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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWELFTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 15 June 1962, at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. LACHS (Poland)

Secretary:

Mr. SCHACHTER

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Consideration of legal problems arising from the exploration  
and use of outer space (item 3 of the agenda) (continued)

Draft proposals by the USSR, the United States of America  
and India (continued).

CONSIDERATION OF LEGAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE  
(item 3 of the agenda) (continued)

Draft proposals by the USSR, the United States of America and India  
(A/AC.105/C.2/L.1, L.2, L.3, L.4 and L.5) (continued)

Mr. FASSI-FIHRI (Morocco) said that some of the legal aspects of the exploration and use of outer space were intimately linked to the problem of disarmament and therefore tended to give rise to the customary division of views in accordance with the attitudes of the two Power blocs. It was the more remarkable that all the statements made in the Sub-Committee had emphasized international co-operation, and he hoped that the auspicious atmosphere of the Sub-Committee's first session would be matched by a successful continuance of its work.

The countries of Africa and Asia, most of which had not fully shared in the benefits of the great scientific and technical revolution of the past century, were firmly resolved to play their part, from the very outset, in the new scientific developments, which seemed likely to bear even greater fruit. Morocco would support any effort tending to promote international co-operation, more particularly in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. Only the countries known for their policy of non-alignment could successfully play the part of mediator.

The Soviet Union had submitted a draft declaration of basic principles (A/AC.105/C.2/L.1) and the United States proposals on assistance to space vehicles and personnel (A/AC.105/C.2/L.3) and on liability for space vehicle accidents (A/AC.105/C.2/L.4). In submitting their proposals, both countries had undoubtedly had their national interests in mind, but he ventured to reaffirm that it was the paramount duty of all to place their knowledge at the service of mankind and to ensure that outer space would not one day become the scene of conflict. Research should be governed by a spirit of collaboration and should serve purely scientific purposes. Since rules had to be evolved on which space law would eventually be based, his delegation welcomed the proposals for the further study of the principles which should govern the activity of States in the exploration and use of outer space. His delegation accordingly supported the proposals submitted by the Indian delegation (A/AC.105/C.2/L.5).

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.