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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. C. Torsten W. ORN (Sweden)

1. The item, "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space", was included by the Secretary-General in the provisional agenda of the twenty-second session (A/6680/Rev.1) on the basis of General Assembly resolution 2223 (XXI) of 19 December 1966.
2. At its 167th meeting, on 22 September 1967, the General Committee recommended the inclusion of the item in the agenda and its allocation to the First Committee (A/6840).
3. At its 1564th plenary meeting, on 23 September, the General Assembly approved the General Committee's recommendation and allocated the item to the First Committee for consideration and report (A/6850).
4. The First Committee considered the item at its 1497th-1502nd meetings, on 17, 19 and 20 October, and at its 1507th meeting, on 26 October.
5. On 24 October, a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.402) was submitted by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and was subsequently co-sponsored by Mexico, Morocco and Sierra Leone (A/C.1/L.402/Add.1). Italy subsequently requested that its name be added to the

list of sponsors (A/C.1/L.402/Add.2). Under the draft resolution, the General Assembly would: (1) endorse the recommendations and decisions contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; (2) call upon those countries which have not signed the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to accede to the Treaty so that it can have the broadest possible effect; (3) commend the space programmes in effect between many Member States and recommend such programmes to the attention of other States; (4) welcome the efforts of a number of Member States to keep the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space fully informed of their activities and note in particular the report presented by the Government of India entitled "Satellite communications: an Indian study" (A/AC.105/36); (5) approve the continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station and recommend that Member States give consideration to the use of these facilities for appropriate space research activities; (6) endorse the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to appoint a small group of scientists to visit the sounding rocket station near Mar del Plata, Argentina, when it is operative, to advise the Committee on the station's eligibility for United Nations sponsorship in accordance with the basic principles endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 1802 (XVII); (7) note with appreciation the report of the working group of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on navigation services satellite systems and endorse the suggestion that the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, as well as other specialized agencies and interested international governmental and non-governmental organizations, should continue to study the requirements for potential applications for navigation services satellite systems in their areas of competence and make their reports on this subject available to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; (8) express its appreciation of the work of the specialized agencies in the field of outer space, in particular the World Weather Watch Programme of the World Meteorological Organization and the progress made by the International Telecommunication Union in the study of technical assistance rendered by that agency during the planning and testing of the Experimental Satellite Communications Earth Station at Ahmedabad, India, and invite these organizations to make progress

reports to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1968; (9) request the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in the further progressive development of the law of outer space, to continue with a sense of urgency its work on the elaboration of an agreement on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space, and an agreement on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles, and to pursue actively its work on questions relative to the definition of outer space and the utilization of outer space and celestial bodies, including the various implications of space communications; (10) urge the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its activities aimed at increasing the exchange of information in outer space matters and call on all Member States to co-operate fully in this endeavour; (11) request the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to start at its next session the serious consideration of the suggestions and views regarding education and training in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space expressed in the General Assembly and in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; (12) urge the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to consider further the question of the applications of satellite technology which would create benefits for mankind from their implementation on an international basis; (13) request the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to study the technical feasibility of communications by direct broadcasts from satellites, as well as the implications of such developments; and (14) request the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work as set out in the resolution and in previous General Assembly resolutions and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.

6. On 24 October, a second draft resolution (A/C.1/L.403) was submitted by Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, India, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Poland, Sierra Leone, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia. Under the draft resolution, the General Assembly, recalling its decision to convene the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at Vienna from 14 to 27 August 1968, would: (1) express the hope that all those invited to the Conference under General Assembly resolution 2221 (XXI) will accept the invitation; (2) call upon all participating States to devote their utmost efforts to ensure the success of the Conference by the fullest possible achievement of its

objectives as set forth in resolution 2221 (XXI); and (3) request the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the panel of experts within its terms of reference, and in co-operation with the interested specialized agencies, to continue to make the necessary organizational and administrative arrangements for the Conference, within the ceiling of expenditure established for it, and to take appropriate steps to secure the widest publicity for the Conference.

7. At its 1507th meeting, on 26 October, the Committee unanimously adopted the two draft resolutions (A/C.1/L.402 and Add.1-2 and A/C.1/L.403) (see paragraph 8 below).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2222 (XXI) and 2223 (XXI) of 19 December 1966,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,^{1/}

Noting that the first decade of man's activities in outer space, inaugurated by the launching of the first artificial earth satellite, has opened up the prospect of wider utilization of outer space for the benefit of all peoples,

Welcoming the recent entry into force of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Considering that the exploration and use of outer space contribute to the acceleration of progress in many fields of science and technology having immediate practical significance for all countries,

^{1/} A/6804.

Reaffirming the general interest of mankind in the further exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Convinced that the widest possible co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space can be an important contributing factor to friendly relations among States,

1. Endorses the recommendations and decisions contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
2. Calls upon those countries which have not signed the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to accede to the Treaty so that it can have the broadest possible effect;
3. Commends the space programmes in effect between many Member States and recommends such programmes to the attention of other States;
4. Welcomes the efforts of a number of Member States to keep the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space fully informed of their activities and notes in particular the report presented by the Government of India entitled "Satellite communications: an Indian study";^{2/}
5. Approves the continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station and recommends that Member States give consideration to the use of these facilities for appropriate space research activities;
6. Endorses the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to appoint a small group of scientists to visit the sounding rocket station near Mar del Plata, Argentina, when it is operative, to advise the Committee on the station's eligibility for United Nations sponsorship in accordance with the basic principles endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 1802 (XVII) of 14 December 1962;
7. Notes with appreciation the report of the working group of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on navigation services satellite systems and endorses the suggestion that the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, as well as other specialized agencies and interested international governmental and non-governmental organizations, should continue to study the requirements for potential applications

for navigation services satellite systems in their areas of competence and make their reports on this subject available to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

8. Expresses its appreciation of the work of the specialized agencies in the field of outer space, in particular the World Weather Watch Programme of the World Meteorological Organization and the progress made by the International Telecommunication Union in the study of technical problems and the technical assistance rendered by that agency during the planning and testing of the Experimental Satellite Communications Earth Station at Ahmedabad, India, and invites these organizations to make progress reports to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1968;

9. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in the further progressive development of the law of outer space, to continue with a sense of urgency its work on the elaboration of an agreement on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space and an agreement on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles, and to pursue actively its work on questions relative to the definition of outer space and the utilization of outer space and celestial bodies, including the various implications of space communications;

10. Urges the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its activities aimed at increasing the exchange of information in matters relating to outer space and calls upon all Member States to co-operate fully in this endeavour;

11. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to start at its next session the serious consideration of the suggestions and views regarding education and training in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space expressed in the General Assembly and in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

12. Urges the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to consider further the question of the applications of satellite technology which would create benefits for mankind from their implementation on an international basis;

13. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to study the technical feasibility of communications by direct broadcasts from satellites and the current and foreseeable developments in this field, as well as the implications of such developments;

14. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work as set out in the present resolution and in previous General Assembly resolutions and to report to the Assembly at its twenty-third session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2221 (XXI) of 19 December 1966 and 2250 (S-V) of 23 May 1967, by which it was decided to hold a United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at Vienna from 14 to 27 August 1968,

Recalling further its endorsement of the objectives of the Conference, which shall be to examine the practical benefits of space programmes on the basis of scientific and technical achievements, and the opportunities available to non-space Powers for international co-operation in space activities, with special reference to the needs of the developing countries,

Reaffirming its belief that it is in the interest of all countries, and of the developing countries in particular, that knowledge and understanding of the achievements of space science and technology should be more widely disseminated and that the practical applications of space technology should be actively promoted,

Believing that the success of the Conference will best be ensured if there is effective participation therein,

Believing further that the widest possible participation in the Conference by the developing countries is highly desirable,

1. Expresses the hope, therefore, that all those invited to the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space under General Assembly resolution 2221 (XXI) will accept the invitation;

2. Calls upon all participating States to devote their utmost efforts to ensure the success of the Conference by the fullest possible achievement of its objectives as set forth in resolution 2221 (XXI);

3. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the panel of experts within its terms of reference and in co-operation with the interested specialized agencies, to continue to make the necessary organizational and administrative arrangements for the Conference, within the ceiling of expenditure established for it, and to take appropriate steps to secure the widest publicity for the Conference.
