

(Mr. Thacher, United States)

Secondly, I think there may have been a misunderstanding on my part, but I believe he was confusing the area of participation in these interim arrangements with the area of access. It is clear from the agreements themselves, which are the property of this Committee, as well as from the progress report which we submitted to this Committee and from the statement which Mr. Plimpton made at the opening of this session, that participation in these arrangements is open to all States members of the ITU and that whether or not a State is a participating member, access to the system is on a completely free and non-discriminatory basis to all States.

I can personally remember a conversation held I believe over a year ago which was one of several efforts on our part to inform the representatives of the Soviet Union of the progress that was then being made, with a view to interesting them sufficiently in those arrangements and inviting their participation. We had sought their participation in the launching of this system, and I regret that, as of the last conversation with them, the Soviet Union informed us that they were not prepared to participate. But many of the questions that were raised, I think, would have been quite satisfactorily answered if the Soviet Union had seen fit to participate. It is a matter of record that these arrangements are still open for participation.

I should point out that participation would be particularly welcomed in view of, among other things, the estimated \$200 million that it is going to cost for the operation of this system during the interim period alone. The fact is, of course, that those who are participating in these interim arrangements have agreed to share this cost, and it is a very significant one.

If there are other points that I have left unanswered, I would commend to his attention the documentation which we have submitted to this Committee. I believe I should close simply by stating that a number of other members of this Committee have expressed themselves on this matter and have not found it necessary to voice the same criticism which the Soviet Union has expressed.

The CHAIRMAN: I have no further speakers for this meeting. Tomorrow we shall consider parts I and II of the draft report of the Rapporteur. The last remaining item is the recommendation of our Committee to the General Assembly with regard to part G of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 6 November 1964, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. MATSCH

(Austria)

1. Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and reports of ITU and WMO (continued)
2. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

64-26807

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE (A/AC.105/20 and Add.1)
AND REPORTS OF ITU (A/AC.105/L.11) AND WMO (A/AC.105/L.10/Rev.1) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: I am happy to announce that as a result of the great efforts of our Rapporteur, agreement has finally been reached between the two major space Powers on a text to replace the Sub-Committee's recommendation -- that is, part G (A/AC.105/20, pages 7 and 8). I invite the Rapporteur to read out that text.

Mr. de CARVALHO SILOS (Brazil), Rapporteur: As Rapporteur of this Committee, I suggest the following text to replace part G of the recommendations in the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee:

"In view of resolution 1472 (XIV) of the General Assembly, the Committee decides to set up a working group composed of" --
the membership of the working group will be determined later on --

"to examine the desirability, organization and objectives of an international conference or meeting to be held in 1967 on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, as well as to make recommendations on the question relating to the participation in said meeting of the appropriate international organizations. The working group shall report to the Committee's next session."

The CHAIRMAN: If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the text just read out by the Rapporteur.

It was so decided.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I wish to confirm that your interpretation, Mr. Chairman, is the correct one. Since there have been no objections I merely wish to draw attention to the fact that there is an omission with regard to the membership of the working group concerned; and you have not mentioned anything at all about the way in which this gap is to be filled. It might be reasonable for the membership of the working group to reflect accurately that relationship in the representation of countries which, as you know, as a result of great effort and considerable work on the harmonizing of this question, has been attained. We have here a certain relationship of 8:8:12. Without postponing this matter to an indefinite future, perhaps we might decide that the membership of the group should accurately reflect this ratio or relationship.

It might perhaps be difficult to create a group with the plenary membership, although this would, of course, be the best way of solving the problem and safeguarding the interests of all the States represented here. If there is going to be a proposal to the effect that the working group should be composed of all the members now participating at this meeting, there will not be any objection to that as far as the Soviet delegation is concerned. If this were to meet with some objections, however, we would probably have to decrease the number of the membership but maintaining the proportional ratio that I have referred to. In this case we might perhaps consider a membership in the working group that would be of the order of 4:4:6.

In any event, I think this question should be disposed of before the termination of the session of the Committee because we might encounter serious difficulties later.

I am presenting these considerations, Mr. Chairman, for your analysis and that of my colleagues.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair had in mind first to finish the draft report which is to be submitted to the General Assembly, and then come back to the question of the number and composition of the working group. The Chair is in the hands of the Committee. If the Committee wishes, we can start now on the number and the composition of the States to be represented in the working group.

(The Chairman)

I interpret the silence of the Committee to mean that it is prepared to discuss now the number and then the countries to be represented. Does any member wish to take the floor?

Mr. CHAKRAVARTY (India): If I may make a suggestion, the Committee might decide to fix the number and then leave it to the discretion of the Chairman to select the membership, in consultation with the members of the group, rather than to proceed as if we are electing members in this Committee. I would suggest that probably the number fourteen, which is half the number of the present Committee, would be appropriate; and you can also keep the proportion the same as in the Committee itself.

Therefore, I would suggest that the Chairman be authorized to nominate members, not exceeding fourteen, to set up this working group.

The CHAIRMAN: The two suggestions made are more or less the same.

The representative of the USSR mentioned the ratio 4-6-4, and the representative of India has suggested that the membership of the Working Group not exceed 14, with the decision as to the countries to be represented being left to the Chairman. Are there any comments?

Mr. FRUTKIN (United States of America): We feel that both suggestions, that of the representative of the USSR and that of the representative of India, are reasonable in general approach. There is, however, a third approach, which is to allow any interested member to participate in the study. We should be reluctant to exclude any interested member from the study group, and we support the idea that, later this morning, the Chairman should consult with representatives to arrive at some agreeable resolution of the question of the composition of the study group.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have already indicated that an ideal composition of the working group would be one in which nobody would be excluded who also participates in the work of the Committee. But apparently this is a maximum proposal, and it does not seem to be supported here. That is why I am prepared to agree to what was suggested by the representative of India: that the membership of the group be fixed at 14 and that in it the proportions of the various groups as represented in the Committee be maintained, that is, that the group be created on the basis of 4-6-4, which is the basis that I had referred to earlier. I am prepared to associate myself with the proposal that subsequently the Chairman of the Committee, after consultation with delegations, might present a list of those countries which would make up the group of 14 that has been proposed by the representative of India. I should like to express the hope that, unlike those cases in which the composition of a group itself provides difficulty, the Chairman will be able to cope with this problem, on the understanding that the proposal made by the representative of the United States obliges the Chairman now only to bring about the necessary consultations so as to present, for the final decision of the Committee, a proposal on which he would have succeeded in bringing about agreement after consultation with the various delegations.

Mr. DOBELL (Canada): I confess to being a little bit confused. I understood the Soviet representative, when he first spoke, to be suggesting that the ideal composition would include all members of the Committee. He suggested as an alternative that half the membership of the Committee might be selected. Subsequently, I understood the United States representative to suggest that all members of the Committee might be free to attend an informal working group of the kind that was established by the Legal Sub-Committee, where all members of the Committee were invited to participate. It does seem to my delegation that, if it should prove difficult to make a selection, the alternative formula -- to create a working group open to all members of the Committee -- would perhaps make it a little easier to establish the group.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Perhaps we could combine these principles, in the following fashion: that the group would be formed as proposed by the representative of India, with a membership of 14, taking into account the principle that I had referred to, and that at the same time we would adopt the principle that any one of the remaining 14 delegations that might wish to participate in the work of the group would have the right to do so under the conditions established in the case of the group created by the Legal Sub-Committee. We would then have a firm basis of 14 members, on the understanding that any one of the other delegations might be represented if it so wished.

The CHAIRMAN: If no other representative wishes to take the floor, the Chair will assume that he is entitled first to find out which members of this Committee are interested in belonging to the working group. I have already had indications that not all members are interested. I shall try to keep the total membership within the figure of 14 suggested by the representative of India, and then I will report to the Committee. If there are more than 14, the Committee will have to take a decision on whether those who want to participate can be in the working group. Is that agreeable to the Committee? Since I hear no objection, it is so decided.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The CHAIRMAN: Committee members are invited to consider Conference Room Paper No. 1, which has been distributed. There is one correction to be made after the heading: "Draft Report of the Committee on the Work of Its Sixth Session". Before paragraph 1, there should be a sub-heading: "I. Introduction". Then, near the bottom of page 2, there should be the figure "II" before the words: "Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and reports prepared by ITU and WMO", since that is a sub-chapter. Those two corrections having been brought to the attention of the Committee, the Chair now invites members to comment on this paper.

Mr. COOK (Australia): Is it correct that the only change is to put the symbol "II" before "Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee ..."? For one thing, paragraphs 8 and 9 should be renumbered.

The CHAIRMAN: In that case, if we start including symbols, we also have to indicate symbols for the reports of the ITU and the WMO. The end of paragraph 8 could read as follows:

"The report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee was circulated as document A/AC.105/20/Add.1. The reports prepared by the ITU and the WMO were circulated as documents A/AC.105/L.11 and L.10/Rev.1."

If I hear no objections, I will take it that this corresponds with the intentions of the Australian delegation.

Then the end of paragraph 9 would read as follows:

"The recommendations approved by the Committee after its consideration of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the reports prepared by ITU and WMO appear below in paragraph"

The number of the paragraph will be inserted later.

Mr. COOK (Australia): It is a small point, but it seems to the delegation of Australia that the narrative sections are of some importance. The recommendations are of course the most important, but the narrative sections do have value and I think it would be a pity if we were to draw attention in this paragraph only to the recommendations. Would it be possible, therefore, to leave paragraph 9 exactly as it is, with the sole change of deleting the word "recommendations" at the very end. The paragraph would then read:

"Following its consideration of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the reports prepared by ITU and WMO, the Committee approved the following:"

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of Australia has suggested the deletion of the last word in paragraph 9, namely the word "recommendations". I take it that this deletion is agreeable to the Committee.

We shall now pass to the consideration of Conference Room Paper No. 2. Are there any comments with regard to paragraphs 1 to 4?

Mr. DOBELL (Canada): Yesterday there was a useful suggestion from the representative of Australia that we should refer in the text of Conference Room Paper No. 1 to certain documents. This has now appeared in paragraph 8 of Conference Room Paper No. 1. I am always troubled in a document of this kind by foot-notes and I was wondering whether it might not be tidier to take the foot-note which appears at the bottom of paragraph 2 and incorporate it as the last sentence of paragraph 2.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has heard the comments of the representative of Canada to the effect that the last sentence of paragraph 2 should be the foot-note which now appears at the end of page 2. It appears to be only a drafting change and I see no opposition to such a change.

Mr. COOK (Australia): I think that is a useful suggestion. I wonder if we could supplement it by recording the factual situation that these documents were considered by the Committee at the present session.

The CHAIRMAN: Then after "L.14" the following words would be added: "These documents were considered by the Committee". Is that satisfactory to the representative of Australia?

Mr. COOK (Australia): Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider the recommendations appearing in sections A, B, C, D and E of paragraph 4. This is exactly what was approved in yesterday's discussion. Under section G the text agreed upon at the beginning of our meeting will be inserted.

We shall now consider paragraphs 5 through 11. There appear to be no comments.

As regards paragraph 12, I would like to make a slight suggestion. Section C, entitled "Navigation Satellites", was not approved yesterday. So instead of a separate section C entitled "Navigation Satellites", it would be

(The Chairman)

included under the heading "Encouragement of International Programmes" and would appear in section B as paragraph (h). Is this agreeable to the Committee?

There appear to be no objections.

We shall now pass to the consideration of paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 and there appear to be no comments. With regard to paragraph 16, it is the exact text approved by the Committee on the suggestion of the Sub-Committee.

There appear to be no observations with regard to paragraphs 17, 18, 19 and 20. Paragraph 21 contains the additions proposed by the representative of Brazil, which have been approved.

(The Chairman)

We now turn to paragraphs 21 and 22 and, on page 14, paragraphs 23, 24 and 25. Is there any comment? There is no comment. In the last paragraph, paragraph 26, there is a change which was approved two days ago.

Miss AGUIPRE (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): In paragraph 26, sub-paragraph (3), there is a problem with regard to the translation into Spanish. This does not affect the English version, and I would ask the Secretariat to make this correction and find the right formula to bring it into line with the English version.

The CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat will take note of the comments which have just been made by the representative of Mexico, and will make the necessary language changes.

There is a typographical error in paragraph 26 on page 15, the second line of which should read "Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee" and not "Sub-Committee".

The Committee has now before it the revised Conference Room Paper No. 3, with the changes made yesterday afternoon.

Mr. DOBELL (Canada): I raised this point yesterday, and I am merely asking for a comment from our Rapporteur. Should we refer in paragraph 3 to "draft agreements on liability", or is it a draft agreement?

The CHAIRMAN: I am informed by the Secretariat that the plural was used in the report of the Legal Sub-Committee. Is that acceptable to the Canadian representative?

Mr. DOBELL (Canada): Yes, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further comments? If not, the Chair will consider the draft report of our Rapporteur agreed to, with the exception of the number and the countries to be included in paragraph (g). If this is agreeable to the members, the meeting will be suspended for twenty minutes or half an hour in order to try to find a solution for the two issues, the number of the countries which are interested and the countries to be approved by the Committee. We shall try to reach an agreement during the time the meeting is suspended, and if I hear no objection, the meeting is suspended.

The meeting was suspended at 11.55 a.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: In view of the fact that there are more members interested in participating in this Working Group than the number of fourteen and after consultations, the Chair would suggest that instead of fixing a limited number and indicating the countries of the Working Group, the text should include a provision setting up a working group composed of interested members of the Committee. Those members who are interested will appear at the meeting of the Working Group and the members who are not interested will not appear because it is nearly impossible to fix now the ceiling on the number and also on the countries because two members cannot be reached and we have to consult all the members.

Mr. CHAKRAVARTY (India): Mr. Chairman, I agree with the substance of what you have said, but I would put it in a different way because if you say only those who are interested in it, the members themselves would not know whether they are expected to attend the meeting or not. I would therefore formally suggest that the Working Group be composed of the same countries that are represented on this Committee, and those who do not wish to attend are at liberty not to attend. So that any meetings or circulation of that should be automatically addressed to the Member States of this Committee, and it is up to that country to attend or not to attend.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has heard the alternative version of the Indian representative.

Mr. BLAGONRAVOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I think that the proposal of the representative of India deserves every attention and I fully support it.

Mr. DELEAU (France) (interpretation from French): May I say that my delegation fully supports the proposal made by the representative of India, which seems to us the best fitted to the situation we are faced with and the most acceptable.

The CHAIRMAN: Then there will be inserted in the text on which we have agreed upon this morning a provision setting up a working group composed of the same countries which are members of the Committee. If I hear no objections, the Chair will take it that the Committee agrees to this formulation. Nobody seems to object. Therefore, the suggestion of the representative of India is approved.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: This concludes the session of our Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.