States should co-operate in conducting scientific research and collecting data. The results of that work should be shared by all, without discrimination.

11. Outer space must not be turned into a battleground. The exploration of outer space should always be in the common interest of mankind. In that connection, his delegation was convinced that a serious review of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 was long overdue. The effectiveness of any legal instrument depended on its ability to keep pace with reality. Constant vigilance was required in view of the rapid development of outer space science and technology. A number of proposals had been made recently by France, Italy and the Soviet Union in connection with the Outer Space Treaty or with regard to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. COPUOS was the competent United Nations body to consider ways of filling in the gaps in international legislation concerning outer space. In that task it should consider not only the recent proposals which had been made, but also all relevant material and any future initiatives. COPUOS must not remain idle at a time when the legal framework governing the use of outer space was clearly inadequate to cope with current realities.

12. That did not imply that the negotiation of specific instruments relating to disarmament in outer space should be done in isolation from the Committee on Disarmament, which was the main multilateral negotiating body for questions of disarmament. The work of the two bodies should complement each other.

13. For quite some time, progress in drafting principles on remote sensing of the earth from space had been virtually non-existent. Principles XI to XV, particularly, seemed to be doomed. A conciliatory approach and the wisdom to look beyond private interests were required in order to make headway. An effort must be made in 1984 to come up with fresh ideas in order to achieve consensus on a set of principles. In that spirit, his delegation had proposed a compromise text for principles XII and XV. Although that text was not entirely to his delegation's

(Mr. Valle, Brazil)

liking, it was a step in the right direction. His Government strongly supported paragraph 67 of the report of COPUOS and urged that every possible effort should be made in order to reach a meaningful agreement on remote sensing.

14. There seemed to be a feeling of resentment against those who had called for a vote on the draft set of principles on direct television broadcasts by satellite in order to overcome the deadlock in negotiations. On the other hand, there was also the feeling that those who had voted against the draft set of principles had been trying to use the lack of consensus as a form of veto. After numerous efforts to achieve a consensus, the delegations supporting the draft set of principles had had to resort to a vote. That, however, should not be seen as an affront. It had been the only way to make some progress towards the elaboration of an international convention. At the next round of negotiations, delegations should seek to adopt by consensus a definite, well-balanced draft convention on direct television broadcasting by satellites.

15. Mr. FERM (Sweden) said that, as a growing number of countries became more involved in space activities, Sweden had also increased the resources it devoted to that field. A major project initiated by his Government was the launching, in co-operation with Norway and Finland, of an experimental telecommunications satellite in 1986. His country attached great importance to such international co-operation, and its membership of a number of international organizations, together with bilateral co-operation in different satellite projects, had made it possible for it to benefit from advances made in outer space and to promote industrial development in a way it could not have done alone. It was therefore with increasing concern that it observed the development of a trend away from international co-operation.

16. From the beginning, the military aspects of the space age had been important. Most satellites had had military purposes and certain military activities in space, such as the use of satellites for certain verification functions, could have a stabilizing influence. While outer space had remained free of armed conflict, in recent years that situation seemed to be changing with the development of weapons specifically intended for use in outer space. The Soviet Union had been testing an anti-satellite weapon for a number of years and the United States was about to begin testing such a weapon. Research was being directed towards the development of laser and particle beam weapons for use in outer space against satellites and for defence against incoming nuclear missiles.

17. The increasing militarization of outer space had been a major concern at the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. At its thirty-seventh session, the General Assembly had requested that the Committee on Disarmament should take action to prevent an arms race in outer space. The Committee on Disarmament was indeed the proper forum for the negotiation of agreements to that end, and the process should begin without delay. The Soviet Union and the United States should resume bilateral talks on anti-satellite weapons, which could further the work of the Committee on Disarmament and lead to the speedy solution of the most pressing problems. The

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(Mr. Ferm, Sweden)

development and deployment of anti-satellite systems could create a dangerously unstable situation, and the implications of beam weapons were so far-reaching that even research and development activities for such weapons could increase tension and distrust. If countries which allocated precious resources to peaceful space activities were not assured that their spacecraft would not be disabled by space weapons, the militarization of space might retard the development of such activities, to the detriment not only of those who wished to use space systems but also of those who provided them. Urgent measures were therefore needed and negotiations must begin immediately. His delegation was pleased that UNISPACE-82 had concentrated on efforts to make the benefits of space activities available to all and had directed its attention in particular to the special problems of developing countries. It hoped that UNISPACE-82 had stimulated countries to consider how space technology could be of use in their national development efforts. Since national efforts needed to be supported at the international level, the United Nations system had a particular task to perform.

18. With regard to the studies proposed by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in implementation of the recommendations of the Conference, his delegation hoped that they would contribute to the clarification and solution of practical needs and problems in the areas concerned. It was important that the specialized agencies should participate and that they should make background information available for the studies. ITU, in particular, should contribute to the study on the geostationary orbit, since it had already done much useful work in that area. Although his country had specific concerns with regard to that subject, it did not see any need for a special working group on the geostationary orbit and the delimitation of outer space and believed that there were good reasons to await the results of the study.

19. The incident earlier in the year involving the Soviet Cosmos 1402 satellite had strengthened the conviction of his Government that work on the elaboration of safety regulations for the use of nuclear power sources in outer space was important and that a result should be achieved without delay. It noted with satisfaction that the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space would be reconvened in 1984 in order to conduct additional work in that area. Since the malfunction of a spacecraft with nuclear materials on board could affect any country, it was urgent that internationally accepted safety regulations should be adopted. They should provide for notification both before launch and before re-entry, so that countries could take whatever action was necessary to protect their population and the environment. They should also contain the same regulations relating to such matters as radiation limits that had been adopted by the International Commission for Radiation Protection (ICRP) and applied to the use of nuclear power sources on earth. The possibility of providing assistance to countries which did not have the ability to protect themselves in case of accident should also be developed. His delegation had been pleased to note that, after protracted effort, the Legal Sub-Committee had finally agreed on a text concerning the format and the procedure for notification in case of malfunction of a spacecraft carrying a nuclear power source on board. It hoped that work on that subject would be even more productive in 1984, not only in the Technical

(Mr. Ferm, Sweden)

Sub-Committee but, because of its importance for the protection of the population and the environment, in the Legal Sub-Committee as well.

20. The work performed within the framework of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had, in general, been very productive. His delegation believed that that was because of the spirit of co-operation and conciliation that members of the Committee had shown, and it sincerely hoped that that spirit would prevail. It had become customary for the Committee's work, and that of the General Assembly in matters relating to outer space, to proceed by consensus. His delegation did not believe that the few cases in which the Assembly had departed from that tradition had been encouraging and was of the view that it was the only guarantee that the work of the United Nations in that field would be successful.

21. Mr. HAFA (Albania) said that achievements in outer space were not being used for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of mankind, because of the hegemonistic and expansionist policies of the two super-Powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Outer space had not escaped American imperialism and Soviet social imperialism, and its militarization constituted a grave threat to the international community. The two super-Powers were not only using satellites to spy on each other but were also engaged in an arms race in outer space involving such weapons as anti-missile systems and laser-beam stations.

22. The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/38/20) had rightly stressed that the extension of an arms race in outer space was a matter of grave concern to the international community and that the prevention of an arms race and hostilities in outer space was an essential condition for the promotion and continuation of international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

23. The peace-loving countries had also frequently expressed the desire that outer space should be an area of co-operation for peaceful purposes and that all efforts should be made to prevent its militarization, a concern shared by his delegation. The leader of the Albanian people, Comrade Enver Hoxha, had stated that, while peoples and States saw achievements in space as belonging to mankind and as being carried out in the interest of mankind as a whole, it could be asked whether they were actually used for the benefit of mankind or whether they were used by the super-Powers to spy against peoples and States.

24. The fierce rivalry of the super-Powers was being extended to outer space. High military officials of the Reagan Administration had increased their efforts to strengthen the United States programme for the use of outer space for military purposes, and more than half of future space missions would be of an entirely military character. Most of the space missions of the Soviet social imperialists were also conducted for military purposes, and the Soviet military command was carrying out a methodical programme along those lines.

25. The peoples and progressive forces of the world could see the dangerous consequences that the military development of space would entail. In order to

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(Mr. Hafa, Albania)

deceive the international community, the two super-Powers attached various scientific labels to every new development in space. When speaking of the peaceful uses of outer space, they dwelt on scientific research and efforts for co-operation, but could not conceal the fact that it was the military aspects of the use of outer space that were of greatest significance to them.

26. The demagogic slogans of the imperialists and social imperialists on the peaceful uses of outer space and the prevention of an arms race in outer space were unacceptable to his delegation. They were a smokescreen to deceive international public opinion and to divert attention from the danger the militarization of outer space posed to world peace. There were growing opportunities for the use of outer space for the benefit of mankind, but all good intentions had heretofore been frustrated by imperialism and social imperialism. The imperialist super-Powers could not be expected to desist from their efforts to militarize outer space of their own accord, as was proved by their actions on the earth as well as in space. There, as in other fields, their policies and practices must be exposed and firmly opposed.

27. Mr. BENA (Romania) said that UNISPACE-82 had shown that space activities had become a significant component in the efforts of States to find new resources for development, to increase production, to satisfy material needs and, at the same time, to expand knowledge of that field itself.

28. An assessment of co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space clearly showed the danger of the growing tendency to extend the arms race to outer space and to expand space programmes for military purposes at the expense of civilian programmes and peaceful applications.

29. His delegation shared the concern of a large number of other delegations at the danger of outer space becoming an arena for military competition. The time had come to take concrete measures to prevent such a development, which would add new and qualitatively very dangerous dimensions to the arms race in general.

30. While the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its conclusions and recommendations left a number of important aspects untouched, they were a reflection of the state of international co-operation in that field. The touchstone of such co-operation would always be the extent to which it could provide practical means for the use of outer space as a common heritage and the extent to which it could relate space activities to the real needs and hopes of States and, in particular, to the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries to have effective and equitable access to the practical applications of space technologies.

31. The results of space activities had thus far mainly benefited those States which had the means to meet the enormous expenditures required by space technologies. Other countries wishing to make use of such technologies generally had to content themselves with whatever the space-Powers agreed to allow them and on whatever terms they chose to impose.

(Mr. Bena, Romania)

32. The lack of progress in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Sub-Committees made itself more and more evident. The Legal Sub-Committee was still far from completing work on the draft principles on remote sensing of the earth from space. In the view of his delegation, it was precisely on that subject, the current relevance of which was evident to all, that the Outer Space Committee could justify the efforts which had gone into its work and the expectations of the international community. On the basis of the numerous proposals before it and the information constantly supplied by its Sub-Committees, the Outer Space Committee should advance its work to a new stage by adopting an operational approach oriented towards devising concrete solutions for concrete problems.

33. In the absence of international agreement, those States which had the technology for remote sensing by satellite were implementing their own regulations governing remote sensing activities and access to and dissemination of the information obtained. That was one more reason for the progressive elaboration of legal instruments which would take account of the known technical characteristics of present-day satellites. Such a phased approach would make it possible to fill present gaps without prejudging the possibility of refining and perfecting such instruments as required by the improved technical performance of future satellites. His delegation felt, with others, that the stage of academic debate and the exchange of theoretical views had already been too protracted. Further proof of rising frustration at the slow pace of progress could be seen in the fact that a number of States had, in all good faith, brought a number of proposals which had been discussed for years by the Legal Sub-Committee without result, directly before the General Assembly. The adoption by the Assembly of the Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting was but one example of that. It was, therefore, easy to understand the interest of all States in real progress in the elaboration of legal principles and norms, and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space must apply itself to the task with greater political will.

34. In the favourable climate created by UNISPACE-82, energetic steps should be taken to establish forms of co-operation which would ensure unrestricted access, on favourable terms, to information provided by all remote sensing satellites and to space technologies in general. Such co-operation would be an essential element in the process of establishing a new international economic order for the benefit of all peoples.

35. It was the view of his delegation that, with the concerted efforts of all Member States, international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space could make progress in meeting the aspirations of all peoples.

36. Mr. SCHOENHERR (German Democratic Republic) observed that a large number of representatives at both UNISPACE-82 and the twenty-sixth session of the Outer Space Committee had attached basic importance to the relationship between the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and peaceful development on earth. In that connection, he paid a tribute to the impressive ventures of the Soviet Union, which

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(Mr. Schoenherr, German Democratic Republic)

had again demonstrated its capabilities in the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of its society. For example, many of the experiments conducted aboard the Salyut-7 space station in such fields as medicine and meteorology had already been put to practical use. Similar peaceful space research was currently being conducted by the combined flight of the Soyuz T-9 spacecraft and the Salyut-7 station.

37. The German Democratic Republic took an active part in the exploration of outer space in the framework of the outer space programme of the socialist countries. For instance, two Soviet interplanetary space probes carried an infra-red Fourier spectrometer made by institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic. Moreover, an entire system of instruments developed by the Carl Zeiss company of Jena was available for optical-analogous image analysis and, in co-operation with Soviet scientists, an atlas had been prepared to describe a whole range of examples for the thematic interpretation of aerospace multispectral pictures. The German Democratic Republic would also develop a special processing facility for the pictures expected from the international project to explore Halley's Comet. In addition, the Academy of Sciences of his country was co-operating closely with that of Cuba in the measurement and geophysical interpretation of the total electron content of the ionosphere.

38. The German Democratic Republic shared the deep concern expressed in the final document of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries with regard to developments which were contrary to the peaceful utilization of outer space, which could impede peaceful space research and which could become a threat to peaceful life on earth. The Foreign Minister of his country, together with those of the other members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization, had stressed, in the communiqué issued in October 1983, that the prohibition of the militarization of outer space and of the use of force either in outer space or from space against the earth must be translated into reality.

39. However, with a view to maintaining their global military superiority, the imperialists had directed their efforts towards transforming outer space into a theatre of war and had made that approach an official policy, with concrete plans and measures. Moreover, huge sums had been appropriated for the production and deployment of space-based weapons. As history had shown, such activities were directed against peoples and sovereign States and had the same objective - namely, to change the strategic balance in favour of imperialism - as the deployment of ever-new United States weapons in Europe.

40. The dramatic events of the previous week made it clear that the United States did not hesitate to use its military power with brutal force against sovereign States, currently against a State in the Caribbean, whenever the Administration deemed it appropriate.

41. His delegation supported the demand that an end should be put to the disastrous arms race. Like other United Nations bodies, those that dealt with

(Mr. Schoenherr, German Democratic Republic)

outer space should do everything possible to prevent its militarization and, accordingly, his delegation believed that both the Special Political Committee and the Outer Space Committee were appropriate forums in which to discuss and prepare agreements on that matter. He therefore welcomed the new initiative taken by the Soviet Union with regard to the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the earth (A/38/194). That proposal had made a valuable contribution to ensuring the peaceful uses of outer space and preventing a new, dangerous escalation of the arms race. Moreover, the draft treaty supported those States that were demanding a complete prohibition of anti-satellite weapons. The unilateral pledge taken by the Soviet Union not to be the first to deploy any anti-satellite weapon in space was positive proof of its desire to seize every opportunity to counter an unrestrained arms race in outer space and to facilitate the conclusion of a treaty to that end. The General Assembly should take those facts into account in adopting a resolution on that question.

42. Referring to the work of the Outer Space Committee and of its Sub-Committees, in which his delegation had taken an active part, he noted that the process of improving and developing international legal norms governing the exploration and peaceful use of outer space should be pursued, with the main effort directed towards the speedy conclusion of a catalogue of principles for the remote sensing of the earth.

43. In view of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 37/92, work should also be begun on a draft international agreement on the principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for international direct television broadcasting, inter alia, so as to avoid being confronted with technical faits accomplis that lacked legal and political regulations. His delegation supported the recommendations resulting from UNISPACE-82 and outlined in the report of the Outer Space Committee. Moreover, its support was evident in its broad co-operation, especially with the other socialist countries, in the exploration and peaceful utilization of outer space.

44. Mr. BUDAI (Hungary) said that his country attached great importance to international co-operation in all areas but that such co-operation was particularly important in the field of space research at a time when attempts were being made to turn outer space into a theatre of war and a base for military attacks against the earth.

45. Within its modest means, Hungary was participating in space research, primarily in the context of the Soviet INTERCOSMOS Council. Peaceful research could open up new vistas for development in the technical, medical and agricultural fields, which were particularly significant in view of his country's current economic situation, as well as that of the world as a whole.

46. The peaceful nature of space research was essential in the light of the real danger of an extension of the arms race to outer space and the ensuing threat to the very survival of mankind. Hungary therefore welcomed and supported the Soviet

(Mr. Budai, Hungary)

proposal for the conclusion of a separate treaty prohibiting the use of force in outer space and from space against the earth. Such a treaty would not only help to prevent outer space from becoming an arsenal of weapons but would also create the possibility of a new type of co-operation in peaceful space research and would open up real prospects for the developing countries. The need for international co-operation in the field of space also resulted from the fact that many States did not have sufficient financial resources to undertake their own space projects. However, co-operative projects must not prejudice the interests of any country or group of countries.

47. His delegation supported the recommendations adopted by the Outer Space Committee at its 1983 session. In that connection, he observed that, in view of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 37/92, the Legal Sub-Committee should, within the shortest possible time, elaborate a draft convention on direct television broadcasting. Moreover, in his delegation's opinion, the question of the definition and/or delimitation of outer space was both important and urgent. The time had come for the Legal Sub-Committee to take resolute action on the basis of earlier proposals and, accordingly, a separate working group should be established to promote progress in that direction. With regard to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, he stressed that the recommendations made by the Working Group of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee were correct and workable, and its conclusions provided appropriate guidelines in that regard.

48. Mrs. HEPTULLAH (India) said that, in her country, space technology was being developed for peaceful purposes and with a view to improving the quality of life of the people. International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space was essential for the orderly development of space activities and for the well-being of the global community.

49. Her delegation was happy to note the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE-82 and hoped that the follow-up action would be a continuing process.

50. International co-operation had been the hallmark of the Indian Space Research Organization; it had conducted joint ventures with the European Space Agency and with the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Japan, the Netherlands, the United States and the Soviet Union, and had encouraged visits from scientists from developed and developing countries. The Indian satellite INSAT-IB had been successfully deployed on the eighth flight of the the United States space shuttle Challenger on 31 August 1983. It was planned to conduct a number of experiments on board the Soviet Salyut station and Indian cosmonauts would venture into space in the near future aboard a Soviet spacecraft. Indian scientists also planned to participate in the analysis of data obtained from a shuttle-based experiment in co-operation with scientists from the Federal Republic of Germany.

51. India had successfully launched its RS-D2 satellite with its own developmental launch vehicle SLV-3, after the success of its Bhaskara-II and APPLE satellites, launched by the Soviet and European Space Agencies respectively. The latest

(Mrs. Heptullah, India)

venture, the INSAT-IB satellite, was designed to provide long-distance telecommunication links throughout India and direct television broadcasting to thousands of remote villages. The fault initially encountered in the deployment of the solar gear had been corrected, and efforts were being stepped up to construct the required earth stations.

52. A major national scientific effort was being made on a project to study the middle atmosphere. During the 1980s, there would be three major satellite projects which had already entered the development stage.

53. The promise held by space activities for the betterment of everyday life could be impaired by an extension of the arms race to space. Her country shared the concern of many members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at the militarization of space.

54. The message of the Prime Minister of India to UNISPACE-82, in which she had urged scientists and world leaders to see the world in its wholeness as indeed it was viewed from space, and to take practical steps to ensure that differences were not extended into space, had remained relevant.

55. Mr. JANNUZZI (Italy) said that Italy was fully convinced of the importance of the peaceful uses of outer space and of the role played by the United Nations in that field. His country continued to participate in peaceful activities in outer space in the context of both national and international programmes. At the international level, Italy was involved in many scientific projects, particularly in the framework of the European Space Agency and of joint programmes implemented with the United States. Those projects concerned research in space applications, space geodesy and new experiments in such fields as aerology, the electrodynamics of the magnetosphere and remote sensing. At the national level, the pre-operational ITALSAT telecommunications satellite was in the realization stage, and the auxiliary propulsion system IRIS was in full development. The national space programme also included the launching of two small satellites, one for geodetical purposes and the other for scientific studies of X-ray sources at high energy levels. The Italian ground receiving station at Fucino continued to gather and process data to be utilized for sensing operations throughout the Mediterranean area. Moreover, Italy continued to contribute to remote sensing programmes carried out by FAO.

56. While endorsing the reports of the Outer Space Committee and its Sub-Committees, he regretted the fact that very little progress had been made towards the adoption of principles on the subject of remote sensing. He stressed that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue, as a matter of priority, its detailed consideration of the legal implication of remote sensing, with the aim of formulating draft principles in that regard.

57. The question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space was both delicate and urgent, and the international community must spare no effort in seeking to reduce the serious risks the use of such power sources entailed. In that connection, he noted with satisfaction that the Legal Sub-Committee had been

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(Mr. Jannuzzi, Italy)

able to elaborate an agreed text concerning the format and the procedure for notification in case of malfunction of a spacecraft carrying a nuclear power source on board. In his delegation's opinion, both the Outer Space Committee and its Sub-Committees should continue to deal with that problem and should give them high priority at future sessions with a view to supplementing the relevant rules of international law.

58. On the other hand, while his delegation agreed that it was useful to study questions relating to the delimitation of outer space and to the geostationary orbit, those questions should not have priority in the work of the Outer Space Committee in the future. Indeed, the geostationary orbit, was far from becoming saturated, and the question of the delimitation of outer space still appeared to have more a theoretical value than practical value. Moreover, the link between the two problems appeared to be quite artificial and, accordingly, they should be studied separately. For all those reasons, his delegation did not think that a working group should be established to deal with those matters.

59. His delegation shared the view that the arms race must be prevented from extending to outer space. However, those problems should be dealt with by other forums, both inside and outside the United Nations. Therefore, his delegation could not agree to the consideration of the non-peaceful uses of outer space in the context of the current debate.

AGENDA ITEM 72: QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION (continued) (A/SPC/38/L.5 and L.8)

(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION (continued)

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

(c) REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (continued)

60. Mr. LINDAHL (United States of America) drew attention to the fact that document A/SPC/38/L.8 which contained the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.5, did not make any mention of the programme implications called for in paragraph 7 (b) of General Assembly resolution 37/234 and in regulation 4.9 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

61. On behalf of a number of other Western delegations, as well as his own, he requested that the relevant programme implications should be submitted to the Special Political Committee for its consideration.

62. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat would take note of the comments made by the representative of the United States and would transmit his request to the appropriate office.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.