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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 25th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RODRIGUEZ MEDINA (Colombia)

later: Mr. STARČEVIĆ (Yugoslavia)

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(Mr. Ibrahim, Iraq)

in part, by the United Nations. It was important to stress that the number of spacecraft carrying nuclear power sources on board should be restricted to the necessary minimum, their orbits should be high above the earth, their operation should not begin until after they had entered those orbits and they should be manufactured in such a manner as to reduce exposure to radiation to the minimum, particularly after their return to earth.

20. His delegation considered that the extension of national sovereignty to the geostationary orbit was a matter fraught with insuperable practical and legal difficulties. Given the importance of that orbit and the limited extent to which it could absorb satellites, scientific and legal principles should be elaborated regulating its use in an equitable manner and ensuring the interests of all countries, particularly the developing countries. The Radio Regulations relating to communications satellites should be enforced so as to ensure that interference would not exceed the limits permitted by those Regulations.

21. His delegation reiterated its position regarding the importance of elaborating norms to govern direct television broadcasting and to prohibit such broadcasting without the permission of States situated within its range. The Legal Sub-Committee should begin to elaborate, in an expeditious manner, a draft convention on direct television broadcasting on the basis of the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 37/92.

22. UNISPACE-82 had been one of the most successful events of the year and the recommendations that it had adopted by consensus were necessary steps towards the use of space technology on a wider scale, the promotion of international co-operation in that field and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in encouraging the peaceful uses of outer space. Its recommendations stressed the need to assist the developing countries in making use of space technology and in keeping up with progress in the field. His country strongly endorsed those recommendations and considered that there was an urgent need to put them into effect by increasing international co-operation and bridging the gap between the large space Powers and the developing countries.

23. His delegation shared the general concern at the possibility of using outer space for military purposes. The militarization of space would lead to increased international conflict to the detriment of mankind as a whole. The appeal to intellect and logic must overcome such dangerous tendencies in order to avoid increased international tension.

24. His delegation hoped that discussion of the supplementary agenda item on the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the earth in the First Committee would be a constructive step for peace. The time had come for all States, in particular those endowed with major space capacities, to contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from any action incompatible with that goal.

25. Mr. LEHNE (Austria) said that, in view of the rapid development of space activities, which were increasingly being put to practical use, no Government could afford to neglect the impact of space technology. His delegation therefore noted

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(Mr. Lehne, Austria)

with satisfaction that international co-operation in joint space ventures had increased during the past year. However, the intensive efforts to develop space technology must be matched by equally intensive efforts to ensure a more equitable sharing of its benefits with a view to the social and economic progress of all mankind.

26. The growing intensity of outer space activities also called for the elaboration of legal norms to regulate such activities, to eliminate potential sources of conflict and to avoid negative ecological implications. In that connection, Austria had always regarded the United Nations, and in particular COPUOS, as the most appropriate forum for the co-ordination of international co-operation in matters relating to outer space. For example, the five treaties that had thus far emerged from its work constituted important steps in the codification of international space law and had greatly helped to preserve outer space as a predominantly peaceful environment.

27. Unfortunately, the productivity of COPUOS had diminished in recent years, a state of affairs which had created considerable frustration among many of its members and which threatened to erode their commitment to the principle of consensus. Of course, consensus must not be seen as a right of veto for the party least willing to compromise. A readiness on all sides to reach equitable solutions was an essential corollary of decision-making by consensus. However, consensus was not only the most desirable way of reaching decisions on space matters but was also the only way of achieving meaningful results. In Austria's opinion, constructive dialogue, a willingness to bridge differences of opinion, mutual tolerance and understanding were fundamental requirements for the success of the efforts of COPUOS.

28. The results of UNISPACE-82 had helped to explore further space technology's potential for human progress and to chart a realistic course towards a more equitable sharing of its benefits. He expressed the hope that the three studies, to be carried out on a priority basis (A/38/20, para. 30) would help to clarify the complex aspects of the relevant problems and to prepare the ground for specific international action.

29. The implementation of the UNISPACE-82 recommendations concerning the United Nations Programme on Space Applications required adequate support and funding from Member States. In that connection, Austria would continue in 1984 to offer fellowships in microwave technology to candidates from developing countries.

30. Although his delegation welcomed the agreement reached on a format for notification in case of malfunction of a spacecraft carrying a nuclear power source on board, it was concerned about the otherwise slow progress of work on that matter. In view of the possible adverse consequences of such a malfunction, he expressed the hope that the Legal Sub-Committee would soon reach agreement on internationally accepted safety standards and on assistance in the case of accidents. His delegation was convinced that the reconvening of the Working Group on that issue in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee would prove very useful.

31. Although little progress had been made on the subject of remote sensing, the discussion of the draft principles relating to the legal implications of that

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(Mr. Akolzin, Byelorussian SSR)

including the United States, also refrained from doing so, was an exceptionally important and timely initiative.

43. His delegation noted with satisfaction the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, particularly with regard to the co-ordination and development of international co-operation and the development of international space law. He drew attention to the importance of the elaboration of draft principles on the remote sensing of the earth from space, and he noted with satisfaction that the majority of States favoured the establishment of international legal norms governing the dissemination of the data thus obtained. In his delegation's opinion, the speedy elaboration of such principles would make an important contribution to the strengthening of peace on earth.

44. Another important activity of that Committee concerned the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, including the question of the geostationary orbit. The Byelorussian SSR supported the idea of establishing a working group within the Legal Sub-Committee with a view to solving that long-standing problem.

45. He expressed the hope that the future work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would help to expand international co-operation in the conquest of outer space and that the results of that undertaking would serve the cause of world peace and understanding.

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

47. Mr. DASHDAVAA (Mongolia) said that international co-operation under the INTERCOSMOS programme continued to contribute significantly to the exploration and use of outer space in the interest of peace and progress. The INTERCOSMOS programme was accelerating scientific and technological progress and economic development in Mongolia. In co-operation with scientists from countries participating in that programme, Mongolian specialists were analysing data from more than 30 experiments conducted during the joint Soviet-Mongolian space flight. Since the Second United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Mongolian scientists and engineers had co-operated on a bilateral and multilateral basis under the INTERCOSMOS programme in conducting research in such fields as space physics, space communications, space meteorology and remote sensing of the earth from outer space.

48. Multilateral co-operation with countries having different social and political structures was continuing to expand. The application of outer space science and technology had opened vast new perspectives for the socio-economic and cultural development of all peoples. Activities in outer space must, therefore, be conducted with due account taken of the interests of all States and in accordance with the fundamental principles of international relations.

49. The plans of the Pentagon to militarize outer space was a cause for grave alarm for the international community. Government leaders in the United States were openly declaring that the main goal of their new outer space policy was to achieve military superiority by placing highly sophisticated weapons in outer

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(Mr. Dashdavaa, Mongolia)

space. The United States Government and the Pentagon were taking steps to turn outer space into a new theatre for military operations.

50. In view of the grave threat which that posed for the world, Mongolia, together with the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations, felt that it was necessary to take urgent measures to prevent the militarization of outer space. In that regard, his delegation fully supported the proposal submitted by the Soviet Union for consideration at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the earth. That proposal was a logical continuation of earlier Soviet initiatives and would contribute to the task of ensuring the use of outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all peoples. Such a treaty would contain all the necessary elements to eliminate the danger of the militarization of outer space.

51. It was unfortunate that the United States Government had broken off its negotiations with the Soviet Union on the limitation of anti-satellite weapons and that the delegation of the United States was sabotaging efforts within the Committee on Disarmament to elaborate a draft treaty on the prohibition of the deployment of weapons of any type in outer space. The peoples of the world expected the United States to respond in a positive manner to the new Soviet initiative. Furthermore, COPUOS should join in efforts to halt the arms race in outer space.

52. His delegation viewed positively the work carried out by COPUOS, particularly with regard to the progress made in resolving the question of direct television broadcasting. He stressed the urgent need to begin elaboration of a convention regulating direct television broadcasting on the basis of principles adopted at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Such questions as remote sensing of the earth from space and the definition and/or delimitation of outer space should be resolved speedily. Delegations should adopt a serious approach and show the necessary political will to solve problems on which there was a difference of opinion, particularly problems relating to the sovereign rights and vital interests of States. In that regard, all legal documents concerning the activities and co-operation of States in outer space should be based on the generally accepted principles of respect for the sovereignty of States, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual advantage.

53. Mr. LINDAHL (United States of America) said that, on 9 April 1983, the orbiter CHALLENGER, had returned from its first flight, a five-day mission which officials had called the Shuttle's best flight to date. A highlight of that mission was the first Shuttle space walk and the first American space walk in a decade. CHALLENGER had carried aloft NASA's first Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS-A), the first satellite of a planned three spacecraft system which would eventually replace the network of ground tracking stations currently used to support spacecraft in orbit.

54. CHALLENGER's second flight, the seventh Space Shuttle flight, had taken place in June 1983. The five-person crew on board was the largest ever to go into space in a single launching and included the first female American astronaut. CHALLENGER

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(Mr. Lindahl, United States)

had deployed a pair of communication satellites early in its mission: ANIK C-2 sponsored by Telesat Canada and PALAPA B -1 for Indonesia. Both satellites had reached their intended orbits and were functioning normally. The eighth Space Shuttle flight in August 1983 had been highlighted by the Shuttle's first night take-off and landing. The primary commercial payload was INSAT 1B, an Indian telecommunications/meteorological satellite. America's first shuttle, COLUMBIA, was scheduled to return to space on 28 November 1983. Its primary payload would be SPACELAB 1, a reusable scientific research facility developed and built in co-operation with NASA by the European Space Agency. In order to conduct and supervise the many experiments to be conducted on board SPACELAB, the six-man crew would include a specialist from the Federal Republic of Germany. SPACELAB 1 included over 70 different research projects and experiments designed by scientists from 11 European countries, Canada, Japan and the United States.

55. In addition to the deployment of satellites from the Space Shuttle, NASA had launched 15 satellites on board its expendable launch vehicles in 1983. A number of those satellites had been launched in co-operation with the United Kingdom, Netherlands, France and Italy.

56. Many of the 10 shuttle flights scheduled for 1984 reflected the high degree of international co-operation in the United States space programme. Flights would be carried out in co-operation with Indonesia, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Arab consortium ARABSAT-A. The STS-13 project deserved special mention because it would be the first demonstration of the Space Shuttle's capabilities for in-orbit servicing of satellites.

57. In the area of space and science, the Infrared Astronomical Satellite carried a super-cooled telescope designed to detect celestial objects emitting infrared radiation. That satellite, which was close to completing its mission, had discovered five comets and revealed a ring of large particles around Vega, the third brightest star in the sky.

58. In planetary research the pioneer programme had reached a historic milestone in June 1983 when PIONEER 10 had crossed Neptune's orbit and became the first spacecraft to leave the solar system. NASA expected to be able to track PIONEER 10 until about 1994.

59. In the field of remote sensing, LANDSAT-4, which had been launched on 16 July 1982, introduced a new capability in satellite remote sensing with important prospects for research and application. The instruments on board LANDSAT-4 were returning vastly improved data making it the most advanced civil land-remote-sensing satellite in operation. Data were publicly available through ground receiving stations located in several countries around the world.

60. The third in a series of three improved Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES-6) had been launched in April 1983 to replace an older GOES satellite monitoring the western half of the United States and Canada and the Pacific. The United Kingdom and France had contributed meteorological instruments to the NOAA-8 satellite series, and the data was disseminated world wide, both directly from those satellites and from facilities located in the

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(Mr. Lindahl, United States)

United States. NOAA-8 also carried special search and rescue instrumentation as part of the international COSPAS-SARSAT project, which had already assisted in saving more than 40 lives in aircraft and maritime emergencies.

61. The work of COPUOS in the legal and scientific and technological aspects of the exploration and use of outer space had been invaluable. A number of factors had made that success possible and were essential if the Committee was to continue to fulfil the expectations of the international community. COPUOS must continue to serve as a forum in which technical and legal experts could work together to solve the problems of common concern in an atmosphere as free as possible from the political destructions which had imperilled the effectiveness of so many United Nations bodies. Genuine progress could only be achieved through co-operation in good faith in order to achieve a common area of agreement. Such progress might not come quickly or easily, but it was of lasting value.

62. COPUOS should continue to concentrate its most productive efforts on problems which were of demonstrated practical use and which no other body was adequately equipped to deal with. His delegation supported continued priority treatment for the questions of remote sensing and the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. It did not, however, believe that a working group should be established to consider the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and the geostationary orbit. In order to develop the frontier of outer space in an orderly manner, COPUOS must maintain an agenda which would promote technical and legal solutions to problems in an atmosphere of co-operation and objectivity.

63. Mr. SUDIRMAN (Indonesia) said that the recommendations of UNISPACE-82, aimed as they were at ensuring that all States should benefit from space applications and at the progressive development of legal instruments to regulate the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, had significantly strengthened the spirit of co-operation among Member States in that field. Only in such a spirit could the desired objectives be achieved, since the interests of the developing countries had to be accommodated in an equitable manner. The recommendations of UNISPACE-82 had been adopted by consensus, and, consequently, their implementation should create no difficulty. Renewed determination was required on the part of certain countries for the solution of unresolved problems, particularly those of a legal nature. Failure to make progress on those questions might, in view of the unpredictability of technological developments, lead to disputes involving the sovereignty of States.

64. The key problem with regard to the draft principles on remote sensing of the earth by satellites was the unwillingness of certain countries to recognize the principle of respect for the sovereignty of States. Those countries failed to appreciate the sensitive and dangerous aspects of the dissemination to third parties, without prior consent, of data obtained from remote sensing.

65. Since a set of principles had already been successfully adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/92, his delegation urged that the drafting of a treaty concerning the use of direct television broadcast satellites should begin at once in order to avoid disputes in the near future. His Government was prepared to provide an expert to assist in the proposed study of the feasibility of using

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(Mr. Sudirman, Indonesia)

direct broadcasting satellites for educational purposes and of internationally or regionally-owned space segments.

66. His delegation supported the establishment of a working group to consider matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, including the elaboration of principles to govern use of the geostationary orbit. The formulation of those principles should, furthermore, commence as soon as possible. With regard to the recommendations of UNISPACE-82 on the geostationary orbit, it was the view of his delegation that criteria for its just and equitable use should be developed, arrangements based on genuine present and future needs should be established, the needs of the developing countries should be identified and the special geographical situation of particular States should be taken into account. Such work need not duplicate that of the International Telecommunication Union but could be complementary to it while preserving the primary role of the General Assembly in directing United Nations policies and activities in space. A precedent had also been set by the adoption by the last Plenipotentiary Conference of ITU of one of the recommendations of UNISPACE-82 on the use of the radiofrequency spectrum and of the geostationary orbit.

67. His delegation shared the deep concern expressed by previous speakers at the plans of the major Powers for the militarization of outer space. It believed that there was still time to curb that trend since the production and deployment of space weapons had not yet begun.

68. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) reiterated the position of his delegation regarding the urgent need to maintain outer space as an area for peaceful co-operation, prevent the saturation of outer space and uphold the rights of the equatorial countries with regard to the geostationary orbit, which should be subject to international regulation for the benefit of all countries, particularly developing countries. In the field of telecommunications, he stressed the need for previous consultation between target countries and broadcasting companies. The United Nations must be the body which gathered and disseminated the data obtained by remote sensing from outer space and regulated activities in that field.

69. It was regrettable that COPUOS and its two Sub-Committees had been unable to make significant progress in their work, because the lack of co-operation on the part of certain countries had made it impossible to adopt agreements which would benefit all States Members of the United Nations. His delegation viewed with alarm the absence of an adequate legal framework governing remote sensing, the serious gaps in the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 with regard to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and the deadlock in the Legal Sub-Committee on the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit.

70. The Latin American countries had submitted, at the twenty-sixth session of COPUOS, a working paper (A/AC.105/L.140) which set forth their position on certain aspects of the work of two Sub-Committees. Section 2 of that document recommended the early preparation of pertinent legal instruments for preventing any further militarization of outer space, the finalization of the draft principles on remote

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(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

sensing and the establishment of a working group to consider on a priority basis matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit. COPUOS should establish that working group at the current session of the General Assembly. His delegation, therefore, would firmly support the inclusion of section 2 (c) of document A/AC.105/L.140 in the draft resolution to be considered by the Committee at a later date. That formulation was in accordance with the report of UNISPACE-82 and the right of all countries, particularly developing countries and equatorial countries, to use the geostationary orbit. His delegation reserved the right to address that question in greater detail during the debate on the various aspects of the exploration and use of outer space.

71. Mr. DE LA BAUME (France) said that France's space policy was largely based on co-operation with other States and particularly with the members of the European Space Agency (ESA). The success of the latest launchings of the ARIANE rocket were particularly important because no State or group of States could have access to the commercial applications of satellites without available means of space transport. Since a new ARIANE 4 development programme had been decided in 1982, the cost of placing satellites in orbit by INTELSAT would be significantly reduced. Work had recently been started on the development of a high-thrust engine which would enable a more powerful and even more economical launcher - ARIANE 5 - to become operational during the next decade. Preliminary studies on the construction of a manned, recoverable spacecraft HERMES which could be launched by ARIANE 5, were currently being undertaken.

72. The European operational telecommunications programme, in which France participated, was up to schedule. The first satellite had been successfully launched by ARIANE on 16 June 1983. The second satellite under the MARECS programme, set up for the purpose of establishing telecommunications links between ships at sea and coastal stations, would be launched in 1984 and would be used under the INMARSAT programme.

73. TELECOM 1, the first French telematic satellite, would be launched in 1984, the direct broadcasting satellite TDF 1, developed in co-operation with the Federal Republic of Germany, would be launched in 1985, and the earth observation programme SPOT, in which Belgium and Sweden co-operated, had completed model testing and would be launched in 1985. Many countries were interested in such satellites because of their economic advantages in the management of resources. France also contributed in the framework of the ESA to the development of the land laboratory SPACELAB, which would be placed in orbit during one of the next flights of the Space Shuttle. That was a remarkable example of international co-operation between Europe and the United States in order to use the unique possibilities of the Space Shuttle to place a powerful research tool at the disposal of the world scientific community.

74. Other space programmes in which France participated were ARGOS, in co-operation with the United States, and SARGOS, which was the French contribution to the SARSAT air-sea rescue programme operated by the United States, Canada and France. During the past 15 months, co-operation between the SARSAT partners and

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(Mr. de la Baume, France)

the Soviet Mercantile Marine Ministry on the basis of an agreement signed in August 1980 had continued as the joint SARSAT-COSPAS programme.

75. Various types of experiments had been carried out by a French cosmonaut during a Soviet space flight in June 1982.

76. France attached the greatest importance to ensuring that an ever-increasing number of States obtained access to space technology and its applications. It was therefore constantly developing joint activities with African, Latin American and Asian countries, making its considerable training facilities available to all and co-operating closely with United Nations training seminars.

77. His delegation had welcomed the success of UNISPACE-82 and was pleased that COPUOS had approved the recommendation of its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to give priority to the three studies recommended by that Conference (A/38/20, para. 30). The French authorities would soon nominate an expert to participate in the work on the study on remote sensing.

78. His delegation was pleased to note the successful continuation of the work on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space by the Working Group of the Legal Sub-Committee and the reactivation of the Working Group of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. The French authorities had also welcomed the elaboration by the Legal Sub-Committee of 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. They had also noted with interest the programme of work of the two Sub-Committees for 1984 and hoped that the work on the remote sensing of the earth from outer space would soon be completed.

79. A number of delegations had expressed their grave concern at the risk of the extension of the arms race to outer space. His delegation considered that the matter should be dealt with by the Committee on Disarmament in accordance with its mandate. The difficulties which that Committee had encountered in agreeing on the mandate of a working group should be settled in 1984. His delegation did not feel that the matter was germane to the current discussion.

80. Mr. HASHMI (Pakistan) reiterated the position of his delegation that space technology must be utilized for the benefit of all countries, particularly to promote the social and economic progress of developing countries. Efforts should be increased to make the benefits of space technology available to all peoples. In that regard, he noted with satisfaction the contribution made by the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in the dissemination of information on space technology and its application. It was hoped that the Programme could be expanded in order to provide technical assistance and promote the transfer of technology to developing countries. It was gratifying to note that the Legal Sub-Committee of COPUOS had elaborated an agreed text concerning the format and procedure for notification in case of malfunction of a spacecraft carrying a nuclear power source on board. The remaining work on the formulation of legal principles to regulate the use of nuclear power sources in outer space should be completed soon.

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(Mr. Hashmi, Pakistan)

81. It was regrettable, however, that virtually no progress had been made with regard to remote sensing of the earth by satellites and the definition and/or delimitation of outer space. In view of the great potential of remote sensing in helping developing countries, he stressed that the outstanding issues with regard to the establishment of an international régime for the dissemination of data obtained through remote sensing should be resolved quickly. Activities in the field of remote sensing must be carried out with full respect for the sovereignty of the sensed States. Remote sensing data should be made available by the sensing States to the sensed States upon request.

82. It was unfortunate that considerable difficulties had arisen with regard to the elaboration of a legal instrument governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for international direct television broadcasting. His delegation urged all concerned to work in a spirit of co-operation in order to reach agreement on that important question. He supported the view that the proposed instrument should include suitable provisions for ensuring adequate consultations and agreements between the States operating such satellites and the States receiving signals from them. The future convention should also ensure that broadcasts aimed at foreign States were carried out on the basis of the consent of that State. The consenting States should also have the right to participate in activities which involved territory under their jurisdiction.

83. The geostationary orbit was a valuable but limited natural resource. The technologically advanced countries and international organizations should strive to use newer and more efficient communication technology in order to reduce the congestion of the geostationary orbit, giving all nations an opportunity to use that resource. The current registration system based on a first-come-first-served method of allocation was unacceptable to the developing countries. Part of the geostationary orbit should be kept available for use by those nations which were still unable to launch their own satellites, but were likely to do so in the future. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should continue to study the use of that resource by all nations which could benefit from it.

84. His delegation shared the sense of alarm at the increasing militarization of outer space. In that regard, he recalled the declaration made by the Group of 77 during UNISPACE-82 calling for a ban on the testing, stationing and development of any weapon in outer space. His delegation joined in the appeal for bilateral and multilateral negotiations to prevent an arms race in outer space. Negotiations on the militarization of outer space should be conducted in the Committee on Disarmament, which was the only multilateral forum of the United Nations for negotiations on disarmament matters.

85. Pakistan supported all efforts to bring about the speedy implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE-82. Since those recommendations were to be implemented through voluntary contributions from Member States, his Government had contributed \$12,000 for the year 1984, in order to demonstrate the importance which it attached to the matter.

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(Mr. Hashmi, Pakistan)

86. It was of vital importance that the conflicting views on various aspects of the use of outer space should be harmonized in order to establish legal norms regulating the constant increase in space activities. COPUOS had an important role to play in that regard. His delegation, therefore, fully supported the recommendations in the report of COPUOS and particularly welcomed the proposal for the conducting, on a priority basis, of studies in the fields of remote sensing, direct broadcasting satellites and the spacing of satellites in the geostationary orbit. The General Assembly should consider the question of covering the expenses of experts from developing countries to enable them to contribute to the preparation of those studies.

87. Mr. CABALLERO RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) said that the gloomy prospects which were arousing the concern of peoples most directly threatened by imperialist aggression should not divert attention from a matter of such importance to the future of mankind as the peaceful use of outer space. Many of the "down-to-earth" problems being discussed in other international forums were intimately linked to the subject under discussion, which many developing countries considered to be of somewhat remote significance. Cuba's social, economic, scientific and technical development since the revolution had enabled it to understand the importance for the future of all peoples of the exploration of and other activities in outer space and the need to ensure that man's work and intelligence were used for peaceful purposes and to improve the living conditions of all mankind.

88. Cuban scientists were carrying out research in various aspects of space science and were actively co-operating with the socialist countries within the framework of INTERCOSMOS. An important achievement had been the first Soviet-Cuban space flight in 1980, when over 20 experiments in space biology and medicine had been carried out, as well as remote sensing of the earth. Such research had been continued as was shown by the submission of 90 scientific papers to the First National Seminar on Space Research recently held in Cuba with the participation of 200 specialists in different scientific areas. Cuba had participated actively in the work of UNISPACE-82 and had followed closely the work being done by COPUOS.

89. His country agreed with most delegations regarding the need for legal regulation of outer space activities. It therefore supported the establishment of a working group of the Legal Sub-Committee to study as a priority the definition or delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit. It welcomed the recommendation that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should continue to study on a priority basis questions relating to the remote sensing of the earth by satellites. Remote sensing should be governed by an international legal instrument which would include the following principles: data obtained by remote sensing should be provided free to the sensed State; those data should not be communicated to other countries without the consent of the sensed State, in order to respect its sovereignty; the use of remote sensing for military reconnaissance, political, social and economic pressure and exploitation of any kind should be banned. In space matters, increased international co-operation, such as the encouragement of training programmes and transfers of technology and decoded and processed data, would make that new technology available to further the development of the national economies of the developing countries.

(Mr. Caballero Rodríguez, Cuba)

90. His delegation attached great importance to the principles set forth in General Assembly resolution 37/92 on the use of artificial earth satellites for international direct television broadcasting which would serve as a basis for the drafting of an international convention.

91. Another aspect which had been the subject of greatest concern to almost all speakers was the danger of the extension of the arms race to outer space, which had been expressed in the Economic Declaration of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries. The Special Political Committee, as well as COPUOS could not avoid discussing that matter. His delegation therefore strongly supported Mexico's proposal that an operative paragraph should be included in the draft resolution to be examined by the Working Group, calling upon all States, especially those with a space capacity, to start negotiating immediately agreements to prevent the extension of the arms race to outer space. It was not surprising that the United States had been the only delegation which had opposed the inclusion of such a paragraph. Apart from the unconvincing arguments put forward by the representative of the United States, that position was in perfect agreement with the general strategy of imperialism designed to achieve military supremacy, including its admitted intentions to develop and deploy highly sophisticated weapons in outer space. That admission, as well as the policy of pressure, blackmail and the use of force in international relations, the most recent examples being the brutal invasion of little Grenada and the threats towards the peoples of Central America, particularly Nicaragua, made it understandable that speakers should wonder if the current Administration of the United States would not be capable of using space weapons in its future aggression against other countries. His delegation therefore reiterated the urgent need for COPUOS to devote special attention to that new danger, which could lead to a world holocaust. It therefore welcomed the initiative of the Soviet Union in proposing the draft treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the earth (A/38/194).

92. Mr. TAHINDRO (Madagascar) observed that the developing countries had not attained a sufficient level of economic or technological development to be able to participate in the exploration of outer space. However, their interest in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space stemmed both from their hope that such activities would benefit their economic development and from their fear that outer space would become an arena of military conflict, to the detriment of mankind as a whole.

93. According to a work published by the International Peace Research Institute, approximately 75 per cent of the satellites orbiting the earth were used for military purposes. The great Powers attached particular importance to reconnaissance, navigation and communications satellites, which were vital to their armed forces, and to anti-satellite weapons, which could be either land-based or carried by satellites. Moreover, special space shuttles might be used for military purposes in future.

94. After describing the different types of military satellites, he observed that the development of those devices reflected the change in the strategy of the great Powers. Instead of focusing destructive power on large urban and industrial

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(Mr. Tahindro, Madagascar)

centres, the new strategies were aimed at specific military targets with a view to the destruction of the enemy's counterstrike capability. However, the viability of those strategies depended on the possession of various types of satellites, capable of providing the most precise possible data on the movement and deployment of the targets.

95. Clearly, the possibility of space conflict constituted a dangerous reality which weighed heavily on the fate of billions of earth-bound human beings. Accordingly, his delegation reiterated its total condemnation of any arms race in outer space and, like those of other developing countries, called for its complete demilitarization. The use of outer space for military purposes constituted a flagrant violation of existing international legal instruments governing the exploration and use of outer space, and was contrary to the Economic Declaration issued by the Seventh Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, which had reaffirmed that outer space should be used only for peaceful purposes and had called for the undertaking of urgent measures for the termination of the arms race in outer space.

96. Accordingly, his delegation noted with satisfaction the draft treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the Earth (A/38/194), proposed by the Soviet Union. The draft constituted a commendable effort to close the loopholes in existing legal instruments, which were directed only towards the prohibition of nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction and did not make provision for the implications of the new strategies. However, the provisions of article 3 of the draft treaty supplemented existing international norms governing the peaceful use of outer space.

97. With regard to the report of COPUOS, his delegation attached importance to the remote sensing of the Earth by satellites and urged the Legal Sub-Committee to develop principles to govern such activities, taking into account the economic and technological situation of most of the developing countries. In that connection, it was important to strengthen international co-operation in that field.

98. In conclusion, his delegation supported the establishment of a working group within the Legal Sub-Committee to consider matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, bearing in mind the fact that it was a limited natural resource.

99. Mr. KOTSEV (Bulgaria) said that every day brought fresh and unparalleled successes in the exploration and use of outer space. Large-scale peaceful projects were being carried out by the Soviet Union using the SOYUZ T/9 and SALYUT-7 complex. His delegation would like to take the opportunity to wish the Soviet cosmonauts success in their mission and a safe return to earth.

100. His country was, to the best of its ability, taking an active part in space developments. Its increasing efforts were closely linked with those of many other countries and were based, above all, on fraternal co-operation with the Soviet Union and other socialist States within the framework of the INTERCOSMOS programme,

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(Mr. Kotsev, Bulgaria)

which had, because of the enormous material and scientific assistance of the Soviet Union, achieved remarkable success.

101. Space experiments involving Bulgarian apparatus and the development of space instrumentation designed to solve fundamental scientific problems were of paramount importance in Bulgaria's space programme. The BULGARIA-1300 programme was being successfully carried out. Complex Bulgarian remote sensing instrumentation was operating on board the METEOR-PRIRODA satellite and the data and multispectral pictures received were being processed by Bulgarian scientists.

102. There were a number of items relating to outer space which had been the subject of protracted debate in the United Nations owing to a lack of political will and of a readiness to compromise on the part of certain Member States. Because of such problems, COPUOS had, at its twenty-sixth session, been unable to complete work on the draft principles on remote sensing of the earth by satellites, the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, and the question of the geostationary orbit. His delegation was nevertheless confident that, in accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraphs 67, 68 and 75 of the Committee's report (A/38/20), common sense would prevail, and decisions on those issues would be adopted by consensus in 1984. Such a step would also be in keeping with the recommendations of UNISPACE-82.

103. The greatest problem facing the world was that of preserving life on earth and saving human civilization. To that end, many measures should be taken, including the halting of the arms race and the prevention of the militarization of outer space. The position of Bulgaria and the other socialist countries on that matter had been reaffirmed in the communiqué issued by the recent meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty.

104. Reactionary and militaristic forces, above all those in the United States, were taking practical steps towards the militarization of outer space and the emplacement there of nuclear, laser and particle-beam weapons. Enormous resources were being devoted to the development of new types of weapons capable of destroying targets in outer space and on earth. Such militaristic programmes would bring the world even closer to a nuclear war, the consequences of which would be no less catastrophic to the aggressor than to the victim of aggression or the other peoples of the world. The question of whether mankind would permit that mortal danger to persist had acquired a new urgency in the light of recent events. In its aggression against Grenada and in its recent pronouncements, the United States Administration had demonstrated that it would not hesitate to resort to military force when it suited its interests.

105. As against that dangerous militaristic trend, the peace-loving forces of the world spared no effort to keep outer space free from weapons and safe for peaceful uses. Such had been the aim of the Soviet proposal for including in the agenda of the General Assembly a new item on 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). His delegation welcomed that proposal and gave it its unqualified support. It was a new and valuable contribution to the struggle to prevent the militarization of outer space and to restrict its use to peaceful purposes. The proposed treaty

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would also ban the testing and deployment of weapons in outer space. Together with the unilateral Soviet decision not to be the first to deploy anti-satellite weapons in space, the proposed treaty was designed to strengthen international peace and security, to prevent a new round in the arms race and to avoid nuclear catastrophe. Procedural matters should not be allowed to interfere with or delay the consideration of the proposed treaty. It was a question of such overriding importance that it should be high on the agenda of COPUOS. That Committee was the competent organ of the United Nations entrusted with consideration of issues relating to outer space, and, if it would not deal with those issues its work would become futile and meaningless.

106. In the view of his delegation, particular attention should be paid to the legal regulation of the use of satellites for direct television broadcasting. A useful basis for such regulation could be the Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/92, and the relevant norms of international law prohibiting encroachment on the sovereignty and interference in the internal affairs of States.

107. Bulgaria endorsed the recommendations of UNISPACE-82 and those adopted by COPUOS at its 1983 session and would continue to contribute to the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

108. Mr. ABDEL-RAHMAN (Sudan) said that the statement made by his delegation in the general debate on agenda item 70 had not only not been properly reflected in press release GA/SPC/1713 of 7 November 1983 but had been totally distorted. He was aware that DPI press releases were not the official records of the Committee but were for the use of the information media. It was, of course, also important that material which formed the basis for items which might appear in the press should be accurate and properly translated. He appealed to the Chairman of the Committee to approach DPI with a view to having the statement in question appear in the other languages as it had appeared in the original Arabic.

109. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat had taken note of the statement of the representative of the Sudan and that action would be taken to correct the inaccuracies that had appeared in the press release.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.