

contributing to the advancement of education and training, and draws attention to the fact that questions relating to the legal implications of space communications are also on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, with which UNESCO and the ITU should co-ordination their activities in this field;

17. Requests the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue as appropriate to furnish the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space, and to examine and report to the Committee on the particular problems which arise or may arise from the use of outer space in the fields within their competence and which should in their opinion be brought to the attention of the Committee;

18. Endorses the recommendations contained in paragraph 38 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning the future work of its Legal Sub-Committee;

19. Requests the Committee to continue its work as set out in the present resolution and previous resolutions of the General Assembly and to report to the Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.

UNITED NATIONS

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PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY CONCERNING THE MOON

USSR: Draft Treaty Concerning the Moon

The States Parties to this Treaty,

Noting the gains made by States in the exploration of the Moon,

Recognizing that the Moon as the only natural satellite of the Earth, has an important role to play in the conquest of outer space,

Desiring to prevent the Moon from becoming a scene of international conflict,

Determined to promote the further development of co-operation among States in the exploration and use of the Moon and its subsoil and of circumlunar space,

Recalling 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 provisions of the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return 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 with a view to further progress in the conquest of outer space,

Have agreed on the following:

Article I

1. States Parties shall pursue their activities on the Moon and in circumlunar space in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

2. In accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the use of force in any form or the threat of force, as well as any other hostile actions or threat of such actions, shall be prohibited on the Moon. The use of

the Moon to commit any of the aforementioned actions in relation to the Earth or space objects shall also be prohibited.

Article II

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

2. States Parties undertake not to place in orbit around the Moon any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction or to install such weapons on the surface of the Moon or in its subsoil.

3. 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 prohibited.

Article III

1. States Parties shall strive to co-operate in matters relating to activities on the Moon. Such co-operation may be on either a multilateral or a bilateral basis.

2. Each State Party shall engage in the exploration and use of the Moon with due regard to the interests of present and future generations and with respect for the rights of other States Parties as specified in this Treaty.

3. A State Party which has reason to believe that another State Party is violating its obligations under this Treaty may request consultations between the States Parties concerned.

Article IV

1. States Parties shall explore and use the Moon by reasonable means avoiding the disruption of the existing balance of the lunar environment.

2. States Parties shall explore and use the Moon in such a way as to prevent adverse changes in the lunar environment and its contamination through the introduction of extralunar matter. Where necessary, consultations shall be held between the States Parties concerned.

Article V

1. States Parties may pursue their activities in the exploration and use of the Moon anywhere on the surface of the Moon, in its subsoil or in circumlunar space.

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

- land their space objects on the Moon, launch them from the Moon and place them in circumlunar orbit;

- dispose their vehicles, equipment and personnel anywhere on the surface of the Moon, in its subsoil or in circumlunar space.

Vehicles and personnel of States Parties may move freely over the surface of the Moon, through its subsoil and in circumlunar space.

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

Article VI

1. States Parties may establish both manned and unmanned stations on the Moon.

2. Stations shall be installed in such a manner that they do not impede the free access of vehicles and personnel of other States Parties pursuing activities on the Moon to all areas of the Moon, as provided for in 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 VII

1. States Parties undertake to adopt all practicable measures to safeguard the life and health of men on the Moon. For this purpose they shall regard any person on the Moon as an astronaut within the meaning of the 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, irrespective of the duration of the stay of such person on the Moon, the place where he is situated on the Moon, his formal membership of the crew of a spacecraft and other similar circumstances.

2. It shall be the duty of States Parties to offer shelter in their stations, vehicles, installations or other facilities to persons in distress on the Moon who are part of the personnel of other States Parties.

/...

3. In pursuing activities on the Moon, States Parties shall take the necessary steps to exchange information on any phenomena they discover in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, which could endanger the life or health of men on the Moon, as well as information on any signs of organic life.

Article VIII

1. Neither States, international intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations and national organizations having the status of juridical persons or not, nor natural persons, may claim the surface or subsoil of the Moon as their property. The emplacement of vehicles or equipment on the surface of the Moon or in the subsoil thereof, including the construction of installations integrally connected with the surface or subsoil of the Moon, shall not create a right of ownership over portions of the surface or subsoil of the Moon.

2. Portions of the surface or subsoil of the Moon may not be the object of concession, exchange, transfer, sale or purchase, lease, hire, gift or any other arrangements or transactions with or without compensation between States, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations or national organizations having the status of juridical persons or not, or of arrangements or transactions between natural persons.

Article IX

In accordance with article VIII 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, States Parties shall retain ownership of articles of their property delivered to the surface of the Moon or to circumlunar space, including structures, vehicles and equipment.

Article X

A State Party which learns of the crash landing, forced landing or other unintended landing on the Moon of a space object that does not belong to it, or the crash of component parts of such an object shall inform the State Party to which the space object or component parts belong, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article XI

In addition to the provisions of article VII 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, a State Party shall be liable for damage resulting from its act or omission or from an act or omission of its personnel on the Moon to the property or personnel of other States Parties on the Moon, unless it is established that the damage occurred through no fault of the said State or of its personnel on the Moon.

Article XII

1. This Treaty shall be open to all States for signature. Any State which does not sign this Treaty before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.

2. This Treaty shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Governments of, which are hereby designated the Depositary Governments.

3. This Treaty shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification by five Governments including the Governments designated as Depositary Governments under this Treaty.

4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of this Treaty, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

5. The Depositary Governments shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification of and accession to this Treaty, the date of its entry into force and other notices.

6. This Treaty shall be registered by the Depositary Governments pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article XIII

Any State Party to the Treaty may propose amendments to this Treaty. Amendments shall enter into force for each State Party to the Treaty accepting the amendments

upon their acceptance by a majority of the States Parties to the Treaty and thereafter for each remaining State Party to the Treaty on the date of acceptance by it.

Article XIV

Any State Party to the Treaty may give notice of its withdrawal from the Treaty one year after its entry into force by written notification to the Depositary Governments. Such withdrawal shall take effect one year from the date of receipt of this notification.

Article XV

This Treaty, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the Depositary Governments. Duly certified copies of this Treaty shall be transmitted by the Depositary Governments to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed this Treaty.

DONE in ..., at the cities of ..., the ... day of ... one thousand nine hundred and seventy-....

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PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY CONCERNING THE MOON

Letter dated 24 September 1971 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the German Democratic Republic addressed to the Chairman of the
First Committee*

Permit me to send you enclosed a statement of the Government of the German Democratic Republic on the agenda item "Preparation of an international treaty concerning the Moon".

I ask you to circulate the statement as an official document of the General Assembly on the above-mentioned agenda item.

(Signed) Illegible
p.p. Otto WINZER
Minister of Foreign Affairs

* Circulated at the direction of the Chairman of the First Committee.