

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to make a few comments about our programme of work with regard to the outer space items under consideration.

As members of the Committee are aware, our time-table provides for seven working days to be devoted to the consideration of these items. So far we have used up five days, including today. For tomorrow, Thursday, 19 October, we have scheduled two meetings, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, in order to be able to conclude the general debate. There are nine speakers on the list for tomorrow morning's meeting and also nine speakers on the list for tomorrow afternoon's meeting.

On Friday, 20 October, we shall have a morning meeting, and if necessary an afternoon meeting, in order to vote on the draft resolutions and amendments that are before the Committee and to hear any explanations of vote that members of the Committee may wish to make. Thus, we shall adhere to our time-table and complete the consideration of the outer space items by Friday, 20 October.

These are the proposals of the Chair, but I shall, of course, entertain and consider any views delegations may wish to express on these issues. It is my hope that at the end of our meeting tomorrow morning we shall be able to take final decisions in respect of these procedural issues.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

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FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 18 October 1972, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. RAMPHUL (Mauritius)
Rapporteur: Mr. SANTIS-GALVEZ (Guatemala)

- International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /28/ (continued)
- Preparation of an international treaty concerning the Moon: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /29/ (continued)
- Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting /37/ (continued)

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AS THIS RECORD WAS DISTRIBUTED ON 19 OCTOBER 1972, THE TIME-LIMIT FOR CORRECTIONS WILL BE 24 OCTOBER 1972.

The co-operation of delegations in strictly observing this time-limit would be greatly appreciated.

AGENDA ITEMS 28, 29 AND 37 (continued)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/C.1/L.600/Rev.1 and L.608)

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY CONCERNING THE MOON: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/C.1/L.608)

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING (A/C.1/L.605 and L.607)

The CHAIRMAN: The meetings of the First Committee are normally scheduled for 10.30 a.m. On an average, we have so far been starting our work at 10.45 a.m., because of the late-comers. Yesterday I made a special appeal for members to be here punctually at 10.30 a.m. today, in view of the great number of speakers inscribed on my list for this morning. I regret to note that my appeal was not heeded.

Before continuing with the general debate, I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to the revised text of draft resolution A/C.1/L.606, co-sponsored by Australia, Iceland, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States of America, which is contained in document A/C.1/L.606/Rev.1.

I also wish to draw the attention of Committee members to document A/C.1/L.608, which contains a draft resolution concerning items 28 and 29 and is co-sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, France, Iran, Italy, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish likewise to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that the amendments submitted by the representative of Saudi Arabia have now been distributed in document A/C.1/L.607.

Mr. NAKAGAWA (Japan): Mr. Chairman, since this is the first occasion on which the delegation of Japan has spoken in the First Committee, may I take this opportunity to extend to you our heartfelt congratulations on your unanimous election to the chairmanship of this important Committee. My congratulations go also to the other officers of the Committee, Ambassador Abdullah Bishara of Kuwait, Ambassador Ion Dăescu of Romania and Ambassador Gustavo Santiso-Gálvez of Guatemala. My delegation will co-operate fully with you, Sir, and with the other officers of the Committee in the fulfilment of the tasks assigned to us. I also wish to thank Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, for his untiring efforts.

We have witnessed during the past year most remarkable achievements in the field of space science and technology, realized mainly by the efforts of the two major space Powers. A mere glance at the crowded calendar of important space events tells us how rapid is the progress in space science and technology which opens up infinite possibilities for the future of mankind. My delegation particularly welcomes the trend towards closer co-operation between the United States and the Soviet Union in this field demonstrated so eloquently last May in the conclusion of an agreement on co-operation between the two countries. We earnestly hope that this trend will be further strengthened inasmuch as it serves the cause of world peace.

The space activities of my country have continued to make steady progress during the past year. Greatly encouraged by the success of two test satellites, Japan launched its first scientific satellite "Shinsei" at the end of September 1971, which was followed recently, on 19 August of this year, by the successful launching of another scientific satellite named "Denpa", Japan's No. 4 satellite. The primary objectives of both satellites are to carry out scientific observations in the ionosphere and magnetosphere.

(Mr. Nakagawa, Japan)

I should like to add that, as a part of our co-operation with the Global Atmospheric Research Programme (GARP), we are in the process of developing a geostationary meteorological satellite. The plan has already been cleared by the Space Activities Commission of Japan, the highest policy-making organ of my country in this field. My delegation believes that our progress in space science and technology, though still modest, will contribute to the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

I now turn to the report of the Outer Space Committee. Let me begin by commenting first on the part of the report dealing with the work of the Legal Sub-Committee. The work done by the Legal Sub-Committee in the field of further codification of space law could well be qualified as substantial. In fact, the Sub-Committee completed not only the first but also the second reading of the two draft treaties which were placed before it during its Geneva session.

With regard to the draft moon treaty, the texts of the preamble and 21 articles of the draft were approved in principle by the Legal Sub-Committee. However, as paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report clearly show, some of the important and substantive problems are still to be solved, despite the subsequent effort made informally during the September session of the Outer Space Committee. Let me therefore touch upon those pending points of substance and make clear where we stand.

The position of Japan with regard to the draft moon treaty is that it should be complementary to the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 in the sense that it would add specific provisions to be applied to the moon, but should by no means alter the basic principles of the latter Treaty. As to the question whether or not the draft treaty should cover celestial bodies other than the moon, it is still the feeling of my delegation that the real treaty should rather be focused on the moon and not extend its scope to the other celestial bodies.

On the question of draft article X, concerning natural resources, the delegation of Japan subscribes to the view that it is still too early to consider seriously the problem of sharing the benefits of the resources of the moon or other celestial bodies.

(Mr. Nakagawa, Japan)

The quality and quantity of the resources of the moon are still not clear to us and this, naturally, is even more true in the case of other celestial bodies. It is economically and technically very difficult to imagine how to exploit and utilize those unknown resources. To stipulate that the resources of the moon are a common heritage of mankind might be tantamount to introducing a new concept which goes beyond the scope of the basic Outer Space Treaty. My delegation is inclined to be cautious in the face of a new and not well-defined concept.

Japan favours in general the idea of advance notification of missions to the moon, and, in particular, we consider it important that advance notification be given as to the measures to be taken for the purpose of minimizing the disruption of the existing balance of the environment of the moon by such actions as the replacement of radioactive material.

My delegation sincerely hopes that the above-mentioned difficulties will be resolved at the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee in a spirit of mutual accommodation, and that the next session of the General Assembly will be in a position to commend a new treaty concerning the moon.

Other progress registered during the Geneva session of the Legal Sub-Committee concerned the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space, originally presented by the delegations of Canada and France. The Canadian-French initiative on this point is highly commendable, for, in the view of my delegation, the setting up of an international system of registration of objects launched into outer space has long been overdue.

(Mr. Nakagawa, Japan)

We favour the establishment of an international registration system. We believe that registration should be compulsory and that a standard norm for registration should be formulated; also a central register, accessible to all countries, should be opened in the United Nations. The international system of registration, however, should not constitute too heavy an economic or technological burden to the countries concerned, which could result in the slowing down of the over-all pace of space developments. The marking of space objects, for example, should be called for only in a reasonable manner, taking into account also the fact that marking techniques, which develop according to scientific and technical advances, differ in each country.

I now turn to the other part of the report of the Committee dealing with the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

It is indeed gratifying to note that continued progress has been achieved in the implementation of programmes of space applications through the United Nations. My delegation firmly believes that the United Nations, as a centre for co-ordination of international co-operation, has an important role to play, particularly in meeting the needs of developing countries in this field. My delegation wishes to express, therefore, its support for the recommendations contained in the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee relating to United Nations activities in space applications.

That does not mean, however, that we are entirely satisfied with the present status of the United Nations programme on space applications. We are of the view that the activities in this field should be further strengthened and that an adequate financial basis, as well as personnel, should be provided to the United Nations. This thinking of ours is shared by several other delegations in the Outer Space Committee, as is indicated in paragraph 24 of the report.

With regard to remote sensing of the earth by satellites, my delegation appreciates the results of the preparatory session of the Working Group, which was held in May, and hopes that, with more available data in hand, especially through the brilliant success of the United States ERTS-A experience, the Working Group will be in a better position next year to do its first substantial work in this field.

(Mr. Nakagawa, Japan)

Now I should like to turn to the important field of direct broadcast satellites. During the period of two years since the last session of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, new developments have been registered in various aspects of broadcasting by satellites, some of which are of direct relevance to the work of the Outer Space Committee.

As the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Outer Space Committee show, the draft declaration of guiding principles on the use of satellite broadcasting for the free flow of information, the spread of education and greater cultural exchange, prepared by UNESCO, and the draft international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting, submitted by the Soviet Union, could be taken as important material now made available concerning the subject-matter under the mandate of the Working Group on Direct Broadcasting. My delegation believes that these new developments substantiate sufficiently the argument that the Working Group should be reconvened next year, and we fully support the recommendation to that effect contained in paragraph 56 of the report.

In view of the complex character of the new Soviet proposal, especially when viewed from the angle of how to co-ordinate it with the fundamental principle of the free flow of ideas and information, my delegation feels that careful study of this matter by the Working Group is appropriate.

As to the UNESCO declaration, my delegation hopes that the current UNESCO General Conference will not adopt the declaration in final form, so that the United Nations and its Outer Space Committee, as central co-ordinator for international co-operation in the peaceful uses and exploration of outer space, could have further opportunity to make comments thereon.

Lastly, I should like to touch briefly upon draft resolution A/C.1/L.606/Rev.1, submitted by the delegation of the Philippines and several other delegations, including my own. As a country which knows too well the devastating effects of typhoons and storms, Japan fully endorses this timely initiative. The obtaining of basic meteorological data on an international scale and the discovery of ways and means to mitigate the catastrophic effects of storms will go a long way to alleviating the human suffering caused by such natural calamities.

(Mr. Nakagawa, Japan)

In this connexion, we regard the work of the WMO in the form of various action programmes, including the World Weather Watch and the new Tropical Cyclone Project, Plan of Action, as highly commendable. My delegation sincerely hopes that draft resolution A/C.1/L.606/Rev.1 will meet with the unanimous support of the Committee.

In concluding my remarks I should like to reaffirm that Japan attaches great importance to the whole field of the peaceful uses of outer space, and that it is our firm intention to do our utmost to contribute to further progress and to international co-operation in this field.

Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria): I am perfectly aware that Rule 112 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure prohibits the proffering of congratulations by delegations, but I can hardly conceal my satisfaction at seeing you, Mr. Chairman, leading our work in the First Committee and at seeing you assisted by such able colleagues in the persons of the two Vice-Chairmen and our Rapporteur. I therefore ask your indulgence if, despite Rule 112, I make these introductory remarks to you.

In the year under review impressive progress has been achieved in this current item of the exploration and use of outer space and many speakers, including the representative of Japan and representatives of other space countries, have pointed out that their particular countries have contributed to the achievement of that progress.

In this field of new and splendid achievements our attention is drawn not only to the striking successes of the major space Powers but also to the numerous achievements of other countries similarly engaged in space research and in the applications of space technology. This development shows clearly that although the principal space research and missions to other planets still seem to be the prerogative of the major space Powers, the manifold practical applications derived from space research are no longer the exclusive purview of only a few countries. And this, I submit, is

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Austria)

an encouraging sign, because these activities, by their very nature, are of relevance to all mankind and have already given rise to a growing interdependence; they will also in future require considerably intensified co-operation among States.

Co-operation at all political and practical levels, among nations and among people in different walks of life, is becoming increasingly necessary, and the developments in the space field are a very good example of that necessity.

The United Nations has not failed to recognize the important role which it can, and indeed must, play in this respect. The activities of the central body within the United Nations system for carrying out this responsibility -- the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space -- in the past year again attests to the increasing possibilities open to our world Organization in this field. However, I must say with some regret that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has so far been given only a more or less co-ordinating function and has not yet acquired the operational role which it could and perhaps should assume in certain instances.

(Mr. Janikowitsch, Austria)

I feel that the yearly discussion in the First Committee of the General Assembly of the items related to outer space affords, however, an excellent and most welcome opportunity to create the necessary awareness on the part of all Members of our world organization in order to mobilize the enormous potential which lies in the progressive development of international co-operation in the space field, particularly as regards the manifold practical applications of this new technology. Therefore the Committee will need the active interest and support of all Members of the United Nations in the years to come.

Turning now to the various parts of the work of the Committee, let me say first that in the legal field considerable progress was made with regard to the draft treaty concerning the moon. Although, in the light of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, the need for the conclusion of such a treaty has been questioned by a few delegations, there seems to have developed a growing awareness among members of the Outer Space Committee of the very valuable place such a treaty could take alongside the existing legal instruments in regard to outer space, especially if the provisions of the treaty are made applicable also to other celestial bodies, at least on a provisional basis. The few open questions are well known. Many delegations have indicated them, and my delegation has stated its position on them in detail in the Committee. Therefore I do not wish to repeat them here in the First Committee. What I should like to do -- as I have done previously in another capacity before this Committee -- is to reiterate the hope that the work on this treaty can be completed in the Legal Sub-Committee and that perhaps the next session of the General Assembly of the United Nations might be in a position to review the completed work of the Committee in this field.

The Austrian delegation also attaches great importance to the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space an instrument which we consider, as do many others, to be indispensable in any future application of the convention on liability. Although progress in the Committee on this draft has slower than on the draft moon treaty we also express our hope that the Committee may be able to submit both instruments to the General Assembly at an early date.

(Mr. Janikowitsch, Austria)

We are convinced that one aspect in particular of the Committee's work in the years to come will be of growing importance and should be given all our attention: the practical applications of space technology. My delegation has consistently advocated the expansion of the respective activities carried out mainly by the Expert on Space Applications and the Outer Space Affairs Division and has supported the allocation of more funds for the implementation of the various programmes. It is a matter of satisfaction to my delegation, and I believe to other delegations as well, that the new Expert on Space Applications of the United Nations has just taken up his duties. I wish to take this opportunity to welcome him to the United Nations and to the Outer Space Affairs Division and to say that we are looking forward very much to the continuance with him of the co-operation we had with his predecessor. I also wish to express the hope that those countries for whose benefit this kind of assistance is primarily intended will increasingly make use of the services the United Nations can provide in this respect.

For the first time the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has made some specific recommendations on its possible and desirable involvement in matters of the human environment. The potential of satellites and other special platforms in monitoring the human environment will undoubtedly be of great value for the future environmental programmes of the United Nations. It will therefore be necessary for the Outer Space Committee to establish the appropriate contacts with the proposed organization on the human environment, once it becomes a reality, and we feel it is also important that the terms of reference of that proposed new United Nations body express the desirability of consulting the Outer Space Committee in matters of the monitoring of the human environment and drawing on the Committee's experience and expertise.

In the field of remote sensing in general the successful ERTS-I experiment conducted by the United States will make it possible for the Working Group on Remote Sensing to start its substantive work next year in a meaningful way. The data derived from this experiment, as well as the comprehensive and, it is hoped, also analytical background paper which is to be prepared by the Secretary-General with the help of the task force on the knowledge previously available, will form a most appropriate basis for the beginning of the Committee's activities in this respect.

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Austria)

My delegation fully endorses -- and has done so from the beginning -- the decision of the Committee to reconvene the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites. The Swedish delegation should be commended for all the efforts and consistency which brought about this result, which, in the light of the developments since 1970, seems fully justified. I think the real value of the Working Group lies especially in its broad mandate, which makes an interdisciplinary approach to the problems possible. In assessing the substantial material that has become available over the past two years certainly the UNESCO draft declaration will also have to be considered a very important factor. As we know, the draft is now before the UNESCO General Conference and will come up for consideration in a few days. Like the representative of Japan, who has just spoken, my delegation also shares the opinion expressed in the Outer Space Committee that the Committee should be given an opportunity to make substantive comments on the declaration before it is finally adopted. Therefore we hope that the UNESCO General Conference will see fit to give us such an opportunity. The Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites will without doubt be well suited to make pertinent comments on the declaration.

In conclusion let me make a few general remarks on the initiative of the Soviet Union in presenting to the General Assembly the draft of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. This initiative, in the view of my delegation, certainly deserves most careful attention, and therefore we are in favour of submitting the draft convention to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for further consideration. I shall refrain, however, in the First Committee from going into the substance of the draft convention because the Outer Space Committee and its appropriate sub-bodies will afford us ample opportunity to do so; I should like rather to make an observation of a general nature. I think that everybody is perfectly aware of the great potentialities of direct television broadcasting by satellites for economic, social, cultural and educational purposes -- in short, for all aspects of national development and international co-operation. Therefore it seems wise to study the possibility of agreeing upon rules of conduct, which might

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Austria)

perhaps take the form of a convention or an instrument similar in effect, to ensure that the vast creative potential of such new techniques will become a unifying rather than a dividing factor in international life and international relations -- having regard, however, in working out such rules of conduct to principles of which we are all aware, including the principle of freedom of information and principles which other delegations have emphasized, such as the principle of sovereignty.

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Austria)

As far as the further procedure is concerned, we share the view of other delegations that the draft convention should be submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for further consideration. It seems quite clear that both the Legal Sub-Committee and the Working Group on direct Broadcast Satellites would become involved eventually in the study of this subject in one way or another. We think, nevertheless, that the General Assembly should direct its instructions to the Committee itself, and it would therefore be up to the Committee to allocate the subject in the best possible way to its sub-bodies. We would in this way recognize the co-ordinating and policy-oriented function which the parent Committee should exercise in relation to sub-bodies in all matters which are within its terms of reference.

Finally, I should like, on behalf of its co-sponsors, to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.608, to which the Chairman, referred at the beginning of this meeting. The draft is the result of informal consultations in which, in accordance with a well established tradition in this Committee, members of the Outer Space Committee were invited to participate. The draft covers the report of the Committee as well as item 29 on the draft moon treaty.

To be as comprehensive and as factual as possible, the draft necessarily had to go into some length, and I wish to apologize to delegations for this fact. The reason for this lies in the intention of the co-sponsors to bring not only to the attention of the General Assembly the most important recommendations and decisions of the Committee in a clear and pointed fashion, but, perhaps what is more important, also to seek, through this method of comprehensive presentation, the interest and support from all Member States and from the specialized agencies and other bodies within the United Nations system.

Referring briefly to the contents of the draft resolution, let me say that operative paragraphs 2 to 7 deal with legal matters of the Committee's work, including the state of affairs with respect to the draft instruments on the moon and on registration. Operative paragraphs 9 to 11 and 16 deal with the activities on practical applications of space technology and endorse the scheduled programmes for 1973 and 1974. Operative paragraphs 12 to 14 are the subject matter

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Austria)

of the Working Group on Remote Sensing. Operative paragraph 15 relates to space technology and the environment. Operative paragraph 18 notes the Committee's decision to reconvene the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites.

The remainder of the draft resolution deals with various subject matters and acknowledges in particular the valuable work carried out by the specialized agencies in the field of outer space.

I express the hope that this draft resolution will commend itself to all members of the First Committee and that it will be adopted unanimously.

In concluding my remarks, I also wish to thank all representatives who have spoken so far and who have addressed their kind words to the Chairman and other officers of the Outer Space Committee. I wish to assure them that their kind remarks will be a great encouragement for the Chairman, the members of the Bureau and the members of the Committee in their work over the next year.

Mr. PANT (India): Man has walked in outer space and will soon be even working in it. A moon mission is no longer the miracle that it was till a few years ago, and what is today a satellite may soon become a suburb. Mars and Mercury are no longer distant planets in an uncharted universe.

Man has long gazed into the skies with wonder and awe. Our ancients from Greece, Egypt, Arabia, China or India -- be they astronomers or astrologers, poets or philosophers -- sought to explore the mystery of the universe and comprehend its significance. Today, 20th century technology has come to hand as a most potent instrument in advancing our area of knowledge and understanding.

Outer space technology has been expanding much more rapidly than we had anticipated. The achievements of the space Powers in this field have been amazing and indeed more spectacular than in any other field of human enterprise. They have been true pioneers in widening our horizons and pushing the frontiers of knowledge to new limits and dimensions.

The world has often wondered, however, whether all this preoccupation with space made much sense when over two-thirds of its population still lived in intolerable poverty and disease and under-nutrition afflicted millions around the globe. The race into outer space seemed to many as an escape from, if not a betrayal of, priorities. One felt impelled to ask, in all good conscience,

(Mr. Jankowitsch, Austria)

whether all these billions of dollars expended in outer space should not have been put to better use to solve more urgent problems facing all of us on this earth.

The answer, to my mind, lies in the ever-widening scope of outer space technology and the tremendous potentialities for its use for the benefit of mankind. Whether it be satellite meteorology or communication or surveying or prospecting or, in the slightly longer term, utilization of the resources of the moon or other celestial bodies, the possibilities opening up for the future are almost unlimited. The problems of 20th century man are gigantic and we need to plan boldly and imaginatively in our efforts to tackle them. At the same time, the international community should endeavour to ensure that developments in outer space technology and its application are used only for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all mankind. The Outer Space Treaty embodies these principles and purposes. We need to remind ourselves of them from time to time.

India is a developing country. We have, however, long recognized that the war on want must be waged on all fronts and with all the instruments that science today can provide. Therefore, while striving for development using every conceivable conventional method, we have not hesitated to press into service the more sophisticated technologies of nuclear energy or outer space. We have now set up a separate Department of Space to look after Indian space activities. The complex of space research units at Thumba in the South of India have been named "Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre" in memory of the late Dr. Sarabhai who pioneered space research in our country.

(Mr. Pant, India)

I should like to mention very briefly the outer space activities being carried on in India. A number of rockets continue to be launched from the United Nations-sponsored Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station. Details of the launchings during the period January to June 1972 have been published in document A/AC.105/106 before the Committee. Apart from investigations of Equatorial F-region of the ionosphere, these have been designed to collect meteorological and hydrological data for various sophisticated experiments. Rockets provided by various countries have been used in these experiments. I am glad to acknowledge here the assistance and collaboration extended by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as well as France, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan.

Space meteorology is of particular interest to us as certain areas in the Indian subcontinent are liable to the ravages of cyclones and consequent tidal waves. We have been carrying out joint experiments with NASA of the United States in this field, and a major programme in rocket meteorology is being carried out in collaboration with the Soviet Union at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station. The use of satellite meteorology, especially the study of cloud formation and cloud pictures, is now part of a regular programme of the Indian Meteorological Department. A centre has recently been set up in New Delhi with a network of five out-station units for this purpose. This programme will greatly assist in giving warnings well in advance about the occurrence of severe tropical storms and enable adoption of timely protective measures to minimize destruction of life and property.

The Indian Space Research Organization has been conducting a number of other space experiments at different stations in India. These relate to the study of vertical distribution of ozone, the study of infra-red radiative fluxes in the atmosphere, surveys of ocean surface temperature, under-water topography of coastal belt, soil surveys, crop classification, plant diseases, etc.

(Mr. Pant, India)

India is also building up co-operation in this field with other developing countries. Training in satellite communication technology is being provided at the Experimental Satellite Communication Earth Station in Ahmedabad and six courses have so far been held. The seventh course is now in progress. A number of countries are making use of these facilities and the number of participants is steadily increasing. I may also mention that a panel meeting will be held on satellite instructional television systems during December of this year in India. We believe it would be of considerable interest to developing countries. The United Nations, UNLP, UNESCO and ITU are co-operating in this project.

Let me turn now to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Chairman, Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, and the Rapporteur, Mr. De Souza e Silva of Brazil, deserve our special thanks for the useful and interesting report submitted by the Committee. We are happy to note that the Legal Sub-Committee, in considering the draft treaty relating to the moon, made considerable progress by approving the texts of the preamble and 21 articles of the draft treaty, even though some provisions in the text are yet to be agreed upon.

We owe the initiative for action on the draft moon treaty to the USSR delegation which had introduced the draft at the 26th session of the General Assembly. The Delegation of Argentina made useful contributions by providing another draft agreement on principles governing activities in the use of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies.

Paragraph 17 of the report shows that the Committee, having noted the views of the members on the unresolved issues, was able to identify the points of disagreement on which further discussions are necessary. I should like to deal briefly with these main issues.

No agreement could be reached regarding the scope of the draft treaty -- whether it should apply to activities on the moon only or also to activities on the other celestial bodies. My delegation is of the firm view that the draft treaty on the moon should include within its scope other celestial

(Mr. Pant, India)

bodies also. Some delegations have suggested that we know so little about the other celestial bodies that the draft moon treaty cannot appropriately be applied to other celestial bodies. May I point out that in certain instances such decisions in principle can be taken even without knowing the full facts or with incomplete knowledge, and this is a case in point. I cannot think of any possible facts or knowledge relating to other celestial bodies emerging in the future which could warrant a basically different approach from the one envisaged in the draft moon treaty. The fundamental issue involved is the same in all these cases. We consider it advisable to make the draft moon treaty applicable to other celestial bodies until such time as additional exclusive treaties for these others are called for on the basis of further knowledge gained about them.

The legal régime over the natural resources of the moon is another significant point of disagreement. The question for consideration is whether the natural resources of the moon should form part of the common heritage of mankind. My delegation has been consistently of the view that the natural resources of the moon appertain to the common heritage of mankind and that they should not be monopolized by any Power now having the technical capability. This is a point of basic principle to which we attach considerable importance. It is by making a suitable provision for this purpose that we can remove the fears of those nations which do not have the technical capability of becoming space Powers. We can by such action ensure that, when it becomes technically feasible to exploit the natural resources of the moon, the benefits would be available to all countries without any restriction or reservation. Some delegations felt that it was still too early to think of the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon. This is, perhaps, so. But this should make it all the more easy to agree here and now to the principle of the natural resources of the moon being declared as the common heritage of mankind.

The third unresolved issue concerns the information to be furnished on space missions: whether the draft treaty should call on States to provide notification of the intention to launch a mission to a celestial body in

(Mr. Pant, India)

advance of launching. My delegation supports the view that information should be furnished on space missions to celestial bodies in advance of launching to the extent possible. We realize that there can be last minute changes in the plans of launchings owing to weather conditions or other unforeseen factors. It seems to us, however, that such exceptions could be taken care of without affecting the main provision that there should be advance intimation or notification about space missions to celestial bodies. This would also be helpful in the rescue of astronauts and in the recovery of objects launched into space following accidents.

We earnestly hope that differences on these points would be resolved early and that the Legal Sub-Committee would be able to complete its work on the draft treaty soon. We would also work for the early completion of the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space. We note the progress already made. The preamble and nine articles have been approved, although disagreement on some points persists. The draft convention is intimately connected with the Liability Convention which came into effect on 1 September 1972. Both the drafts relating to the moon as well as the registration of objects launched into outer space should, therefore, be given priority at the next session of the Sub-Committee.

The Committee has rightly welcomed the importance given by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to matters relating to practical applications of space technology. These practical applications are of great importance to the developing countries in the utilization of their natural resources, in carrying out various types of surveys, in improving their telecommunication systems and developing educational broadcasts, etc. Achieving similar objectives through conventional means would have taken a very long time and involved financial expenditure beyond the capacity of many developing countries.

In this connexion, my delegation notes with appreciation the efforts made by the United Nations Outer Space Affairs Division and the Expert on Space Applications for promoting international co-operation in outer space technology. Professor Ricciardi of Argentina deserves to be congratulated on the outstanding work he has done in developing the programmes and in establishing points of contact in developing countries. I have no doubt that this progress will be maintained under his successor, Dr. Murthy.

(Mr. Pant, India)

Space technology is of considerable importance to the highly industrialized countries, particularly for monitoring the environment; at the same time, space technology in the shape of remote sensing is of equal importance to the developing countries for the exploration of their natural resources, apart from its other uses. The Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS-I) launched by NASA in July 1972 is significant in this context. Applications of outer space technology can indeed benefit mankind as a whole if its use is directed to peaceful purposes only.

My delegation commends the plan of action prepared by the World Meteorological Organization for its tropical cyclone projects, contained in document A/AC.105/105, in order to find ways and means of minimizing the harmful effects of tropical storms. We fully support the recommendation that the General Assembly should bring the plan of action to the attention of Member States and invite them to co-operate to the fullest possible extent with the WMO. By that co-operation it would be possible, I am sure, to minimize the devastations which are caused periodically by tropical storms in many parts of the developing countries, including my own. My delegation fully supports the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.606, submitted by Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand on international action for the mitigation of the harmful effects of storms. We trust it will receive the unanimous acceptance of the Committee.

The use of outer space for direct television broadcasting through satellites is a matter of very great importance to the world community, and to the developing countries in particular. Undoubtedly, such broadcasts can make a positive contribution to the free flow of information, education of the masses, promotion of economic and social development and modernization of widely scattered communities.

In collaboration with NASA India is undertaking a great experiment. Television signals will be received directly from a satellite by community receivers in villages. The content and transmission of the programmes will be the exclusive responsibility of the Government of India. It is planned to cover several million people in about 5,000 villages by this programme.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Chairman of the delegation of India for his very constructive and informed, as well as informative, statement. The Chair is much honoured by the participation of the Minister, His Excellency Mr. K. C. Pant, in the work of our Main Political Committee.

I feel I ought to draw the attention of the delegation of India to document A/C.1/L.606/Rev.1, which contains the draft resolution A/C.1/L.606 and lists Mauritius as one of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. KLIMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): Speaking for the first time in the First Committee the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Bureau on your election to your important positions. We hope that under your guidance the First Committee will successfully discharge the tasks entrusted to it.

During the general debate at this twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly many delegations noted with great satisfaction the new trends obtaining in relations between States, meeting the wishes of peoples to live on earth in conditions of lasting peace and co-operation. Now there is every reason to declare that those trends are being strengthened and expanded. These new trends in international relations are the result of the sincere efforts of peace-loving peoples, aimed at ensuring lasting relations of good-neighbourliness among all States of the world. An example of such efforts to make for a sound international climate and create conditions for fundamental international co-operation is the item introduced by the Soviet Union on the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting (A/8771, A/C.1/L.605 and L.607).

Mr. Klimenko, Ukrainian SSR

Practical activities in the field of the conquest of outer space and the experience accumulated by States in the development of television broadcasting in the last twenty years clearly prove that the preparation and adoption of international principles governing the rights and obligations of States in carrying out direct television broadcasting with the use of artificial earth satellites is a most timely international question.

It has already been said in this Committee that as of this month fifteen years have elapsed since the Soviet Union launched the first artificial earth satellite, thus opening up the era of the conquest of space. In the past fifteen years Soviet science has added many pages to the history of the conquest of outer space, and an important contribution to the development of astronautic science has been made by Soviet-Ukrainian scientists and astronauts, scientific and industrial collectivities.

With each year an ever increasing number of countries is engaging in direct activities in the field of the conquest of space. My delegation considers it significant that the Soviet Union, which opened up the era of the conquest of space, should have taken the initiative of raising the question of creating a legal foundation for ensuring international co-operation in the field of direct television broadcasting through artificial earth satellites.

In recent times, in many countries of the world television has become one of the main mass-information media, and an even faster expansion of this most promising information medium is to be expected in future years. And that is not surprising, because of the most recent achievements in science and technology put at the service of television, including artificial earth satellites, which have made it possible in practice to establish direct television links between all parts of the globe. Therefore, outer space is used for television broadcasting, and that activity must be regulated by international law and must be carried out in the interests of all States. It is therefore extremely important for outer space to be used for the development of friendly relations among peoples and for disseminating truthful information in the interests of peace and international co-operation.

A good basis for the solution of this extremely important question is the draft convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. The objective of the draft

[Mr. Klimenko, Ukrainian SSR]

convention has been set forth most clearly in the accompanying memorandum of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Comrade Gromyko, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In the view of the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR, this draft establishes solid foundations in international law for the development of co-operation among States in the use of outer space in the interests of mankind. It concretizes and further develops already existing principles of space law. It is important to stress that this draft asks States to act in outer space in conformity with the generally recognized principles of international law, including the United Nations Charter, in the interests of peace, progress, the development of mutual understanding and the strengthening of friendly relations among all States and peoples.

Thus the fundamental and essential objective of the idea of working out an international convention on principles for direct television broadcasting is the creation of necessary conditions in international law for developing and expanding co-operation among States in the field of television.

Our country, as a participant in Intervision, has already acquired some positive experience of international co-operation in the field of television broadcasting. We are constantly showing programmes from many socialist countries, and as a result of mutual agreements we are setting up exchanges of television programmes with France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Canada.

We are in favour of a further expansion of international co-operation in this field. The use of artificial satellites in this connexion opens up new possibilities for the development of fruitful co-operation on the essential condition that it will be based on respect for principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual advantage.

Direct television broadcasting will redound to the benefit of mankind if it is also based on the reaffirmation of human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, on respect for the foundations of the local civilizations, cultures, ways of life, traditions and languages of States to which direct television programmes are beamed, and these lofty principles are enshrined in the draft convention before this Committee.

[Mr. Klimenko, Ukrainian SSR]

The space Treaty of 1967 clearly establishes that States have international responsibility for their national activities in outer space. It goes without saying that the convention must prohibit the use of objects launched into space orbit for activities which, according to the general view, harm international co-operation or incite hostility and hatred among States. From that point of view, what is very important is the principle contained in the draft convention according to which it is forbidden to use outer space for propaganda of war, militarism, nazism, national and racial hatred and enmity between peoples, as well as interference in the domestic affairs of other States.

The representatives of some Western countries speak of their fear that the adoption of the convention would lead to the restriction of freedom of information. It is quite obvious that in international relations there is freedom only when law and the rule of law prevail. If someone is in favour of freedom without any legal regulations, that is not freedom but rather the contrary-- anarchy and arbitrary measures taken by the stronger. In this case, what is being defended is not freedom of information but freedom of misinformation. It is quite clear that international disorder in this field would serve those who inspire or organize provocations and subversive campaigns. That is why the convention must prevent the use of television for the creation of centres of misinformation the prototypes of which may be Radio Liberty, Radio Free Europe, the Voice of Israel and some others sowing misinformation and slander. Quite clearly, programmes of a hostile or inciting nature are nothing but a form of subversive activity, a blatant violation of the principle of the peaceful coexistence of States.

Therefore, an acute need arises to prevent activities of this kind in the field of television through the use of outer space, and from this flows the urgent need to see to it that direct television broadcasting is carried on only with the express consent of the States concerned.

It is, in our view, extremely important that the draft convention should include a provision forbidding the use of outer space for broadcasts propagandizing violence, horrors, pornography, the use of drugs, etc. In some countries where television is most highly developed, programmes of this kind are a social calamity. They instil in their viewers, especially the young, bad tastes and habits and incite them to commit immoral acts and crimes. We can read a great deal about that in the Western press. And if, despite the almost unanimously negative approach of progressive public opinion in those countries toward such programmes, the television screens continue to show an uninterrupted torrent of murders, criminals and perverts, this is due to the fact that in those cases viewers are attracted to the television screens not for the purpose of imparting to them any useful information, but for the purpose of deriving profits -- and to that end all methods are good.

The draft convention proposes that the employment of direct television broadcasting for commercial purposes should come under the control of the States concerned. If commercial activities were to remain uncontrolled, direct television broadcasting through such satellites would be used in the interests of the monopolies of the developed countries to the prejudice of the interests of the middle-sized and smaller countries to which the broadcasts are beamed. We therefore are in favour of regulations for television broadcasting that would take into account the commercial interests of all States and that would first of all guarantee that no harm is done to the lawful interests of the peoples of the developing countries.

The delegations of developing countries that have already spoken here -- those of Iran, Kuwait, Iraq, Zaire, and India, the head of which spoke just before me, and others -- pointed to the timely nature of the Soviet Union's initiative and stressed the need to adopt a convention of governing principles that would guide States in the use of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. Therefore, we hope that the States involved --

and we are deeply convinced that this matter is of concern to all -- will make their contribution to the preparation of this instrument of international law.

The Ukrainian SSR supports the adoption of the draft resolution to submit the draft convention to the United Nations Outer Space Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee for final preparation.

In this connexion, we consider that the role of the Committee on Outer Space will further expand if it continues to devote most of its attention to preparing progressive principles of international law relating to the activities of States in outer space.

In our statement relating to this new item inscribed in the agenda of this session on the initiative of the Soviet Union, we strove to show that direct television broadcasting through the use of artificial earth satellites give rise to many urgent problems of international law. The proposed convention would serve to resolve those problems. But if we decide to agree with those who counsel us to abandon the idea of a convention, to hand over television broadcasting into other countries from outer space, surrendering it to arbitrariness and anarchy, a new and uncontrollable factor will arise that will inevitably lead to disputes and conflicts among States. It is for this reason we are convinced that the members of this Committee will duly consider the idea of adopting a convention that would lead to the establishment of normal international co-operation and that would prevent international piracy and activities based on a position of strength in the field of international television broadcasting. A profound study of the draft convention submitted to this Committee convinces us that it does not involve the creation of any limitations, as has been alleged by certain representatives; on the contrary, what it involves is the preparation of a legal foundation that would speed up the creation of an international television network, extremely necessary and most advantageous to all countries, large and small, developed and developing.

Mr. MEGUID (Egypt): I should like, first of all, to congratulate you warmly on your election as Chairman of this very important Committee. My congratulations are extended also to your colleagues, the two Vice-Chairmen, and to the Rapporteur.

A mere 15 years ago, man's venture into outer space took the world by surprise. With the launching of "Sputnik", the community of nations immediately understood the necessity for man's activity in outer space to be firmly anchored in sound legal foundations and marked by genuine international understanding and co-operation. Advanced and developing countries, working together in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, set out to establish progressively a legal régime that would avoid, on the one hand, a potentially dangerous competitive confrontation between those able to explore earth's surroundings and, on the other, the jeopardizing of the interests of those countries which are not as yet in a position to do so. A number of highly important international treaties were successfully concluded; others are in a fairly advanced stage of negotiation, while new drafts still to be discussed and elaborated are being introduced. In the technical field, the work of the Committee produced noteworthy results, especially where the practical applications of space technology for the benefit of the developing countries is concerned.

My delegation notes with satisfaction that substantial progress has been achieved on the draft treaty relating to the moon which was submitted by the Soviet Union at last year's session of the General Assembly. A number of major issues, however, still remain pending and further negotiations are necessary before an agreement concerning them can be reached.

One of the unresolved issues relates to the legal régime over the natural resources of the moon. Egypt believes that the provisions of the moon treaty should clearly state that those resources shall be the common heritage of all mankind. The inclusion of this basic and important principle in the moon treaty would respond to the deep concern of all the developing countries as well as to that of a number of developed countries. It would be an act of foresight on our part were we thus to pave the way for a future harmonious relationship among all countries on questions concerning the exploitation and utilization of the moon's resources. In addition to this, it is no less

important that the treaty provide for the moon's resources to be exploited by an international régime in which all countries, in particular developing countries, will participate. Of course, a separate convention that would deal in detail with such a régime will have to be negotiated at a subsequent stage.

(Mr. Abdel Meguid, Egypt)

Regarding the scope of the treaty, Egypt, though in favour of its being confined to the moon only, nevertheless sees merit in the suggestion that it be applied as well to other celestial bodies in the absence of specific treaties relating to them. Furthermore, we deem it important that information be furnished on all missions to the moon so as to avoid all dangers and risks and to established responsibility.

As regards the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space, the spirit of compromise shown by both the French and the Canadian delegations, which resulted in the merging of their respective drafts within a single draft convention, has facilitated the process of negotiations on this important matter. The registration system jointly proposed would greatly assist in identifying responsibility for eventual damage caused by objects launched into outer space. Once concluded, this convention would be complementary to the one on international liability which came into effect on 1 September 1972.

Both the moon treaty and the registration convention are thus in need of further elaboration and we support the recommendation of the Outer Space Committee that work be further pursued on them as a matter of priority. We feel confident that, with the necessary mutual understanding and conciliation that has traditionally marked the work in the Legal Sub-Committee, complete drafts could be presented to the next session of the General Assembly.

In the scientific and technical field the United Nations programme on space application and international co-operation in education and training meets with our particular appreciation since it is designed to benefit mainly the developing countries. Credit is due to Professor Ricciardi of Argentina for an outstanding contribution in setting up this programme. We hope that the programme will gradually increase in scope and activity as more and more countries become aware of its manifold advantages for their respective development plans.

(Mr. Meguid, Egypt)

The panels on space application organized by the United Nations are indeed of great benefit to developing countries. My delegation appreciates the initiative taken by the United Nations in convening certain panels on space application with the purpose of acquainting the developing countries with the benefits which could be derived from this new technology in the fields of economic, educational and other aspects of development.

The panel on remote sensing of earth resources held in Brazil, the panels which will be held in the coming three months in Mexico on space meteorology and in India on the use of space communications for mass education in areas such as modern agriculture, rural industries and family planning all provide useful schools for the technicians who come from the developing countries to attend these meetings and exchange their experiences and to benefit from the space experiments conducted in their respective countries.

The competent authorities in my country are following these panels with great interest and are considering the possibility of convening in our region a panel which could deal with a certain subject which would be useful to countries such as ours -- for instance, remote sensing of earth resources or environmental problems, which are creeping towards our part of the world.

Another aspect of the United Nations programme on space applications is the provision of fellowships by some countries. France, Italy, United Kingdom, Brazil, United States of America and Japan deserve our appreciation. The United Nations might think of some ways to give more publicity to these fellowships in order that the developing countries may avail themselves as much as possible of the opportunities available to them through these fellowships as well as the fellowships offered to them under bilateral agreements.

The successful launching of the ERTS-1 satellite by the United States has opened hitherto unknown possibilities in the field of remote sensing and should go far towards establishing the state of our environment and surveying the earth's resources. This is a significant technical achievement and we are looking forward to the assessment and recommendations of the Working Group on Remote Sensing in this respect.

(Mr. Meguid, Egypt)

Owing to the commendable initiative of the Soviet Union we have before us now a new item on the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. Direct transmission of television programmes, however remote it might appear at present, is a promising means of spreading knowledge, promoting education and cultural exchange, and providing entertainment. These, as well as many other beneficial features, should not blind us, however, to the possible harmful effects that direct broadcasting could have on far-away audiences markedly different in customs, traditions and outlook. Such transmissions would offer, furthermore, the temptation to spread highly subjective information and material which could, intentionally or unintentionally, cause political, economic and social unrest. Many countries would rightfully wish not to be exposed to such hazards. To our mind, there is no doubt that certain legal rules should be elaborated to prevent a great technical achievement from having such dangerous effects.

The Soviet proposal has already provoked a lively debate. A variety of interesting aspects of the issue emerged and many useful comments were offered. We favour the basic principle behind the Soviet proposal: namely, the prior consent of States to direct television broadcasting. We welcome the Soviet initiative, which takes into account considerations related to sovereignty as well as the aim of every country to preserve its culture and other related activities which are entitled to protection. We believe, however, that the scope of the draft convention should be wide enough to cover direct radio broadcasting as well, since this also could eventually be misused.

It might be useful to recall in this respect a proposal submitted by Egypt to the Legal Sub-Committee on 26 July 1966 concerning the addition of an article to the outer space treaty, which was then being negotiated. The gist of the proposal was that it recognized the enormous potentialities of space applications for communications purposes and more specifically for sound and television broadcasting. Egypt sought then to make use of such applications only in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly which condemn

(Mr. Meguid, Egypt)

the use of the information media for hostile propaganda and urge States to utilize them for promoting friendly relations among nations based upon the purposes and principles of the Charter. In particular, my country asked that direct broadcasting by artificial satellites, as regards both its technical and its programme content aspects, be regulated at the world level. We sought to ensure that communication satellites for direct broadcasting should not be used until such regulations were set up by the competent international organizations.

Six years have passed since we made that proposal and we deem it pertinent that the matter be taken up now before a sudden technological breakthrough catches us unawares and unprepared.

My delegation therefore believes that this important question should be entrusted to the Outer Space Committee. There is need to look in depth into the whole matter of direct television and sound broadcasting by artificial satellite. There is also need to compare and reconcile the matter with the pertinent work already undertaken in other forums.

I wish to conclude my statement by putting on record Egypt's appreciation of the laudable work done by the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, my friend Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, and by the Chairmen of the Legal and Scientific and Technical Sub-Committees. In no small measure have their consecration, their patience and their skill made possible our many achievements so far.

Mr. GRIGOROV (Bulgaria): Last Friday I stated the position of the Bulgarian delegation on item 37 of the agenda -- that is, the Soviet proposal concerning preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. I should now like to touch briefly on items 23 and 29.

Having participated in all the proceedings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its auxiliary bodies, the People's Republic of Bulgaria fully shares the conclusions and recommendations contained in documents A/3720, A/AC.105/101 and A/AC.105/102, which are now before the First Committee for its attention. These are the reports of the Outer Space Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee -- reports which so eloquently reflect the very fruitful work done by our Organization during the past year in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space.

Let me, on behalf of the Bulgarian delegation, congratulate Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, Chairman of the Committee on outer space, for the accurate and comprehensive documents that have been submitted to us. Our thanks and congratulations go also to the Chairman of the two Sub-Committees of the Outer Space Committee.

Most significant progress has been made in two priority issues: the draft treaty concerning the moon, and the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space.

With regard to the first, we have to recall General Assembly resolution 2779 (XXVI) of 1971, adopted on the initiative of the Soviet Union, which the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee acted upon. It was also able, within a short period of time, to reach agreement by consensus on the text of the preamble and 21 articles of a draft treaty concerning the moon.

The articles agreed upon cover such important matters as the renunciation of the threat or use of force on the moon and from the moon to the earth, the expansion of international co-operation on a bilateral and multilateral basis, as well as co-operation through international organizations, the adoption of

(Mr. Grigorov, Bulgaria)

measures to minimize the disruption of the existing balance of the environment, and the designation of areas having special scientific interest, etc. This is an encouraging achievement that proves, beyond any doubt, that any problem, no matter how complicated it is, can be speedily solved when the spirit of good will and understanding prevails, as was the case with the deliberations conducted this year in the Legal Sub-Committee. It is our hope that the same spirit will be present next year to ensure the success of the proceedings of that Committee so that it may complete its drafting of the remaining articles and submit the draft treaty concerning the moon to the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

One of the unresolved problems is whether the draft treaty provisions are to be valid for the moon only, or whether they should be extended to cover man's eventual activities on other celestial bodies as well. In my delegation's opinion the problem of the scope of the treaty is not an obstacle that cannot be overcome by co-ordinated efforts. In this respect it is worthwhile considering whether the idea contained in the footnote to the first paragraph of the draft preamble does not offer the correct solution. The footnote reads:

"The provisions of this Treaty shall apply to celestial bodies in addition to the Moon until such time as provision is made by other treaties in relation to specific celestial bodies." (A/AC.105/101, para. 21, footnote 4/)

Another problem not solved as yet is whether the draft treaty should contain a provision explicitly stating that the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies shall be considered the common heritage of all mankind. My country's position on this problem is laid down in working paper A/AC.105/C.2/LI, submitted by the Bulgarian delegation to the Legal Sub-Committee at its last session. We believe that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Sub-Committee could find most reasonable and realistic solutions to this problem, as they have done on many previous occasions, thus permitting speedy completion of the draft treaty.

(Mr. Grigorov, Bulgaria)

There is another area where the Legal Sub-Committee has scored a significant advance in the past year: that is the issue of the identification and registration of objects launched into outer space. This problem is becoming ever more important in view of the fact that the number of objects flying into orbit around the earth is increasing with every passing year. Although my Government continues to hold the view that the existing system of voluntary registration of such objects fully satisfies present-day requirements, the Bulgarian delegation is prepared to co-operate in the working out of a convention on that subject and to give due consideration to the draft submitted by France and Canada. It should be pointed out, however, that numerous points of a complicated technical nature contained in that draft require further careful study and comprehensive elaboration.

The problems I have dealt with do not exhaust all the components of what constitutes the wide area of activities of States in outer space, and do not cover all aspects of the complicated task of the United Nations in providing international regulation of the peaceful uses of outer space. On many of them, such as the scientific and technical aspects of international co-operation in outer space activities, the exchange of scientific information, programmes for education and training, the application of space technology, etc., we find very reasonable and appropriate recommendations in the reports under consideration.

As for the problems that are still pending, it is our earnest hope that the right solutions to them will be found through the concerted efforts of all Member States. In that way our Organization will further contribute to establishing a new branch of international law -- namely, the law of outer space -- thus promoting peaceful and fruitful co-operation among nations in this new area of man's activities.

Mr. BOATEN (Ghana): Mr. Chairman, this being the first time that my delegation has taken the floor under your chairmanship, kindly allow me to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by those representatives who have preceded me and to offer my warm congratulations to you upon your well-deserved election as Chairman of this Committee. My delegation had the good fortune to work with you as Vice-Chairman of the sea-bed Committee during the March 1971 session of that Committee in Geneva, and the successful outcome of our deliberations at that session was in no small measure due to your outstanding contribution. I am confident that with your wide experience in United Nations affairs you will be able to guide our deliberations to a successful conclusion.

Let me also extend my delegation's sincere congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen, Ambassador Bishara of Kuwait and Ambassador Datcu of Romania, as well as to the Rapporteur, Ambassador Santiso-Galvez of Guatemala, on their unanimous election. Mr. Chairman, the eminent qualities of these three gentlemen leave my delegation in no doubt that our work in this Committee this year, under your chairmanship, will be fruitful and constructive. My delegation pledges to you and to the members of the Bureau its full co-operation and support.

Although the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has not been able to present any new draft conventions for our consideration this year, a careful study of the report on the work of the Committee, contained in document A/8720, Supplement No. 20, reveals that 1972 has been another productive year, and the Committee has every reason to be proud of its accomplishments. We learn from the introductory statement of the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria, to whom much of the credit for the Committee's achievements this year is due, that the Legal Sub-Committee under the guidance of its able Chairman, Mr. Wyzner, made considerable progress in the two priority areas of its work, namely, the draft treaty concerning the moon and the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Carver, has also been actively concerned with the practical applications of space technology, particularly as they apply to the development of the poor countries, and the Sub-Committee has drawn up a concrete and impressive programme of work for next year. This record of achievement by the Committee over the past twelve

Mr. Roaten, Ghana

And yet it is equally true that this new method of television broadcasting by artificial earth satellites can also be used for purposes contrary to the principles of the Charter and the promotion of friendly relations among peoples and nations. That is why my delegation considers the Soviet proposal for the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting a timely and worthy initiative, which we believe is aimed at bringing order into the conduct of those programmes. We do not consider it premature. Indeed, my delegation supports the Soviet proposal in principle and would recommend that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space give it very careful consideration and submit its recommendations to the General Assembly as soon as practicable.

In supporting the Soviet proposal in principle, I wish to say that my delegation appreciates the problems which we may have to face in negotiating such a convention. We also appreciate that the draft convention submitted by the USSR and the draft resolution introducing it do not meet the interest of all member countries of this Committee. My delegation, however, believes that the fact that there are often these divergent views on international issues makes international negotiations imperative.

This Organization has passed through very difficult periods when the divergence of positions of Member countries of the Organization on international issues appeared irreconcilable. During those periods the international community negotiated with salutary results. My delegation notes with gratification the gradual thawing of international tensions all around us. This is what encourages my delegation to believe that the beginning of negotiations on an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting cannot fail to yield satisfactory results.

As my delegation has stressed on previous occasions, if United Nations efforts in promoting the application of space science and technology are to enable the developing countries in particular to derive benefits from such applications,

Mr. Roaten, Ghana

then the need for education in this field for scientists from developing countries cannot be overemphasized. My delegation attaches great importance to this matter of education and training, and it is for this reason that we should like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Governments of Brazil, France, India, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, which have in the past offered and have again renewed their offers of fellowships in various fields of space technology. We also welcome the invitation of the United States National Aeronautical and Space Administration to every Member State of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to send a science-oriented teenager to tour scientific facilities in the United States and to attend the December launching of Apollo 17 to the moon at Cape Kennedy.

In conclusion, I should like to commend the continuing United Nations efforts at ensuring that the benefits of practical applications of space science and technology are shared by the international community as a whole, and particularly the developing countries. These efforts are laudable and should be encouraged. My delegation fully supports them.

It is our firm conviction that for the developing countries of Africa in particular the potential economic advantages to be derived from the practical applications of space science in such fields as agriculture, cartography, forestry, hydrology, geology and mineral and marine resource surveys are indeed immense. We should all, therefore, fully co-operate and support these United Nations efforts to ensure their success.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.