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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Legal Sub-Committee

LETTER DATED 27 APRIL 1970 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE
ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE

I have the honour to transmit for your convenience a resumé of the results of the consultations and negotiations which took place in Geneva in April 1970 on the question of a draft Convention on Liability for Damage Caused by Objects Launched into Outer Space.

As you are aware, this resumé, which I read out to all participating members of the Committee on the last day of our informal discussions, met with no objections.

You may wish to consider the possibility of circulating this letter and the resumé as an official document to the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its next session.

(Signed) Heinrich HAYMERLE
Chairman
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Resumé

At the twelfth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which concluded on 5 December 1969, delegations reached agreement that "consultations and negotiations should be resumed early in 1970 to prepare the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee with a view to arriving as soon as possible at an agreement on a draft convention on liability for damage and that a special effort should be made by the Committee to complete the draft convention in time for submission to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session" (A/7621/Add.1, para. 8 (i)). At the 84th meeting of the Committee held on 23 January 1970, delegations agreed to undertake consultations and negotiations in the framework of the Committee in Geneva on 1 April 1970. These lasted until 10 April.

In convening the consultations and negotiations, the Chairman of the Committee drew the attention of delegations to the insistent wish of the General Assembly, recorded as recently as 16 December 1969 in operative paragraph 4 of Part B of resolution 2601 (XXIV), that the Committee should "complete the draft convention on liability in time for final consideration by the General Assembly during its twenty-fifth session". The Chairman strongly expressed the hope, in which all delegations joined him, that each participant would bend every effort to realize this goal.

An intensive exchange of views took place on the twin outstanding issues, settlement of claims and applicable law. A number of textual suggestions were put forward and discussed, some of which might be introduced at the session of the Legal Sub-Committee which is to meet from 8 June until 3 July.

No agreement on texts was reached. In concluding the consultations, the Chairman expressed the hope that every Government would give the most careful consideration to the various opinions and suggestions advanced during the past ten days, and that Governments would seek to issue instructions to their delegations to the forthcoming session of the Legal Sub-Committee that would make possible completion of the liability convention during the course of that session. If this were to result, the current round of consultations and negotiations would have proved their worth.
