



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RODRIGUEZ MEDINA (Colombia)

later: Mr. STARCEVIC (Yugoslavia)

CONTENTS

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

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
- (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

AGENDA ITEM 32: POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA (continued)

*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/SPC/38/SR.18
14 November 1983
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

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

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (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 (A/38/412)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, in considering agenda item 70, one was reminded of the scientific and technical accomplishments witnessed during the first quarter-century since the opening of the "space age", as well as some of the practical applications of space technology that now had become almost routine in day-to-day life. In the United Nations, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as the focal point for international co-operation in the uses of outer space, had taken the lead in ensuring that space science and technology would benefit all mankind and, at the same time, take place in an orderly way. To that end, the Committee had added to the growing body of international law in that field, and today it could count to its credit all five basic international conventions finalized in that field. The Committee was in the process of working out additional international instruments that would further enhance the comprehensiveness of international space law. During the past year, the Committee had continued its efforts to advance further the role of law and to encourage the utilization of space science and technology in the alleviation of some of the economic and social problems which mankind faced on earth.

2. In 1983, the Special Political Committee would also consider the results of the Outer Space Committee's work in implementing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-82), in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 37/89 and 37/90 of 10 December 1982. He reminded delegates that the Assembly had convened the Conference in 1982 in Vienna in order to explore how the world-wide activities in outer space, including international co-operation, could be developed so as to ensure that the potential benefits from space science and technology and their applications could be truly realized for all countries. At its previous session, the Assembly had endorsed all the recommendations of the Conference, which had been adopted by consensus, and had charged the Outer Space Committee with the implementation of those recommendations. The Special Political Committee now had an opportunity to review the progress made during the past year in that important follow-up work.

3. Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space)* said that he was pleased to be able to present to the Special Political

*This statement and the following statement by the Chairman of the Special Political Committee have been given full coverage in the summary record in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee during the meeting.

(Mr. Jankowitsch)

Committee the main results of the work done by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its twenty-sixth session, held in New York in June 1983. The Committee and its Sub-Committees had fulfilled not only the tasks which had traditionally figured on their agendas but had also completed several important long-term follow-up actions decided by the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-82). The report before the Committee contained substantial evidence of the dedication and sincerity with which the Outer Space Committee had sought to carry out the mandate which it had received from the General Assembly the previous year.

4. Among those most instrumental in guiding the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies were the new Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, Ambassador Ludek Handl of Czechoslovakia, and the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Committee, Professor John Carver of Australia. At all times, they had been able to lead their respective bodies to accomplish tasks which had often been complex and highly sensitive in nature. He also thanked the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Teodor Marinescu of Romania, and the new Rapporteur, Mr. Henrique Rodrigues Valle of Brazil, for their able assistance in connection with the work of the Outer Space Committee.

5. He highlighted briefly the more important aspects of the work accomplished by the Committee during the past year. That work had been carried out in accordance with the mandate approved by the General Assembly in resolutions 37/89 and 37/90 of 10 December 1982. More details of that work could be found in document A/38/20, which contained the 1983 report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

6. Referring to the main aspects of the report, he pointed out that the work of the Committee had been organized in two major areas, which were covered by the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the work of its twentieth session (A/AC.105/318) and the report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its twenty-second session (A/AC.105/320).

7. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee had accorded priority consideration to three items: (1) questions relating to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system; (2) remote sensing of the earth by satellites; and (3) the use of nuclear-powered sources in outer space. The Sub-Committee had also given careful consideration to questions relating to space transportation systems and the physical and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit.

8. With regard to the United Nations Space Applications Programme, which was a major effort of technical assistance for developing countries wishing to avail themselves of the manifold possibilities that space applications offered, and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system, the Committee had endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1984, renewed and strengthened in the light of the results of UNISPACE-82. The Committee had also expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Brazil, Ecuador and Italy, as

/...

(Mr. Jankowitsch)

well as to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the European Space Agency (ESA), the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the Committee on Science and Technology in Developing Countries (COSTED) for their respective invitations and assistance in the holding of courses and training seminars in the period 1982-1983. The Committee had also expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for co-sponsoring or participating in the seminars. The participation of the specialized agencies had always been a welcome contribution to the fulfilment of the tasks of the United Nations Space Applications Programme.

9. The Committee had also expressed its appreciation to the Government of Austria for its offering of fellowships, through the United Nations, to candidates from developing countries who desired advanced study and training in areas related to space applications.

10. A major focus at the twentieth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and in the coming years, was upon measures for the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE-82. The Committee had noted that the recommendations of UNISPACE-82 were to be implemented mainly through voluntary contributions of States, in money or in kind, as well as through the rearrangement of priorities in the next regular budget of the United Nations, and it had recalled the request of the General Assembly to Member States contained in resolution 37/90 to make the necessary voluntary contributions. He noted that it was important to bear in mind that the spirit of realism which had guided UNISPACE-82 in its provisions for the funding of those activities should have as a counterpart an increased willingness by Member States to make voluntary contributions.

11. In that connection, he said that he was pleased to report that some offers of financial contributions had already come in, particularly from the Governments of China and Sweden. The Governments of China, Egypt, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Soviet Union and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) had also offered to host, sponsor or co-sponsor training courses or seminars. The Governments of Austria, Greece and the Soviet Union and the European Space Agency had offered fellowships. The Committee was also pleased to note the declarations of intent by Bulgaria and Indonesia to offer fellowships. He repeated that he felt it to be the appropriate moment for Governments to come forward with many more voluntary contributions in order to support the important activities proposed and recommended by UNISPACE-82.

12. With regard to the international studies to be undertaken by the United Nations independently or together with other bodies of the United Nations system, the Committee had endorsed the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that three studies should be carried out on a priority basis. That was another important follow-up area of UNISPACE-82. The first study, which concerned assistance to countries in studying their remote sensing needs and assessing appropriate systems for meeting such needs, would have as participants the United Nations, UNDP, the

(Mr. Jankowitsch)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO. The United Nations, ITU and UNESCO would participate in the second study, on the feasibility of using direct broadcasting satellites for educational purposes and of using internationally or regionally-owned space segments. The third study, on the feasibility of obtaining closer spacing of satellites in the geostationary orbit and their satisfactory co-existence, including a closer examination of techno-economic implications, particularly for developing countries, in order to ensure the most effective utilization of that orbit in the interest of all countries, would be supported by the United Nations and ITU, as well as a number of other agencies which had not yet been designated.

13. The Committee also had drawn up guidelines for the methods and schedules to be utilized in the preparation of those studies. The studies would be submitted to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee for consideration and evaluation and, through it, to the Committee itself for recommendations for appropriate action. The studies were meant to be the raw material for later decision-making in the various fields. In addition, the Committee had invited all specialized agencies and all international organizations to undertake activities in their respective fields with a view to implementing the recommendations made by UNISPACE-82.

14. With regard to the other priority items on the agenda, discussions relating to questions of remote sensing and nuclear power sources in outer space had clearly been overshadowed in 1983 by concern for the appropriate follow-up activities to UNISPACE-82. As a result, consideration of those items had produced no major new initiatives and, in general, had resulted in the confirmation of views previously expressed. As had been the case for those two items, the Committee's discussion of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit had focused on the expression of views and positions expressed earlier.

15. In the Legal Sub-Committee, priority consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space was continued in 1983. In that effort, there had been a principle-by-principle reading of the draft principles as they existed to date, giving special consideration to principles XI through XV. While not leading to overall agreement, that procedure had at least produced a number of limited results, raising hopes that progress towards the elaboration of those principles might indeed be possible and that success in completing that work might not be too far off.

16. The Committee, taking into account a recommendation in the report of UNISPACE-82, by which the Conference recognized, inter alia, that it was time for countries to agree on the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, had recommended that the Legal Sub-Committee should make every effort to finalize the draft principles on remote sensing; in particular, it had recommended that the Legal Sub-Committee should devote special attention to principles XII, XIII and XV with a view to reaching a meaningful agreement. The Committee had also recommended that the item should be retained, therefore, as a matter of priority for the Sub-Committee's consideration in 1984.

/...

(Mr. Jankowitsch)

17. Turning to the consideration of the possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relative to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, the Committee had noted with satisfaction the successful efforts of the Legal Sub-Committee 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. The Committee had been happy to endorse that text and had recommended that the Sub-Committee should continue to seek to achieve further progress in the elaboration of provisions pertaining to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. To that end, the Committee had recommended that the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space should be reconvened during the next session of the Sub-Committee to conduct additional work on the basis of the report of the Group on the work of its third session (A/AC.105/287, annex II).

18. With regard to the consideration of matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit, a variety of views had been expressed in both the Legal Sub-Committee and the main Committee. Progress did not seem to be at hand, however, in either forum, and the Committee had therefore recommended that the item should be retained on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee for further, more productive and more constructive consideration at its next session.

19. Lastly, there was a question which in his view deserved greater attention as it reflected the growing concern of many members of the Committee and other committees over the prospect of the militarization of outer space. As one result of that concern, the Committee had unanimously urged all nations to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space and to refrain from any action contrary to that aim.

20. It should not be surprising that, as on many previous occasions, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and before that UNISPACE-82, a major United Nations Conference on space science and technology, had become the principal forums in which members of the United Nations could voice their concerns on that subject. He had been much impressed to find that some of the concerns first expressed in the Committee and UNISPACE-82 had been voiced over and over again in statements during the general debate of the General Assembly at the current session. A great many statements and strong appeals could be cited. He mentioned three such statements which he had found particularly impressive and which had been made in the addresses by Mrs Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Mr. François Mitterrand, President of France, and Mr. Belisario Betancur Cuartas, President of the Republic of Colombia, all of whom, along with others, had expressed the concerns of the international community in very moving terms.

21. The intensity of that concern, especially in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, did not reflect any desire by the Committee to interfere in any way, he repeated, in any way, with the mandates and prerogatives conferred by the General Assembly and other major international agreements upon other bodies and agencies more highly and more technically qualified to examine those questions.

/...

(Mr. Jankowitsch)

22. By echoing that concern, he did not in any way wish to preempt any decisions the General Assembly might take on the allocation of responsibilities in that area, for such presumptuousness which would certainly be highly inappropriate on the part of a member of the Bureau of a Committee.

23. It should be understood, however, that the reason for that concern was that the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space like very few others in the United Nations system, were fully aware of the immense benefits that an extension of the peaceful uses of outer space and a return to a spirit of co-operation that would avert new and dangerous forms of confrontation could bring to many Member States and especially - as the Chairman of the Special Political Committee had observed in his opening remarks - to the developing countries.

24. Another reason for their concern was the fact, which he mentioned in all seriousness, that it might very well be the last General Assembly at which it could be said with some confidence that at present there were no weapons known to be deployed in outer space.

25. It might, therefore, very well be the last chance to stop the militarization of outer space by adopting bold, imaginative and courageous approaches, and to preserve that environment as the privileged sanctuary it had once been thought it should be.

26. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was approaching another year of work with a renewed, strengthened and enriched mandate expected from the General Assembly to be reflected in its activities. He called to mind not only the Committee's many past achievements, to which the Chairman of the Special Political Committee had alluded, but also the unparalleled and unique spirit of co-operation between all its constituent organs and the generosity with which the major space Powers in particular had repeatedly demonstrated their willingness to share with less advanced countries their knowledge about the resources of outer space. That forum of co-operation - and he stressed the word "co-operation" in every sense - remained a source of hope for the future, particularly for those of its members, developing countries, which were beginning to realize how much space science and technology and their manifold applications could contribute to their economic and social progress and to the well-being and prosperity of their citizens.

27. In continuing their work, therefore, the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should not disappoint those hopes but should fill the Committee with a life and meaning that could be translated into concrete action and achievements and into the social and economic progress so essential to developing countries today. As in the past, that approach might require much willingness to compromise and great understanding, patience and tolerance of the views of others.

28. Yet, by adopting that approach especially in the days to come when it could move ahead significantly in its work, not only the Committee but the United Nations would have taken an important step forward, thus demonstrating by its successful accomplishments that the United Nations could indeed formulate, deliver and provide genuine responses to the needs of its Members.

/...

(Mr. Jankowitsch)

29. It was in that spirit that he was submitting the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its work in 1983 for the consideration of the Special Political Committee and its distinguished members.

30. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to certain points made in his statement by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. First, he had referred to the need to insist on co-operation between the great Powers and the developing world. Second, he had stressed that members should reflect on the fact that it might be the last time that outer space could be called peaceful and that the current session of the General Assembly might be the last one to be held while it was still peaceful. Given the growing fears of the international community and the alarm of the developing world as it witnessed the arms race in space, the point was crucial and, he reminded the Committee, it was a subject to ponder and act upon. Third, the Chairman had reported that he had brought to the attention of the General Committee of the General Assembly the serious financial problems that had hampered the work of his and other committees. While there was no question that great restraint should be used in administering and implementing the budget because of the limited funds and the critical world economic situation, there was also no question that the subject of outer space would have no practical validity or real application if financial assistance was not provided to enable the developing countries to benefit from co-operation in the field of space activities. Thus, the Chairman's appeal had been addressed to the General Committee, the Secretariat and, naturally, to the Fifth Committee. It was also directed to the great Powers, so that they might understand that the flow of space technology would not be achieved without financial sacrifices and significant contributions. It was a cause for concern that the studies recommended by UNISPACE-82 could not be carried out unless funds were available - unless there were funds to enable the scientists of the developing world to go to the developed countries to exchange experiences and absorb benefits. Small countries with serious national financial crises had to pay the costs of their own experts; there was the spectacle of scientific commissions, committees and organs in which problems were analysed only between experts of developed countries, who alone had the capacity to meet those costs. He addressed a strong but moderate appeal to members to ensure that in the draft resolutions consideration was given to the manner in which the developing countries might benefit financially; in other words, to ensure that the United Nations defrayed the costs of experts chosen by it on the basis of their merits, knowledge and reputation in their respective countries and regions. Otherwise, and that must be stressed, the seminars and working groups envisaged for the future would be made up solely of experts of developed countries, which would in no way benefit countries or contribute to international co-operation.

31. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon) requested that, in view of the great importance of the subject, the text of Mr. Jankowitsch's statement and the comments of the Chairman should be reproduced in extenso.

32. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections he would take it that the Committee wished the text of Mr. Jankowitsch's statement and the comments made on the subject to be reproduced in extenso.

33. It was so decided.

34. Mr. UCHUNO (Nigeria) said that the launching of the first sputnik in October 1957 by the Soviet Union had marked the beginning of a new technology and a new branch of international law, namely, space law. Such progress had been made over the years that currently space technology presented a vista of immense possibilities in relation to both its peaceful and its military uses. Unfortunately, although the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had the merit of having prepared five legal instruments on the subject, space law had been unable to keep pace with advances in space technology, having regard in particular to its military activities. The importance of the progressive development and codification of legal norms and practices as a contribution to the development of peaceful inter-State relations must be stressed. It was in that spirit that the international community must do its best to follow developments in the exploration and use of outer space and ensure that the legal basis of such developments was not lost in the quest for technical excellence.

35. As space technology increased in complexity it inevitably entailed consequences for the environment. In accordance with the provisions of article 1 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, the exploration and use of outer space was the right of mankind as a whole and should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development. Bearing in mind the possibilities offered by the use of outer space, constraints should not, in the opinion of his delegation, be placed on the progressive development of space science and technology, but everything possible should be done to develop further their potential and guiding principles as an investment in human happiness and a contribution to orderly socio-economic development. In that connection, it must be hoped that the various recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would be implemented in the common interest without further delay.

36. Of the issues currently before the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, none was of such interest or had such far-reaching implications as the question of remote sensing of the earth by satellite. For that reason, everything possible should be done to achieve the compatibility and complementarity of systems for remote sensing of the earth by satellite, especially from the standpoint of land-based investments, so that the developing countries, which were usually burdened with financial constraints, could take full advantage of the possibilities offered. In that connection, he sounded a warning that remote-sensing activities must be carried out with full respect for the sovereignty of States and, in the opinion of his delegation, there was a clear need for the speedy preparation of a régime to regulate the conduct of States in the field of remote sensing.

(Mr. Uchuno, Nigeria)

37. With regard to the new technology of direct television broadcasting by satellite, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should, after the adoption of the set of principles on direct broadcasting by satellite at the thirty-seventh session of the Assembly, now proceed to the codification of that set of principles in a legally binding international instrument, bearing in mind that such an instrument should define and establish in clear terms the obligations and responsibilities of the broadcasting State as well as the legitimate concerns of the receiving State.

38. It was clear that no legal régime for outer-space activities could achieve maximum effectiveness and applicability without a clear definition of outer-space activities and a delimitation of outer space itself. That was why everything possible must be done to establish a clear demarcation between air space and outer space as a function of State sovereignty. That definition or delimitation of outer space should also take into account the geostationary orbit, which was considered a scarce and limited natural resource whose management and utilization should be equitable and rational and in the interest of all countries, particularly the developing countries. To that end, his delegation supported the suggestion that a working group on the subject should be set up and expressed the hope that the General Assembly would adopt the enabling political decision at the current session.

39. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications had responded usefully to the growing demands of Member States. The prospects of its further contribution to the development efforts of developing countries could be enhanced if the Programme was assured of adequate funding on a continuing basis. In addition to country contributions, the General Assembly should consider the possibility of improving its budgetary allocation to the Outer Space Affairs Division within the Secretariat so as, inter alia, to enable the Programme to respond to the growing needs of States.

40. The increasing trend towards the militarization of outer space was a cause for deep concern. The development and deployment of anti-satellite defence systems and the stationing in orbit of all types of satellites having military purposes rendered more intractable the search for world peace and security through disarmament. As a consequence, there was a greater emphasis on the use of nuclear-power sources as a means of power generation for those weapons in space. In his delegation's opinion, consideration for human safety and the environment must continue to guide the economics of power generation in outer space. As part of efforts to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, UNISPACE-82 had adopted a number of recommendations, including recommendations on the strengthening of regional centres, access to scientific information and data at reasonable costs and the carrying out of specific space-related studies. At its twenty-sixth session, the Committee on Outer Space had agreed to carry out three studies on a priority basis. Although his delegation accepted in principle the procedures which that Committee had suggested, it was to be hoped that, in order to ensure the full participation of experts from developing countries, the General Assembly would consider the possibility of assuming financial responsibility for the studies, since experts of developing countries could not be denied the opportunity to contribute to knowledge in that field because of financial constraints.

/...

41. Mr. Starčević (Yugoslavia) took the Chair.

42. Mr. ABOUCHAER (Syria) said that during the past year some further successes had been achieved in the sphere of outer space by the developed countries and other more modest ones by the developing countries. Syria was fully conscious of the gap between the two groups of countries. Nevertheless, the developing countries did not wish to be simply observers without participating in space technology. They believed it was necessary to encourage the countries which had a tremendous technical capacity to co-operate with the developing countries and that such co-operation should take place at the international and at the regional level.

43. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had demonstrated that the United Nations had a major role to play in rationalizing resources and improving the methodology but that it was also necessary to increase the effectiveness of the Organization in the sphere of the creation and application of space technology. Significant contributions had been made at UNISPACE-82, which had taken place in Vienna in August 1982, to the peaceful uses of outer space but the final results of that Conference would be judged by the extent to which its recommendations were put into practice and implemented. That was why paragraph 26 of document A/38/20 stated that the recommendations of the Conference should be implemented as early and as fully as possible.

44. He agreed with the statement in paragraph 67 of the Committee's report that it was now time for countries to agree on the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space and he therefore requested the Legal Sub-Committee to complete its work on the draft principles on remote sensing. The basic principles to be taken into account included respect for the sovereignty of each country - a country's prior agreement to remote sensing, including the dissemination of information obtained, particularly information relating to natural resources, must be sought in all cases. In addition, in the area of remote sensing, the satellites must benefit all countries; no country should be excluded on commercial or political grounds. Finally, countries which were the object of remote sensing should receive, on a continuous and exact basis, the data which related to them.

45. With regard to the problem of the utilization of nuclear power sources in outer space his delegation welcomed the formulation of a text concerning the format and the procedure for notification in case of malfunction of a spacecraft carrying a nuclear power source on board referred to in paragraph 71 of the report. Efforts to further the elaboration of provisions relating to the utilization of nuclear power sources in outer space must continue.

46. Another important aspect, analysed in paragraph 35 of document A/AC.105/203/Add.4, related to the physical character and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit. As was stated in paragraph 35 of that document, "more than a third of all space objects in the geostationary orbit are the result of military activities. Therefore, the impact on the geostationary orbit of military activities is not insignificant and presumably could increase in the future as more and more countries perceive the need for the use of outer space for such military purposes".

(Mr. Abouchaer, Syria)

47. His delegation agreed with those delegations whose views were reflected in paragraph 75 of the Committee's report, concerning the establishment of a working group to consider matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space. The working group should consider the case of the satellite which one expansionist country in the Middle East planned to place in orbit, notwithstanding the danger that its placement would have.

48. His delegation shared the international community's concern that the arms race might extend into outer space and it believed that outer space should be reserved solely for peaceful purposes. In their space activities, States should respect the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies which had entered into force in 1967. He noted with concern the well-known fact that some countries were instilling in the minds of their youth the possibility of a space war as could be seen from films and television programmes. He was pleased to see, from paragraph 78 of the report, that the Committee on Disarmament had begun consideration of the question of preventing an arms race in outer space.

49. He hoped that the international community would co-operate in outer space and that the developing countries would have access to technical knowledge in that area. Syria was interested in receiving the support of the United Nations technical services in that area for, like other developing countries, it hoped to be able to benefit from outer space technology.

AGENDA ITEM 32: POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA
(continued) (A/SPC/38/L.4/Add.19-Add.22)

50. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to documents A/SPC/38/L.4/Add.19-Add.22 which contained requests for hearings relating to item 32. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to approve those requests for hearings.

51. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.