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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN
THE AGENDA OF THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION

PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN
THE FIELD OF OUTER SPACE

Letter dated 2 September 1958 from the Permanent Representative
of the United States of America to the United Nations,
addressed to the Secretary-General

New York, 2 September 1958

Sir:

I have the honour to request the inclusion on the agenda of the thirteenth General Assembly of an item of an important and urgent character entitled, "Programme for international co-operation in the field of outer space".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure an explanatory memorandum is attached.

(Signed) Henry Cabot LODGE

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Perhaps no event in history has caught the imagination of all mankind more than the development of the new universal frontier through the launching of earth satellites by the Soviet Union and the United States as part of the programme for the International Geophysical Year.

The United States is pleased that these first steps to project man's life and knowledge into outer space have been taken under the auspices of this co-operative scientific programme.

Outer space developments are a matter of international concern, because the exploration and eventual exploitation of outer space will affect the life of every human being. Moreover, the nature and immensity of the challenge facing us and the interest it holds for scientists make it clear that activities in outer space can and must be carried out with the appropriate international co-operation and co-ordination within the framework of the United Nations.

It is clear that the potentialities for good or evil that will arise from the exploration of outer space are enormous. The potential uses of outer space for destructive purposes are only too apparent. On the other hand, the potential uses of outer space for peaceful purposes in science and engineering, in medicine, in meteorology, in communications, in transportation, etc., can enrich the lives of all men. Urgent steps are therefore needed to lay a solid basis for international co-operation in development of the peaceful uses of outer space. Such steps can be taken while parallel efforts are being made to conclude meaningful agreements on the disarmament aspects of outer space.

The General Assembly, as the body most representative of the interests of mankind, should begin to make the necessary steps to further those interests by declaring itself on the separability of the peaceful uses of outer space from disarmament; by giving its support to the principle of the peaceful utilization of outer space; by expressing itself in principle to be in favour of the establishment of appropriate international machinery; and by preparing for further careful consideration of this vital but complex matter through the establishment of a representative ad hoc committee to make the necessary detailed studies and recommendations as to what specific steps the Assembly might take

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to further man's progress in this field and to assure that outer space will be used solely for the benefit of all mankind.

To this end the United States requests that the item "Programme for international co-operation in the field of outer space" be placed upon the agenda of the thirteenth General Assembly as an important and urgent matter and will submit a draft resolution to the General Assembly for its consideration.
