Chapter II

Peaceful uses of outer space

An Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies was opened for signature in December 1979 following its endorsement by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (Outer Space Committee) and the General Assembly. The 21-article Agreement, which provided for the future establishment of an international regime for the exploitation of the moon's resources, was largely drawn up in the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee.

During the year, the Legal Sub-Committee also continued its efforts to reach agreement on principles to govern the legal implications of remote sensing from space of the earth's environment and resources, as well as the use of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasts receivable in homes and institutions. The Scientific and

Technical Sub-Committee gave priority to remote sensing, the United Nations programme on space applications, co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system, and space transportation systems.

Plans were drawn up by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Outer Space Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Assembly decided that this Conference should be held in the latter half of 1982.

The Outer Space Committee held its twenty-second session at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 18 June to 3 July, preceded by sessions of its two sub-committees. Its report was examined by the General Assembly, mainly in the Special Political Committee. On 5 December, the Assembly, on the recommendation of that Committee, adopted three resolutions on outer space,

By resolution 34/66, on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, the Assembly endorsed recommendations by the Outer Space Committee concerning future work by the United Nations in this sphere. In addition to approving plans for United Nations activities relating to outer space as summarized elsewhere in this chapter, the Assembly approved continued United Nations sponsorship of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India and the CELPA (Centro Experimental para el Lanzamiento de Proyectiles Autopropulsados) Mar del Plata Station in Argentina, requested the World Meteorological Organization to continue submitting annual status reports on its tropical cyclone project, and requested the Outer Space Committee to consider, as appropriate, new space-activities projects and report to the Assembly in 1980 with its views on which projects should be studied in the future. Resolution 34/66 was sponsored by 40 States (see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below) and adopted without a vote.

By resolution 34/67, the Assembly approved preparatory arrangements for the 1982 Outer Space Conference. By resolution 34/68, it commended to States the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

United Nations Member States launching objects into earth orbit or farther into space continued to supply information to the United Nations on such launchings.

Details of these and other topics are given below.

Legal aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space

Work on the draft Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies was concluded in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Sub-Committee during the year, before the text was submitted to the General Assembly for endorsement. The Committee and the Sub-Committee also continued work on two other priority items: legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles; and the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. In addition, the two bodies considered two other matters: the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit; and the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

The Legal Sub-Committee held its eighteenth session from 12 March to 6 April 1979 at United Nations Headquarters, New York. Its report was considered by its parent Committee at its June/July session.

After reviewing the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, the General Assembly, by resolution 34/66 of 5 December, endorsed the Committee's recommendation that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue work on these topics in 1980 and include in its agenda a separate item on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

The 21-article Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies was drawn up in eight years of work by the Outer Space Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee, commencing in 1972.[1] It was the fifth international instrument on outer space drawn up under the auspices of the Committee and commended to States by the General Assembly (for list, see p. 110).

Presenting the draft Agreement to the Assembly's Special Political Committee on 29 October, the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee stated that it had not been finalized sooner because of differences over the legal regime to govern the moon's resources. The Agreement, he said, provided for the establishment of an international régime for the exploitation of those

[1] See Y.U.N., 1972, p. 40.

resources — which were regarded as the common heritage of mankind-as such exploitation was about to become feasible (article 11). It established the principle that the exploration and use of the moon was the province of all mankind and was to be carried out for the benefit of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development (article 4). In addition, it established the principle that the moon was to be used by all States for peaceful purposes only, prohibiting the establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications, the testing of any type of weapon and the conduct of military manoeuvres on the moon, as well as any threat or use of force or any other hostile act or threat of hostile act there (article 3). Its provisions would also apply to celestial bodies in the solar system other than the earth (article 1).

The Agreement contained a number of detailed provisions relating to exploration and exploitation of the moon. Freedom of scientific investigation was recognized, together with the right to remove samples (article 6). Personnel, space vehicles and installations could be moved freely over or below the moon's surface (article 8); they would remain under the jurisdiction and control of the State sending them (article 12). Manned and unmanned stations could be established there, as long as access by others was not impeded (article 9). States parties were enjoined to adopt all practicable measures to safeguard the life and health of persons on the moon (article 10), and those learning of a lunar accident involving an object launched by another State would have to inform the Secretary-General and the launching State promptly (article 13). States would bear international responsibility for national activities on the moon (article 14).

Each State would be entitled to assure itself, through visits to installations, that the lunar activities of other States were compatible with the Agreement (article 15).

Provision was made in articles 17 and 18 for amendment and future review of the Agreement, including the possibility of convening a review conference with the concurrence of a majority of States parties.

The Agreement was annexed to Assembly resolution 34/68 of 5 December 1979. By that resolution, adopted without vote, the Assembly commended the Agreement, requested the Secretary-General to open it for signature and ratification at the earliest possible date, and expressed hope for the widest possible adherence to it. The Agreement was opened for signature on 18 December 1979. It was to enter into force 30 days after ratification by five States (article 19).

The resolution was recommended to the Assembly by the Special Political Committee, which had approved it by consensus on 2 November. It was sponsored in Committee by 38 States (see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below).

The initial consensus on the draft Agreement was reached in July, in an informal working group set up by the Outer Space Committee, on the basis of a text submitted in April by the Legal Sub-Committee. That earlier text, prepared in Working Group I of the Sub-Committee, contained a number of passages on which full agreement had not been reached. The Working Group based its discussions on a tentative draft agreement submitted to the Group by Austria in 1978,[2] which it reviewed article by article. The Chairman of the Working Group reported the results of this review to the Sub-Committee in the form of a working paper containing the text.

During the general exchange of views in the Legal Sub-Committee preceding the Working Group's meetings, some States, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Romania and Venezuela, expressed the view that the moon and its natural resources were the common heritage of mankind. Others, such as Bulgaria and the German Democratic Republic, were of the opinion that there were objective difficulties in defining the legal status of the moon and its resources. Belgium stated that, in its view, the notion of common heritage as applied to the moon's resources had no precise juridical significance but was a moral and political concept without the juridical connotation that was being ascribed to it. Austria expressed the view that the differences of opinion could be resolved through a compromise. Some representatives, including those of Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States, were prepared to accept the tentative draft agreement as elaborated by Austria or with minor changes.

After the Chairman of Working Group I, Gyorgy Haraszti (Hungary), reported on the work done in attempting to complete the elaboration of the text, the Sub-Committee recommended that the Outer Space Committee, when considering at its 1979 session the question of the draft treaty relating to the moon, should also consider whether the elaboration of a draft treaty could be concluded or progress achieved during that session.

At its June/July session, the Committee established an informal working group of the whole under the chairmanship of Gyula Szelei Kiss (Hungary) to consider the question. The working

[2] See Y.U.N., 1978, p.133.

group held four meetings between 26 June and 3 July, at which it reached a consensus on the text.

The main outstanding issue was resolved in informal consultations among Committee members on article 11, which referred to the "common heritage" principle. The first paragraph of that article as ultimately worded read: "The moon and its natural resources are the common heritage of mankind, which finds its expression in the provisions of this Agreement, in particular in paragraph 5 of this article." Paragraph 5 said that the States parties to the Agreement undertook to establish an international regime, including appropriate procedures, to govern the exploitation of the moon's resources as such exploitation was about to become feasible.

The Committee agreed to include in its report a statement reflecting its understanding that the common heritage principle would also apply to celestial bodies in the solar system other than the earth.

It also reached agreement on an understanding relating to the provision in article 7 calling for measures to prevent disruption of the existing balance of the moon's environment. According to that understanding, the article was not intended to result in prohibiting exploitation of the natural resources on the moon and other celestial bodies; it meant, rather, that exploitation would be carried out in such a manner as to minimize any disruption or adverse effects on the existing environmental balance.

When the Special Political Committee discussed the report of the Outer Space Committee, most speakers welcomed the draft Agreement as an important contribution to international law. They stressed its recognition of the common heritage principle and its reservation of celestial bodies for peaceful purposes. The United States said the Agreement placed no moratorium on exploitation of the resources of such bodies and recognized that, in the sharing of benefits from such activities, special consideration must be given to those who had contributed directly to lunar exploration. The United Kingdom said it had agreed to the prohibition of "any other hostile act or threat of hostile act" on the understanding that it related only to the moon and other celestial bodies, and not to the earth.

In the view of the German Democratic Republic, it was vital for peace and detente that the Agreement confirmed the demilitarized status of the moon and other celestial bodies and forbad the placing of nuclear weapons in orbit around such bodies. The USSR described the draft as a balanced document which met the needs of all countries, irrespective of their level of economic development and degree of participation in space activities.

Direct television broadcasting by satellite

The Chairman of the Outer Space Committee informed the Special Political Committee on 29 October 1979 that a draft set of principles had been worked out to govern the use by States of artificial satellites for television broadcasting direct to the public, but no final agreement had been possible. The main point of contention, he said, lay in differences with regard to freedom of information and the sovereignty of States.

Work on this topic continued in Working Group II of the Legal Sub-Committee, re-established on 12 March for this purpose. The Group held 12 meetings between 19 March and 5 April.

At previous sessions, the Group had prepared a set of draft principles with tentative wording for provisions on which there had been no agreement. During the 1979 session, Canada and Sweden presented a new draft which, they said, had been prepared with a view to facilitating consensus and which they regarded as an acceptable basis for a final compromise. The Chairman of Working Group II, Nabil A. Elaraby (Egypt), reported to the Sub-Committee at the close of the Group's meetings that, while some States regarded the Canadian-Swedish text as representing a fair balance of the different points of view, others considered that some aspects were unacceptable.

A key question was the extent to which a State setting up a direct television broadcasting service aimed at another State should first be required to consult and reach agreement with the receiving State. In addition to the provision on this subject in the Canadian-Swedish draft, Belgium and the United States submitted separate working papers containing proposals for a text to replace earlier formulations on this subject. The Belgian draft provided that States could agree to lend each other, or to pool, direct television broadcasting facilities for the purpose of exchanging programmes for broadcast to the public in their respective countries. The United States draft called for notification by a State whenever it proposed to establish or authorize satellite broadcasts specifically aimed at a foreign State, and for consultations at the receiving State's request, premised on facilitating a free flow and a wider dissemination of information. The corresponding provision in the Canadian-Swedish text stated that a direct television broadcasting service specifically directed at a foreign State must be based on agreements and/or arrangements between the broadcasting and receiving States or their broadcasting entities, in order to facilitate the freer and wider dissemination of information.

The Netherlands submitted a working paper

on the principle of State responsibility for direct television broadcasts. It said that States should bear international responsibility, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law, for the activities in the field of international direct television broadcasting by means of artificial earth satellites carried out by them or under their jurisdiction, and for the conformity of any such activities with the principles set forth in the working paper. Differing views were expressed on the matter, and the Working Group did not reach agreement on the text of the principle.

In the general exchange of views in the Sub-Committee, some States contended, as they had in the Working Group, that satellite broadcasts should not be permitted except with the consent of the receiving country, on the basis of respect for sovereignty and non-intervention in internal affairs. This view was stated by Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Turkey and the USSR, which considered that the principle of consultation and agreements between States, as stated by Canada and Sweden in their compromise proposals, was indispensable. Other countries — the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the United States— considered that free flow of information and exchange of ideas should be at the basis of direct broadcasting by satellite and that holding consultations between interested States would be sufficient. Belgium expressed the view that the problems caused by direct broadcasting should be solved not by restrictions but by a positive and responsible exercise of the freedom of information. France called for a compromise between the different positions.

Following its general exchange of views, the Sub-Committee discussed direct satellite-broadcasting while the topic was still under examination in Working Group II. Support for the Canadian-Swedish text, at least as a basis for further work, was voiced by France, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Indonesia, Mongolia and Poland.

The Sub-Committee recommended that its parent Committee, when considering this topic at its 1979 session, should also consider whether the elaboration of draft principles on the subject could be concluded, or whether further progress could be achieved, during that session. The Outer Space Committee, at its June/July session, recommended that the Legal Sub-Committee continue, as a matter of priority, the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, in accordance with previous General Assembly resolutions.

The question of the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting was discussed at the 1979 regular session of the Assembly in the Special Political Committee, simultaneously with the item on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Some Members stated that legal protection of the sovereign rights and cultural heritage of States should be secured through prior consultations or consent or on the basis of mutual agreement. This point was made by Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, the German Democratic Republic, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, the Ukrainian SSR, the USSR and Uruguay. Colombia warned against the dangers of a universal society enslaved by trivial television programmes, paid for by companies which had to create demand in order to sell their products. The need to protect a State's sovereignty, political independence and cultural heritage was also stressed by Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia and Turkey.

Japan said that problems relating to direct satellite-broadcasting should be resolved on the basis of consultation, not prior consent. The Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States stressed the importance of maintaining a free flow of information. France and Venezuela called for a compromise solution whereby free and balanced exchange of information was promoted while preserving the sovereignty and cultural identity of States.

The General Assembly, by resolution 34/66 of 5 December, endorsed the recommendation of the Outer Space Committee that the Legal Sub-Committee, at its 1980 session, should continue as a matter of priority its efforts to complete the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting.

Remote sensing

Working Group III of the Legal Sub-Committee reviewed during 1979 most of the 17 draft principles formulated in previous years on the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space. It agreed on changes in the text of some principles but was unable to achieve consensus on a number of issues. The Chairman of the Outer Space Committee told the Special Political Committee on 29 October that all the easily reconcilable issues had been resolved. The complex issues which still awaited solution had to do with the concepts of freedom of State activity in outer space, freedom of dissemination of remote-sensing information, and

the sovereignty of States over their natural resources and information.

Working Group III, re-established by the Legal Sub-Committee on 12 March to resume work on the principles relating to remote sensing, held eight meetings between 13 March and 3 April. It discussed each principle in turn, except for those in which the only words in square brackets (signifying lack of consensus) were "shall" and "should." Where the Group was able to reach agreement on a change, the draft principle was modified; where agreement was not reached, the text was retained and proposals relating to it were attached to the Group's report.

On principle I, defining terms, the Group removed the square brackets around "primary" and "analysed" in the definitions of the terms "primary data" and "analysed information," although the latter term remained to be clarified. The USSR submitted a working paper proposing a more detailed definition of remote sensing, to replace the phrase "remote sensing of the natural resources of the earth and its environment."

The Group was unable to agree on specific amendments to principle VIII, which sought to promote the prompt dissemination of information before and after a natural disaster. However, it decided that retention of a principle on natural disasters was warranted because of its humanitarian nature.

Some representatives proposed the deletion of principle XI, which would make States internationally responsible for remote-sensing activities. They stated that under their legal systems they could not exercise State responsibility for ground segment activities. Others wished the principle to be retained, possibly with changes. Attempts at compromise were unsuccessful and the principle was therefore put in square brackets.

As regards principle XII, which provided for non-discriminatory access to data, Romania proposed that this be couched in terms of a right on the part of the State whose territory was sensed, "by virtue of the principle of permanent sovereignty over its wealth and natural resources." Differing opinions were expressed as to whether the principle of permanent sovereignty was relevant to remote sensing and whether it belonged in the text.

Romania also proposed a substitute text for principle XIII, which concerned advance notice to States whose territory was to be sensed. The proposal provided that remote sensing be carried out with full respect for the principle of permanent sovereignty of all States and peoples over their wealth and natural resources, including the right of access to information relating to them. No consensus was reached on this proposal.

In the discussion of principle XIV, concerning international co-operation, the USSR proposed a formula providing for notification to sensed States only after data had been received by the sensing State, while the United States proposed that prior notification be given of remote-sensing programmes. In favour of notification after receipt of data, it was said that it would be. impractical to give advance notification since the results could not be predicted. On the opposite side, it was argued that sensed States should have prior knowledge in order to maximize co-operation and access to data. Efforts to reach a compromise were unsuccessful.

The USSR proposed a text for principle XVI that would restrict the transfer to third States of certain types of sensitive data acquired through remote-sensing. Some representatives felt that it was necessary for economic, political and security reasons to treat sensitive data differently by disseminating them to third States only with the consent of the sensed State. Others held the view that remote-sensing programmes would be excessively burdened by mandatory international constraints on dissemination.

Finally, in connexion with principle XVII on dispute settlement, different views were expressed as to whether consultations should have priority over other forms of established procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes. It was decided to place a footnote stating that this principle should be reviewed in the light of the full set of principles.

The question of the transfer of data obtained by remote sensing was considered during the general exchange of views in the Legal Sub-Committee. Some members, notably Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, expressed the view that data obtained by remote sensing and information derived therefrom should be disseminated freely and ought not to be classified in such a manner as to restrict dissemination. France spoke of the need to reconcile technological development with State sovereignty. Brazil, Chile, Colombia and India insisted that sensed States must give their consent before remote sensing of their territory could be undertaken. These countries, together with Bulgaria, Egypt, Kenya and the USSR, remained of the view that States had permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and over information on those resources. Australia favoured a policy of the most open dissemination of primary data consistent with the need to safeguard the legitimate economic and security interests of the sensed State against the risk of misuse by other States and foreign non-governmental entities of

the information processed from primary data.

At its June/July session, the Outer Space Committee noted that several key issues remained to be agreed upon before the draft principles could be finalized. It recommended that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue, on a priority basis, to give detailed consideration to the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles.

During the debate on outer space in the Special Political Committee, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Ecuador, the German Democratic Republic, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Mongolia, the Philippines, the USSR, the Upper Volta and Venezuela stated that all countries should exercise sovereignty over their natural resources and information on those resources; the consent of those States was necessary for at least some categories of such data to be disseminated to third parties. The need to respect the sovereignty of States over their natural resources was also stressed by Argentina, Cyprus and Tunisia. Other States, including the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan and the Netherlands, stated that data and analysed information should be freely accessible to all States, without requiring the consent of the sensed State. Australia favoured the freest dissemination of primary data consistent with the need to safeguard the legitimate economic and security interests of the sensed State.

The General Assembly, by resolution 34/66 of 5 December on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, endorsed the recommendation of the Outer Space Committee that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue in 1980, on a priority basis, its detailed consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles.

(For information on the scientific and technical aspects of remote sensing, see p. 115.)

Other matters

Definition and/or delimitation of outer space and questions relating to the geostationary orbit

The Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee considered the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and questions relating to the geostationary orbit from 2 to 5 April 1979.

Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Ecuador, France, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Poland, Romania, Turkey and the USSR were of the view that there was a need for a definition and/or delimitation of outer space. However, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States considered that such a definition and/or delimitation was not currently necessary. Some of those favouring a definition and/or delimitation, including Belgium, Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland and the USSR, were of the view that a boundary between air space and outer space should be established at an altitude not higher than at 100-l10 kilometres above sea-level. A proposal to that effect was made by the USSR. Egypt and Italy were of the view that further studies were necessary before such a delimitation could be established. Japan spoke in favour of a functional approach to a definition, based on the nature of the activities undertaken by States rather than on the altitude at which they took place.

Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia and Kenya considered that the geostationary orbit, both because of its physical character and technical attributes and because of existing legal regulations, constituted a limited natural resource over which the equatorial countries exercised sovereign rights in accordance with international law. They felt that its unique character should be taken into account in any definition of outer space whose limits had not been established. These States added that the geostationary orbit must be used as a matter of priority for the benefit of the developing countries.

Voicing a different view, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Egypt, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Poland, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States said that geostationary orbits, at an altitude of 36,000 kilometres, were inseparable from outer space and that all relevant provisions of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[3] were applicable to such orbits. According to this view, under the 1967 Treaty geostationary orbits, being inseparable from outer space as a whole, were not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means. They further considered that geostationary orbits were free for use by all States without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law. They also considered that the placing of satellites in geostationary orbits created no right of ownership over the orbital positions of satellites or over segments of the orbits.

While some States, such as Belgium, Brazil, France, Italy, Japan, Turkey and the United

[3] See Y.U.N., 1966, p. 41, resolution 2222(XXI) of 19 December 1966, annexing text of Treaty.

Kingdom, could not agree that any basis existed for unilateral claims of national sovereignty over the geostationary orbit, they considered it important to discuss procedures which would render the orbit available to all States, on an equal basis, for peaceful exploration and use. They further considered that, in order to permit more rational use, orbital positions in the geostationary orbit should be made the subject of international agreement, as provided for in the procedures of the International Telecommunication Union.

At the June/July session of the Outer Space Committee, some members again expressed support for the idea of establishing a boundary between outer space and air space not higher than 100-l10 kilometres above sea-level, while others expressed reservations as to the need to establish a specific boundary. The differing views regarding the legal status of the geostationary orbit were also reiterated in the Committee. The USSR submitted a working paper proposing provisions for a General Assembly resolution on the delimitation of air space and outer space and on the legal status of the geostationary orbital space of satellites.

During the Special Political Committee's debate on outer space in 1979, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia and the USSR made statements in favour of defining and/or delimiting outer space. Some of these States were of the view that a boundary between air space and outer space should be established even if it had to be adjusted later. Australia said the most important question was whether it was necessary to delimit outer space; if it was not, the imposition of an unnecessary legal regime could be avoided. The United States was not aware of any practical problems which would be solved by a definition, and said care must be taken to ensure that an arbitrary definition did not stifle efforts to explore and use outer space. Colombia was of the view that the Outer Space Committee should deal with the subject in depth, but it could not accept the USSR proposal to establish a boundary between air space and outer space not higher than 100-l10 kilometres above sea-level because such a boundary would be purely arbitrary. Support for that proposal was voiced by Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary and Mongolia.

Colombia and Ecuador stated that equatorial countries continued to regard the geostationary orbit as a limited natural resource and that segments of the orbit situated above their territories belonged to the States below. However, Australia, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Italy, Mongolia, the United States and Uruguay considered that claims of sovereignty by equatorial or other countries to the geostationary orbit were not legally justified. Australia, Austria, Brazil, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Italy, Sweden, Uruguay and Venezuela stressed the importance of ensuring equitable access to the geostationary orbit in the interest of all countries.

The Assembly, by resolution 34/66 of 5 December, endorsed the Outer Space Committee's recommendation that the Legal Sub-Committee should continue in 1980 to discuss matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit.

(For information on the scientific and technical aspects of the geostationary orbit, see p. 117.)

Nuclear power sources in outer space

The General Assembly, by resolution 34/66 of 5 December 1979, endorsed the recommendation of the Outer Space Committee that the Legal Sub-Committee should include in its agenda for 1980 a new item entitled "Review of existing international law relevant to outer space activities with a view to determining the appropriateness of supplementing such law with provisions relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space."

The suggestion that the legal aspects of the use of nuclear power sources in space be taken up by the Legal Sub-Committee was raised in that body towards the end of its 1979 session. Those favouring this course were Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, the United States and Venezuela. In their view, the fact that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee was considering technical aspects and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in space should not prevent the Legal Sub-Committee from commencing the consideration of legal aspects.

On the other hand, Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and the USSR were of the opinion that inclusion of this topic as a separate item of the Sub-Committee's agenda was not warranted. They considered that most of the problems involved had complicated technical aspects that were being discussed by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and that it would not be desirable to complicate that body's task further by taking legal positions on the questions before it was timely.

The Legal Sub-Committee, in view of the divergence of opinions, considered that the Outer Space Committee should discuss at its next session, unless it decided otherwise, whether to include a separate item on this subject on the Sub-Committee's agenda.

The Outer Space Committee responded by recommending that the Legal Sub-Committee should include in its 1980 agenda an item on the question. It also recommended that United Nations Member States be invited to submit their views concerning existing international law relevant to outer space activities, for circulation no later than 15 February 1980.

During the discussion of outer space in the Special Political Committee in October and November 1979, Austria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Egypt, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States welcomed the plan to have this matter considered by the Legal Sub-Committee. Several of them cited in particular the need to achieve higher safety standards in this area. The USSR said it was prepared to participate in the consideration of the question.

The Assembly, in endorsing inclusion of the new item in the Legal Sub-Committee's 1980 agenda, also endorsed the Outer Space Committee's recommendation that the item entitled "Other matters," under which the Sub-Committee had discussed this subject in 1979, continue to be placed on the Sub-Committee's agenda.

(For information on the scientific and technical aspects of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, see p. 116.)

International space treaties

By resolution 34/66 of 5 December 1979, the General Assembly invited States that were not parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space to consider ratifying or acceding to them.

As at 31 December 1979, the Assembly had commended to States five such treaties: the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;[4] the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space;[5] the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects;[6] the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space;[7] and the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (annexed to Assembly resolution 34/68 of 5 December 1979, discussed above).

[4] Ibid.
[5] See Y.U.N., 1967, p. 33, resolution 2345(XXII) of 19 December 1967, annexing text of Agreement.
[6] See Y.U.N., 1971, p. 52, resolution 2777(XXVI) of 29 November 1971, annexing text of Convention.
[7] See Y.U.N., 1974, p. 63, resolution 3235(XXIX) of 12 November 1974, annexing text of Convention.

Documentary references and texts of resolutions

General Assembly—34th session
Special Political Committee, meetings 15-20.
Plenary meetings 89, 103.

Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

A/34/20. Report of Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (22nd session, Headquarters, New York, 18 June—3 July 1979), Chapter II A 7 and Annex II.

A/SPC/34/L.12 and Corr.1. Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, USSR, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yugoslavia: draft resolution and Annex (draft Agreement Governing Activities of States on Moon and Other Celestial Bodies), approved by consensus by Special Political Committee on 2 November 1979, meeting 20.

A/34/664. Report of Special Political Committee, draft resolution Ill and Annex.

Resolution 34/68, as recommended by Special Political Committee, A/34/664, adopted without vote by Assembly on 5 December 1979, meeting 89.

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance of international co-operation in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, and of promoting the rule of law in this field of human endeavour,

Recalling its resolution 2779(XXVI) of 29 November 1971, in which it requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Sub-Committee to consider the question of the elaboration of a draft international treaty concerning the moon, as well as its resolutions 2915(XXVII) of 9 November 1972, 3182(XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 3234(XXIX) of 12 November 1974, 3388(XXX) of 18 November 1975,31/8 of 8 November 1976,32/196 A of 20 December 1977 and 33/16 of 10 November 1978, in which it, inter alia, encouraged the elaboration of the draft treaty relating to the moon,

Recalling, in particular, that in resolution 33/16 it endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Legal Sub-Committee at its eighteenth session should continue as a matter of priority its efforts to complete the draft treaty relating to the moon,

Having considered the relevant part of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in particular paragraphs 62, 63 and 65,

Noting with satisfaction that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, on the basis of the deliberations and recommendations of the Legal Sub-Committee, has completed the text of the draft Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Having considered the text of the draft Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

1. Commends the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to open the Agreement for signature and ratification at the earliest possible date;

3. Expresses its hope for the widest possible adherence to this Agreement.

ANNEX

Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

The States Parties to this Agreement,

Noting the achievements of States in the exploration and use of the moon and other celestial bodies,

Recognizing that the moon, as a natural satellite of the earth, has an important role to play in the exploration of outer space,

Determined to promote on the basis of equality the further development of co-operation among States in the exploration and use of the moon and other celestial bodies,

Desiring to prevent the moon from becoming an area of international conflict,

Bearing in mind the benefits which may be derived from the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies,

Recalling the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space,

Taking into account the need to define and develop the provisions of these international instruments in relation to the moon and other celestial bodies, having regard to further progress in the exploration and use of outer space,

Have agreed on the following:

Article 1

1. The provisions of this Agreement relating to the moon shall also apply to other celestial bodies within the solar system, other than the earth, except in so far as specific legal norms enter into force with respect to any of these celestial bodies.

2. For the purposes of this Agreement reference to the moon shall include orbits around or other trajectories to or around it.

3. This Agreement does not apply to extraterrestrial materials which reach the surface of the earth by natural means.

Article 2

All activities on the moon, including its exploration and use, shall be carried out in accordance with international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, and taking into account the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and mutual understanding, and with due regard to the corresponding interests of all other States Parties.

Article 3

1. The moon shall be used by all States Parties exclusively for peaceful purposes.

2. Any threat or use of force or any other hostile act or threat of hostile act on the moon is prohibited. It is likewise prohibited to use the moon in order to commit any such act or to engage in any such threat in relation to the earth, the moon, spacecraft, the personnel of spacecraft or man-made space objects.

3. States Parties shall not place in orbit around or other trajectory to or around the moon objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction or place or use such weapons on or in the moon.

4. The establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications, the testing of any type of weapons and the conduct of military manoeuvres on the moon shall be forbidden. The use of military personnel for scientific research or for any other peaceful purposes shall not be prohibited. The use of any equipment or facility necessary for peaceful exploration and use of the moon shall also not be prohibited.

Article 4

1. The exploration and use of the moon shall be the province of all mankind and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development. Due regard shall be paid to the interests of present and future generations as well as to the need to promote higher standards of living and conditions of economic and social progress and development in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

2. States Parties shall be guided by the principle of co-operation and mutual assistance in all their activities concerning the exploration and use of the moon. International co-operation in pursuance of this Agreement should be as wide as possible and may take place on a multilateral basis, on a bilateral basis or through international intergovernmental organizations.

Article 5

1. States Parties shall inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the public and the international scientific community, to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, of their activities concerned with the exploration and use of the moon. Information on the time, purposes, locations, orbital parameters and duration shall be given in respect of each mission to the moon as soon as possible after launching, while information on the results of each mission, including scientific results, shall be furnished upon completion of the mission. In the case of a mission lasting more than sixty days, information on conduct of the mission, including any scientific results, shall be given periodically, at thirty-day intervals. For missions lasting more than six months, only significant additions to such information need be reported thereafter.

2. If a State Party becomes aware that another State Party plans to operate simultaneously in the same area of or in the same orbit around or trajectory to or around the moon, it shall promptly inform the other State of the timing of and plans for its own operations.

3. In carrying out activities under this Agreement, States Parties shall promptly inform the Secretary-General, as well as the public and the international scientific community, of any phenomena they discover in outer space, including the moon, which could endanger human life or health, as well as of any indication of organic life.

Article 6

1. There shall be freedom of scientific investigation on the moon by all States Parties without discrimination of any kind, on the basis of equality and in accordance with international law.

2. In carrying out scientific investigations and in furtherance of the provisions of this Agreement, the States Parties shall have the right to collect on and remove from the moon samples of its mineral and other substances. Such samples shall remain at the disposal of those States Parties which caused them to be collected and may be used by them for scientific purposes. States Parties shall have regard to the desirability of making a portion of such samples available to other interested States Parties and the international scientific community for scientific investigation. States Parties may in the course of scientific investigations also use mineral and other substances of the moon in quantities appropriate for the support of their missions.

3. States Parties agree on the desirability of exchanging scientific and other personnel on expeditions to or installations on the moon to the greatest extent feasible and practicable.

Article 7

1. In exploring and using the moon, States Parties shall take measures to prevent the disruption of the existing balance of its environment, whether by introducing adverse changes in that environment, by its harmful contamination through the introduction of extra-environmental matter or otherwise. States Parties shall also take measures to avoid harmfully affecting the environment of the earth through the introduction of extraterrestrial matter or otherwise.

2. States Parties shall inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the measures being adopted by them in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article and shall also, to the maximum extent feasible, notify him in advance of all placements by them of radioactive materials on the moon and of the purposes of such placements.

3. States Parties shall report to other States Parties and to the Secretary-General concerning areas of the moon having special scientific interest in order that, without prejudice to the rights of other States Parties, consideration may be given to the designation of such areas as international scientific preserves for which special protective arrangements are to be agreed upon in consultation with the competent bodies of the United Nations.

Article 8

1. States Parties may pursue their activities in the exploration and use of the moon anywhere on or below its surface, subject to the provisions of this Agreement.

2. For these purposes States Parties may, in particular:

(a) Land their space objects on the moon and launch them from the moon;

(b) Place their personnel, space vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations anywhere on or below the surface of the moon.

Personnel, space vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations may move or be moved freely over or below the surface of the moon.

3. Activities of States Parties in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article shall not interfere with the activities of other States Parties on the moon. Where such interference may occur, the States Parties concerned shall undertake consultations in accordance with article 15, paragraphs 2 and 3, of this Agreement.

Article 9

1. States Parties may establish manned and unmanned stations on the moon. A State Party establishing a station shall use only that area which is required for the needs of the station and shall immediately inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the location and purposes of that station. Subsequently, at annual intervals that State shall likewise inform the Secretary-General whether the station continues in use and whether its purposes have changed.

2. Stations shall be installed in such a manner that they do not impede the free access to all areas of the moon of personnel, vehicles and equipment of other States Parties conducting activities on the moon in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement or of article I of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

Article 10

1. States Parties shall adopt all practicable measures to safeguard the life and health of persons on the moon. For this purpose they shall regard any person on the moon as an astronaut within the meaning of article V of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and as part of the personnel of a spacecraft within the meaning of the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

2. States Parties shall offer shelter in their stations, installations, vehicles and other facilities to persons in distress on the moon.

Article 11

1. The moon and its natural resources are the common heritage of mankind, which finds its expression in the provisions of this Agreement, in particular in paragraph 5 of this article.

2. The moon is not subject to national appropriation by any claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.

3. Neither the surface nor the subsurface of the moon, nor any part thereof or natural resources in place, shall become property of any State, international intergovernmental or non-governmental organization, national organization or non-governmental entity or of any natural person. The placement of personnel, space vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations on or below the surface of the moon, including structures connected with its surface or subsurface, shall not create a right of ownership over the surface or the subsurface of the moon or any areas thereof. The foregoing provisions are without prejudice to the international regime referred to in paragraph 5 of this article.

4. States Parties have the right to exploration and use of the moon without discrimination of any kind, on the basis of equality and in accordance with international law and the provisions of this Agreement.

5. States Parties to this Agreement hereby undertake to establish an international regime, including appropriate procedures, to govern the exploitation of the natural resources of the moon as such exploitation is about to become feasible. This provision shall be implemented in accordance with article 18 of this Agreement.

6. In order to facilitate the establishment of the international regime referred to in paragraph 5 of this article, States Parties shall inform the Secretary-General 'of the United Nations as well as the public and the international scientific community, to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, of any natural resources they may discover on the moon.

7. The main purposes of the international regime to be established shall include:

(a) The orderly and safe development of the natural resources of the moon;

(b) The rational management of those resources;

(c) The expansion of opportunities in the use of those resources;

(d) An equitable sharing by all States Parties in the benefits derived from those resources, whereby the interests and needs of the developing countries, as well as the efforts of those countries which have contributed either directly or indirectly to the exploration of the moon, shall be given special consideration.

8. All the activities with respect to the natural resources of the moon shall be carried out in a manner compatible with the purposes specified in paragraph 7 of this article and the provisions of article 6, paragraph 2, of this Agreement.

Article 12

1. States Parties shall retain jurisdiction and control over their personnel, space vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations on the moon. The ownership of space vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations shall not be affected by their presence on the moon.

2. Vehicles, installations and equipment or their component parts found in places other than their intended location shall be dealt with in accordance with article 5 of the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

3. In the event of an emergency involving a threat to human life, States Parties may use the equipment, vehicles, installations, facilities or supplies of other States Parties on the moon. Prompt notification of such use shall be made to the Secretary-General of the United Nations or the State Party concerned.

Article 13

A State Party which learns of the crash landing, forced landing or other unintended landing on the moon of a space object, or its component parts, that were not launched by it, shall promptly inform the launching State Party and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 14

1. States Parties to this Agreement shall bear international responsibility for national activities on the moon, whether such activities are carried out by governmental agencies or by non-governmental entities, and for assuring that national activities are carried out in conformity with the provisions of this Agreement. States Parties shall ensure that non-governmental entities under their jurisdiction shall engage in activities on the moon only under the authority and continuing supervision of the appropriate State Party.

2. States Parties recognize that detailed arrangements concerning liability for damage caused on the moon, in addition to the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, may become necessary as a result of more extensive activities on the moon. Any such arrangements shall be elaborated in accordance with the procedure provided for in article 18 of this Agreement.

Article 15

1. Each State Party may assure itself that the activities of other States Parties in the exploration and use of the moon are compatible with the provisions of this Agreement. To this end, all space vehicles, equipment, facilities, stations and installations on the moon shall be open to other States Parties. Such States Parties shall give reasonable advance notice of a projected visit, in order that appropriate consultations may be held and that maximum precautions may be taken to assure safety and to avoid interference with normal operations in the facility to be visited. In pursuance of this article, any State Party may act on its own behalf or with the full or partial assistance of any other State Party or through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with the Charter.

2. A State Party which has reason to believe that another State Party is not fulfilling the obligations incumbent upon it pursuant to this Agreement or that another State Party is interfering with the rights which the former State has under this Agreement may request consultations with that State Party. A State Party receiving such a request shall enter into such consultations without delay. Any other State Party which requests to do so shall be entitled to take part in the consultations. Each State Party participating in such consultations shall seek a mutually acceptable resolution of any controversy and shall bear in mind the rights and interests of all States Parties. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be informed of the results of the consultations and shall transmit the information received to all States Parties concerned.

3. If the consultations do not lead to a mutually acceptable settlement which has due regard for the rights and interests of all States Parties, the parties concerned shall take all measures to settle the dispute by other peaceful means of their choice appropriate to the circumstances and the nature of the dispute. If difficulties arise in connexion with the opening of consultations or if consultations do not lead to a mutually acceptable settlement, any State Party may seek the assistance of the Secretary-General, without seeking the consent of any other State Party concerned, in order to resolve the controversy. A State Party which does not maintain diplomatic relations with another State Party concerned shall participate in such consultations, at its choice, either itself or through another State Party or the Secretary-General as intermediary.

Article 16

With the exception of articles 17 to 21, references in this Agreement to States shall be deemed to apply to any international intergovernmental organization which conducts space activities if the organization declares its acceptance of the rights and obligations provided for in this Agreement and if a majority of the States members of the organization are States Parties to this Agreement and to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. States members of any such organization which are States Parties to this Agreement shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that the organization makes a declaration in accordance with the provisions of this article.

Article 17

Any State Party to this Agreement may propose amendments to the Agreement. Amendments shall enter into force for each State Party to the Agreement accepting the amendments upon their acceptance by a majority of the States Parties to the Agreement and thereafter for each remaining State Party to the Agreement on the date of acceptance by it.

Article 18

Ten years after the entry into force of this Agreement, the question of the review of the Agreement shall be included in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly of the United Nations in order to consider, in the light of past application of the Agreement, whether it requires revision. However, at any time after the Agreement has been in force for five years, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as depository, shall, at the request of one third of the States Parties to the Agreement and with the concurrence of the majority of the States Parties, convene a conference of the States Parties to review this Agreement. A review conference shall also consider the question of the implementation of the provisions of article 11, paragraph 5, on the basis of the principle referred to in paragraph 1 of that article and taking into account in particular any relevant technological developments.

Article 19

1. This Agreement shall be open for signature by all States at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

2. This Agreement shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Any State which does not sign this Agreement before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time. Instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the day of deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification.

4. For each State depositing its instrument of ratification or accession after the entry into force of this Agreement, it shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of any such instrument.

5. The Secretary-General shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession to this Agreement, the date of it sentry into force and other notices.

Article 20

Any State Party to this Agreement may give notice of its withdrawal from the Agreement one year after its entry into force by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Such withdrawal shall take effect one year from the date of receipt of this notification.

Article 21

The original of this Agreement, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall send certified copies thereof to all signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement, opened for signature at New York on . . . .[a]

[a]The Agreement was opened for signature on 18 December 1979.

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

A/34/20. Report of Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (22nd session, Headquarters, New York, 18 June—3 July 1979). (Chapter II A 1 : Remote sensing of earth by satellites (paras. 21 and 30), 2: Direct television broadcasting by satellites, 3: Definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to geostationary orbit, and 5: Use of nuclear power sources in outer space (paras. 51 and 52).

A/34/619. Letter of 16 October from Venezuela (transmitting resolutions adopted by Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 125th session and by 66th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Caracas, 13-21 September 1979).

A/SPC/34/L.10. Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, USSR, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yugoslavia: draft resolution, approved by consensus by Special Political Committee on 2 November 1979, meeting 20.

A/SPC/34/L.13. Administrative and financial implications of 40-power draft resolution, A/SPC/34/L.10. Statement by Secretary-General.

A/34/664. Report of Special Political Committee, draft resolution I.

Resolution 34/66, as recommended by Special Political Committee, A/34/664, adopted without vote by Assembly on 5 December 1979, meeting 89.

The General Assembly,

. . .

1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

2. Invites States which have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

. . .

5. Notes that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its eighteenth session continued:

(a) Its efforts to elaborate draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting;

(b) Its efforts to formulate draft principles relating to the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space;

(c) Its efforts to complete the draft treaty relating to the moon;

(d) Its discussion of matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit;

6. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Legal Sub-Committee at its nineteenth session should:

(a) Continue on a priority basis:

(i) Its detailed consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles relating to remote sensing;

(ii) Its efforts to complete the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting;

(b) Continue to consider matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit;

(c) Include in its agenda an item entitled "Review of existing international law relevant to outer space activities with a view to determining the appropriateness of supplementing such law with provisions relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space;"

(d) Continue to include in its agenda the item entitled "Other matters;"

. . .

[For full text of Assembly resolution 34/66, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES to subchapter below on SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE.]

Scientific and technical aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space

As in previous years, consideration of various scientific and technical aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space continued during 1979 in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and in the General Assembly itself.

As the Assembly noted in its resolution 34/66 of 5 December on these and other aspects of international co-operation with regard to outer space, the Sub-Committee continued to consider experimental and operational phases of remote sensing of the earth from space, implementation of the United Nations space applications programme, co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system, the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit, and questions relating to space transportation systems. Also considered were technical aspects of and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. In this connexion, the Sub-Committee adopted the report of its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, the establishment of which had been endorsed by the Assembly in 1978.[8]

The Assembly endorsed the United Nations programme on space applications for 1980 and the recommendation that the five regional remote-sensing centres in Africa should receive United Nations technical assistance and co-operation. It requested the Outer Space Committee to consider new space projects, as appropriate.

The Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Sub-Committee

[8] See Y.U.N., 1978, p. 141, resolution 33/16 of 10 November 1978.

should give priority in 1980 to the space applications programme, co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system, remote sensing, nuclear power sources in space, and the co-ordinating role of the United Nations in the use of space science and technology. The Sub-Committee would also continue to consider space transportation systems and the geostationary orbit.

Also in December 1979, the Assembly approved initial arrangements for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and decided to convene it in the second half of 1982.

The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee held its sixteenth session at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 5 to 22 February 1979. Its report was examined by the Outer Space Committee at its session held in New York from 18 June to 3 July.

Details of activities on these and other topics are given below.

Remote sensing

The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee continued to consider, as a priority topic, the current pre-operational/experimental phase of remote sensing of the earth by satellite, as well as possible future operational satellite remote-sensing systems. A working group drafted a statement of the Sub-Committee's views and conclusions on the matter, which was annexed to the Sub-Committee's report.

This statement indicated that differing views continued to be expressed as to the practicability and utility of classifying primary (unanalysed) remote-sensing data on the basis of spatial resolution- a measure of the amount of detail visible in a photograph taken from space. Some representatives expressed the view that such classification of data would be essential for purposes of data dissemination and that spatial resolution should be the key parameter for classification. Others, however, considered that there was no simple or practical scientific basis for classifying remote-sensing data into global, regional and local data, as had been proposed.

In light of these differing opinions, the Sub-Committee was unable to agree on the need for such a classification or the manner in which it might be made. It called for a Secretariat report on one possible approach to a definition of resolution — a new concept called effective resolution element. It also recommended that the Secretariat solicit the views of Committee members and international organizations to help define the terms "coarse," "medium" and "fine" as used to characterize spatial resolution for remote-sensing imaging systems.

Differing opinions were also expressed regarding the dissemination of primary data. The Sub-Committee reiterated the view that there was no scientific or technical basis for a sensed State not having timely and non-discriminatory access to data on its own territory.

After discussing the future co-ordinating role of the United Nations in remote sensing, particularly through the establishment of a panel of experts, the Sub-Committee concluded that it was not currently in a position to recommend the establishment of such a panel. It recommended that the Secretariat request Member States to include their views on that question in the annual reports to the United Nations on their national and co-operative international space activities.

Recognizing the need to help developing countries learn how to analyse and use remote-sensing data, and aware of the need for regional co-operation and the creation of indigenous capacity, the Sub-Committee was of the opinion that remote sensing from outer space should be conducted with the greatest possible international co-operation and participation.

In this connexion, the Sub-Committee felt that the United Nations, through its space applications programme, the remote-sensing centres operated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport and other agencies, could play an important role in providing assistance. The Sub-Committee requested the Secretariat to take initial steps towards the development of a comprehensive catalogue of remote-sensing applications, which could be regularly updated.

The Outer Space Committee endorsed most of the Sub-Committee's conclusions. In particular, it recommended that the remote-sensing centre in Cairo, Egypt, along with the four other African international remote-sensing centres, should receive any technical assistance and co-operation which could be made available through the United Nations.

This recommendation was also endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 34/66 of 5 December. In addition, the Assembly endorsed the Committee's recommendation that questions relating to remote sensing be considered as a priority item at the Sub-Committee's 1980 session.

In the Special Political Committee's debate on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, held in October and November, Japan expressed doubts about the need and the technical basis for classifying primary remote-sensing data. Conversely, Bulgaria said that the Convention on the Transfer and Use of Data of the Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, signed in Moscow in May

1978, could serve as the basis for drafting rules on such matters as data classification and dissemination. The idea of setting up an international agency or centre to promote remote sensing was mentioned by Ecuador, Egypt and Sweden.

(For information on the legal aspects of remote sensing, see p. 106.)

United Nations programme and activities relating to outer space

Four training courses or seminars on remote-sensing applications were held during 1979 as part of the United Nations programme on space applications. They were: the fourth United Nations international training course on the applications of remote-sensing techniques to fisheries (Rome, Italy, 14 May—1 June, in co-operation with FAO); a United Nations training course on remote-sensing applications for Latin America with emphasis on non-renewable resources (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 5-23 November); a United Nation/FA0 regional training seminar on remote-sensing applications in agriculture for Africa (Ibadan, Nigeria, 5-23 November); and a United Nations training seminar on remote sensing of earth resources for the Economic Commission for Western Asia region (Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, 1-11 December).

The 1980 space applications programme was endorsed by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the Outer Space Committee and the General Assembly. It called for the holding of from three to five courses and seminars in various regions, on various aspects of remote sensing.

The Sub-Committee and the Committee expressed gratitude to H. G. S. Murthy (India), retiring United Nations Expert on Space Applications, for having directed the space applications programme for several years. The two bodies welcomed the designation of Achmad D. Padang (Indonesia) as the new Expert.

The Sub-Committee and the Committee also considered questions relating to the co-ordination of activities of the organizations in the United Nations system, particularly in the area of practical applications of space technology. The Sub-Committee noted that the sub-committee on outer space activities of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) had been discontinued as part of a restructuring of ACC machinery.[9] It expressed the view that regular annual meetings among the organizations concerned were still needed and would become even more important in light of the preparatory work required for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Outer Space Committee endorsed this view.

Nuclear power sources in outer space

The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee adopted a report on 21 February 1979 stating that nuclear power sources could be used safely in outer space provided that certain safety considerations were met in full. The decision to use such sources in space, the report concluded, should be based on technical considerations, provided that safety requirements could be met while satisfying mission requirements.

The report listed three safety considerations: (1) radiation protection measures during all phases of an orbital mission of a spacecraft bearing a nuclear power source should be derived principally from the internationally accepted basic standards recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP); (2) the design of radioisotope systems should ensure minimal leakage of the radioactive contents and must at least meet the limits recommended by ICRP in all circumstances, including accidents, re-entry into the atmosphere, impact and prolonged water immersion; and (3) if reactors were intended for low orbits where the radioactive materials did not have time to decay to an acceptable level, safety depended on the start of the operation in orbit and the success of boosting the nuclear power source to a higher orbit after the operation was completed; in the event of an unsuccessful boost into higher orbit, the system must be capable of dispersing the radioactive material so as to limit the radiological hazard in conformity with ICRP recommendations.

The report was drafted by the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, established by the Sub-Committee on 5 February 1979 in accordance with a General Assembly resolution of 10 November 1978.[10] The Group, composed of experts and open to all Sub-Committee members, met from 12 to 16 February, during the Sub-Committee's 1979 session, under the chairmanship of John H. Carver (Australia) .

The Outer Space Committee, at its June/July session, endorsed the Working Group's request that Member States and international agencies should contribute studies on technical aspects and safety measures, including areas identified by the Group as requiring further examination: an inventory of safety problems, implementation of ICRP recommendations for populations and environment, improvements in predicting re-entry phenomena, and technical considerations concerning a notification format. The Committee also endorsed the Group's request that the Secretariat collate and summarize those studies in

[9] Ibid., p. 781.
[10] See footnote 8.

time for a further meeting of the Group during the Sub-Committee's 1980 session.

The Assembly, by resolution 34/66 of 5 December, endorsed the Committee's recommendation that an item on nuclear power sources in outer space be included in the Sub-Committee's 1980 agenda.

(For information on the legal aspects of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, see p. 109.)

Space transportation systems

In accordance with the Assembly's 1978 resolution on outer space activities,[11] the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in 1979 considered, for the first time as a priority item, questions relating to space transportation systems. After noting the progress being made in various programmes in this area, the Sub-Committee decided to continue consideration of this item at its 1980 session. It requested the Secretariat to prepare a study on the progress being made in space transportation systems, including their scientific, technical, economic and social implications, and to seek the views of Member States and international organizations.

The General Assembly, by resolution 34/66 of 5 December, endorsed a recommendation by the Outer Space Committee that the title of the item on the Sub-Committee's 1980 agenda should read "Space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space."

Geostationary orbit

The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee continued in February 1979 its examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit, on the basis of a study prepared by the Secretariat.

The Outer Space Committee endorsed the Sub-Committee's recommendation that this study should be updated when necessary and that a separate study should be undertaken concerning the most efficient and economical means of using the geostationary orbit with a view to assessing its wider use, particularly by developing countries. The Committee further asked for a paper on the dynamics of space objects.

During the discussion in both the Sub-Committee and the Outer Space Committee, divergent views were expressed on the question of whether equatorial countries possessed valid claims to sovereignty over segments of the orbit. (For a summary of views, see p. 108.)

Preparations for the Second United Nations Outer Space Conference

The General Assembly, by resolution 34/67 adopted without vote on 5 December 1979, set the second half of 1982 as the time for convening the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It also endorsed detailed recommendations on the preparation and organization of the Conference, made by the Outer Space Committee in its capacity as Preparatory Committee for the Conference. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee served as an advisory committee in this regard. Both bodies were given these roles by the Assembly in 1978 when, on the Outer Space Committee's recommendation, the Assembly decided that the Conference should be held.[12]

The Assembly also adopted the provisional agenda for the Conference, as recommended by the Committee. This included three main groups of items on: the state of space science and technology; applications of space science and technology; and international co-operation and the role of the United Nations.

Preparations for the Conference were to include the submission of papers by Member States, the organization of regional and interregional seminars on selected scientific and other aspects, and the preparation of a draft of a final report in which the Conference could include its recommendations on conclusions and guidance for future United Nations work in this field. The Conference secretariat would be headed by a Secretary-General and three Deputy Secretaries-General to be appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General. The Conference would have three main committees, each dealing with one of the three major groups of agenda items.

The recommendations on plans for the Conference were drawn up in the Sub-Committee with the assistance of a Working Group appointed on 5 February 1979, under the chairmanship of Yash Pal India). The Group drew up a provisional agenda and made other recommendations on preparations for and organization of the Conference, but was unable to agree on the number of Vice-Presidents, whether the Conference should have committees and when it should meet. The Preparatory Committee agreed at its June/July session on the committee structure and time-frame for the Conference, leaving open the matter of the number of Vice-Presidents. It was assisted by a Working Group, also under the chairmanship of Mr. Pal, which was established on 18 June.

India and the USSR offered in February, during the session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, to serve as host for the Conference. India withdrew its tentative offer in June,

[11] See Y.U.N., 1978, p. 141, resolution 33/16 of 10 November 1978.
[12] Ibid.

during the Cuter Space Committee's session. The Committee agreed that the question of the venue of the Conference should be held over until 1980, and the Assembly requested the Committee to submit a recommendation on the matter to its 1980 regular session.

The Assembly also requested the Committee to continue with its preparatory work for the Conference. The Assembly's resolution on the Conference was recommended by the Special Political Committee, which approved it by consensus on 2 November. It was sponsored in the Committee by 40 States (see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below).

Documentary references and texts of resolutions

General Assembly—34th session
Special Political Committee, meetings 15-20.
Fifth Committee, meetings 68, 69.
Plenary meeting 89.

International co-operation
in the peaceful uses of outer space

A/34/20. Report of Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (22nd session, Headquarters, New York, 18 June—3 July 1979). (Chapter II A 1: Remote sensing of earth by satellites (paras. 17-29), 4: Space transportation systems, 5: Use of nuclear power sources in outer space (paras. 44-50), and 6: Examination of physical nature and technical attributes of geostationary orbit; Chapter II B: Programme and activities of United Nations relating to outer space; and Chapter II E: Other matters.)

A/SPC/34/L.10. Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, USSR, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yugoslavia: draft resolution, approved by consensus by Special Political Committee on 2 November 1979, meeting 20.

A/SPC/34/L.13. Administrative and financial implications of 40-power draft resolution, A/SPC/34/L.10. Statement by Secretary-General.

A/34/664. Report of Special Political Committee, draft resolution I.

Resolution 34/66, as recommended by Special Political Committee, A/34/664, adopted without vote by Assembly on 5 December 1979, meeting 89.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 33/1 6 of 10 November 1978,

Hawing considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work, of its twenty-second session,

Reaffirming the common interest of mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, as well as the importance of international co-operation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

We/coming the successful completion of the recent outer space mission carried out jointly for the first time by cosmonauts from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Bulgaria, within the framework of the "Intercosmos" programme,

Reaffirming the importance of international co-operation in developing the rule of law in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

2. Invites States which have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. Notes with satisfaction that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, on the basis of the recommendations of the Legal Sub-Committee, has completed the text of the draft Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;

4. Takes note with appreciation of the detailed recommendations on the preparation and organization of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space submitted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in its capacity as Preparatory Committee for the Conference;

5. Notes that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its eighteenth session continued:

(a) Its efforts to elaborate draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting;

(b) Its efforts to formulate draft principles relating to the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space;

(c) Its efforts to complete the draft treaty relating to the moon;

(d) Its discussion of matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit;

6. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Legal Sub-Committee at its nineteenth session should:

(a) Continue on a priority basis:

(i) Its detailed consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles relating to remote sensing;

(ii) Its efforts to complete the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting;

(b) Continue to consider matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit;

(c) Include in its agenda an item entitled "Review of existing international law relevant to outer space activities with a view to determining the appropriateness of supplementing such law with provisions relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space;"

(d) Continue to include in its agenda the item entitled "Other matters;"

7. Notes that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixteenth session :

(a) Continued to consider both the current pre-operational/experimental phase of remote sensing as well as possible future operational satellite remote sensing systems;

(b) Continued to consider the United Nations programme on space applications and matters relating to the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system ;

(c) Continued to examine the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit;

(d) Considered technical aspects of and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and adopted the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;

(e) Considered questions relating to space transportation systems;

(f) Achieved significant progress, in its capacity as advisory body to the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its detailed consideration of questions relating to the preparation and organization of the Conference;

8. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its seventeenth session should:

(a) Consider the following priority items:

(i) Questions relating to the United Nations programme on space applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system;

(ii) Questions relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellites;

(iii) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(iv) Co-ordinating role of the United Nations in the use of space science and technology, particularly in the developing countries;

(b) Consider the following items:

(i) Space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;

(ii) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit;

9. Endorses the United Nations programme on space applications for 1980 proposed to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee by the Expert on Space Applications;

10. Approves a continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India and the CELPA Mar del Plata Station in Argentina;

11. Endorses the recommendation that the existing five regional remote sensing centres in Africa should receive from the United Nations the technical assistance and co-operation which could be made available for such a purpose;

12. Requests the specialized agencies to continue to provide the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

13. Takes note of the report submitted by the World Meteorological Organization on its tropical cyclone project, in response to General Assembly resolution 33/16, and requests the World Meteorological Organization to continue submitting annual status reports on the project;

14. Expresses its appreciation to all Governments which acted as hosts to, offered fellowships for, or otherwise assisted in the holding of, international training seminars and workshops on space applications, particularly for the benefit of developing countries;

15. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution and previous resolutions of the General Assembly, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

E/1979/69/Rev.1. Report of Committee on Natural Resources on its 6th session, Istanbul, Turkey, 5-15 June 1979, Chapter VIII.

Preparations for the Second United Nations Outer Space Conference

A/34/20. Report of Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Chapter II C.

A/SPC/34/L.11. Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, USSR, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yugoslavia: draft resolution, approved by consensus by Special Political Committee on 2 November 1979, meeting 20.

A/SPC/34/L.14, A/C.5/34/45, A/34/7/Add.12, A/34/738. Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II recommended by Special Political Committee in A/34/664. Statements by Secretary-General and reports of ACABQ and Fifth Committee.

A/34/664. Report of Special Political Committee, draft resolution II.

Resolution 34/67, as recommended by Special Political Committee, A/34/664, adopted without vote by Assembly on 5 December 1979, meeting 89.

The General Assembly,

Recalling that it has been more than a decade since the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was held at Vienna, in 1968, and that this period has seen rapid progress and growth in space exploration and the development of space technology and its applications,

Considering that there is a need to assess these developments, to exchange information and experience on their present and potential impact and to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of institutional and co-operative means of realizing the benefits of space technology,

Recognizing the importance of wider participation of Member States in the activities of the United Nations in outer space matters,

Aware of the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to orderly growth of space activities favourable to the socio-economic advancement of mankind, in particular of the peoples of the developing countries,

Taking into account new developments in space science and technology which are being projected and envisaged in the coming decade as well as the new applications emerging therefrom and their potential benefits and possible implications for national development and international co-operation,

Conscious of the need further to increase the awareness of the general public with regard to space technology and its applications,

Desiring to stimulate an enhanced co-ordinating role of the United Nations, which is eminently suited to bring about increased international co-operation and assistance to the developing countries in the field of exploration and peaceful uses of outer space,

Recalling its resolution 33/16 of 10 November 1978, in which it decided to convene a second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to designate the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference,

Having considered the part of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning its work in its capacity as Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,

Noting with satisfaction that the Committee, in its capacity as Preparatory Committee for the Conference, has submitted detailed recommendations on the preparation and organization of the Conference,

1. Endorses the detailed recommendations submitted in paragraphs 84 to 115 of its report by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in its capacity as Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

2. Adopts the provisional agenda for the Conference as set out in paragraph 99 of the report of the Committee;

3. Endorses in particular:

(a) The recommendation of the Committee that the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and

Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be held in the latter half of 1982;

(b) The recommendations of the Committee concerning the preparation and organization of the Conference, including the secretariat, bureau and form of the Conference;

(c) The recommendation of the Committee on the ceiling for the cost of the Conference;

4. Requests the Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a recommendation on the venue of the Conference;

5. Requests the Committee to continue with its preparatory work for the Conference;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to make, within the ceiling for expenditure established for the Conference, the necessary organizational and administrative arrangements, as set out in the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Committee.

Registration of space launchings

In 1979, States launching objects into orbit around the earth or farther into space continued to supply data to the United Nations on space launchings. Such registration was called for by the General Assembly in 1961[13] and was also provided for in the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, which came into force in 1976.[14] The Convention had 26 States parties as at 31 December 1979.

Fourteen notifications were received and distributed as documents of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. (They covered objects launched at the end of 1978, as well as during 1979.)

Canada, India, Japan and the United Kingdom submitted information on one launching each; Czechoslovakia submitted information on one launching performed by the USSR which that country had reported in 1978. The USSR reported information on the launching of 83 objects and the United States on the launching of 51 objects.

By a note dated 13 June, Czechoslovakia informed the Secretary-General that it had established, in accordance with the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, a national registry of the space objects it had launched.

[13] See Y.U.N., 1961, p. 35, resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961.

[14] See Y.U.N., 1974, p. 63, resolution 3235(XXIX) of 12 November 1974, annexing text of Convention.

Documentary references

A/AC.1 105/INF/382-384. Information furnished in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI) by States launching objects into orbit or beyond (India, Japan, United Kingdom).

ST/SG/SER.E/18-28. Information furnished in conformity with Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (Canada, Czechoslovakia, USSR, United States).

ST/SG/SER.E/INF.S. Note verbale of 13 June from Czecho-Slovakia (notification that Czechoslovakia had established registry under Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space).