(Mr. Ali, Pakistan)

governmental as well as at the non-governmental level, to increase international co-operation in the use of direct broadcast satellite systems. Pakistan would favour the adoption of such a recommendation.

These and other allied matters can, we feel, usefully be taken up by the Working Group on satellite broadcasts, which now ought to take up its task in earnest. At the same time, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as a focal point for matters relating to outer space, will, we hope, examine the UNESCO draft declaration of guiding principles on the use of satellite broadcasting for the free flow of information, the spread of education and increased cultural exchange.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Pakistan for the generous words he addressed to the Chair.

There are no more speakers on my list. However, before adjourning the meeting, I wish to point out that the Chair has been requested to announce that Lebanon has become a co-sponsor of the 14-Power draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.608; and also that the Khmer Republic has become a co-sponsor of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.606/Rev.1.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

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Twenty-seventh Session

FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 18 October 1972, at 3.00 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. RAMPHUL (Mauritius)

Rapporteur: Mr. Santiso-Galvez (Guatemala)

- International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /28/ (continued)
- Preparation of an international treaty concerning the Moon: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /29/ (continued)
- Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting /37/ (continued)
- Programme of work

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72-71046/A

AGENDA ITEMS 28, 29 AND 37 (continued)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/8720; A/C.1/L.606/Rev.1 and L.608)

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY CONCERNING THE MOON: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/8720; A/C.1/L.608)

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING (A/8771; A/C.1/L.605 and L.607)

Mr. RYDBECK (Sweden): Mr.Chairman, this is the first time the Swedish delegation has spoken in the First Committee at this session, and I therefore take this opportunity to extend to you warmest congratulations on your unanimous election to the chairmanship of this Committee. My sincere congratulations also go to the other officers of the Committee -- Ambassador Bishara of Kuwait, Ambassador Datcu of Romania and Ambassador Santiso-Galvez of Guatemala.

It is a matter of satisfaction to my delegation that this year the First Committee has decided to start its important deliberations with the question of the peaceful uses of outer space. In the international deliberations on space activities Sweden has tried to be as active as its modest means in space science and technology permit. For a number of years we have stressed that the projects with which the Outer Space Committee is dealing or should be dealing are each year gaining greater importance for an increasing number of countries. The practical applications of space technology are steadily growing in number and today influence developments in a multitude of human activities. Some of them have already revolutionized traditional patterns, whereas others are only starting to make their impact felt.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

The space age is thus slowly leaving its childhood behind and space technology becomes a significant element in the lives of most nations. Those nations are, however, very unequally endowed to meet the technical, economic and organizational exigencies typical of space activities. In this sector, as well as in most others involving a heavy reliance on modern science and technology, the developed countries, especially the super-Powers, are making quantum jumps ahead, while to many developing countries the possibilities opened up by modern space applications do not seem to have been yet fully realized or encouraged, even less, utilized. The Swedish delegation believes that energetic means should be employed to remedy this situation which, if unchecked, will tend to aggravate further the technological and economic divergencies between developed and developing countries.

This situation, among others, renders the task of the Outer Space Committee more important with every year. The work of this Committee should, we think, to a great extent be seen in the light of the over-all United Nations effort to come to grips with under-development. Certainly we need to continue the legislative work which has already shown many significant results. But increased attention must be paid to the various practical space applications and their implications. This should involve not only a continuation of general information activities, but also a more active and detailed assessment of the potential of such applications for United Nations Members. In dealing with those problems my delegation has consistently stressed the organizational aspects of the problem, since we are convinced that proper international organization is in many cases the clue to the avoidance of possible conflict and the best way of ensuring speedy acceptance of operational application systems.

The trend towards stressing the practical applications of space technology is visible in national and international space programmes. True, spectacular results have been achieved in the past year by the United States and the Soviet Union in the exploration of the moon, Mars and Venus. But the plunge into deep space represented by the "grand tour" to the outer planets has been reduced in scope, and instead the utilitarian but somewhat less far-reaching space shuttle and the tug move to the fore. Is it possible to hope that the announcement of a

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

joint United States-Soviet Union docking mission in 1975, based on the general 1971 space agreement between the two States, could initiate much increased collaboration between those two States and also others, with a view to maximum rationalization of scarce resources in the costly adventure of exploring and exploiting outer space?

The restructuring of European space co-operation within ESRO, which also reduces science allotments in favour of applications, has led to a reshuffling and strengthening of the Swedish space organization. A special body, the Swedish Board for Space Activities, combining government and industry interests, has been set up and is seconded by a State-owned company providing technical expertise. As a result of our joining the whole of ESRO's activities, the Swedish space budget has now almost doubled to about $3 million. We think there is now hope for a viable European applications programme and we would regret the impetus gained being now slowed down as a result of recent problems in United States-European co-operation in the Aerosat field. In this context, we also hope that meaningful European participation in the post-Apollo programme can be assured in the near future.

After this general introduction, I pass now to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, contained in document A/8720.

The Legal Sub-Committee this year devoted particular attention to the two items of a draft treaty concerning the moon and the registration of space objects. I should like again to record briefly my delegation's views on them.

Detailed exploration and practical use of the moon and its resources is probably -- notwithstanding the phenomenal technical and scientific results achieved by the two space Powers -- still some time off even for those two, not to speak about smaller nations like my own. Even if for those reasons my delegation feels that detailed legislation of activities on the moon and other celestial bodies should not yet be undertaken, we have no objections to drafting a treaty of a general character which could usefully complement certain articles of the existing outer space Treaty.

Like a number of other delegations, we should like to see the treaty -- or at least the main parts thereof -- cover not only the moon but other celestial bodies as well.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

Thanks to the energetic efforts by our Chairman during the meeting of the space Committee last September, a consensus seems now to prevail in the Committee in favour of a treaty covering not only the moon but other celestial bodies as well. The Swedish delegation suggested, however, that we should still stay within our own solar system. We said that going outside this seemed to us somewhat presumptuous, perhaps even inimical to some distant civilizations that might one day punish us cruelly for our boundless legislative appetite. The Swedish suggestion seems, perhaps somewhat surprisingly, to have been seriously taken ad notam.

As for the two remaining outstanding questions from the Sub-Committee -- the question of providing information on space missions and the question of the legal status of the natural resources of the moon -- it was not possible to register any important steps towards agreement during the September meeting.

As regards the legal status of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies, let me once again stress the importance my delegation attaches to the implementation of the wording of the outer space Treaty that "the moon is the province of mankind". Even if this concept is probably not primarily aimed at creating a property title for mankind as far as resource utilization is concerned, it seems to point clearly to the related concept of "common heritage of mankind" later accepted in relation to the sea-bed and its resources.

The usefulness of this concept for the moon should, to our mind, be positively studied. Once we accept this concept, the question of a proper international administration for the exploration of the moon and other celestial bodies arises. It may, indeed, be early to settle now on the proper type of international machinery. It seems clear, however, that the idea of such machinery should be recognized, since without it expressions such as "common province" or "common heritage" will be of limited value to the majority of nations. This, of course, is just part of the much greater problem of turning the exploration and exploitation of outer space from its present unilateral or bilateral course into an international undertaking with tangible United Nations involvement.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

Finally, as regards the moon, we find it important that freedom of scientific research should be guaranteed and that scientific results obtained from activities on the moon should be widely publicized and distributed. These principles were, we believe, accepted in the course of the Sub-Committee's debate.

As far as the registration of space objects is concerned, my delegation appreciates the reasons which have prompted the Canadian and French delegations to push for a more comprehensive international system and we find their proposals most interesting. We remain somewhat hesitant, however, as to the practicability and economic feasibility of registering all space objects. For the few cases where verification is necessary from the point of view of damage caused, available means would generally seem satisfactory. However, it might well be that an agreement on registration should be negotiated for certain types of space vehicles once shuttle service in space has become a reality.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

The work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee has been characterized in the last two years by efforts to spread knowledge about space applications to a greater number of countries, especially in the developing world. The results achieved were in no small measure attributable to the United Nations Expert on Space Applications, the eminent Professor Ricciardi of Argentina. We were very much impressed by his skill and his ability to reach towards meaningful projects within a sadly limited budgetary framework and the maze of competing United Nations and specialized agency claims. We are sorry to see him leave the United Nations and hope that in his new functions he will still be able to devote some time to international space co-operation where his great experience will be of particular value.

We stand ready to co-operate with Professor Ricciardi's successor and wish him good luck in his difficult task. We hope that he will enjoy the same great freedom of action within the Secretariat as did Professor Ricciardi, and that he will be able soom to submit to the Outer Space Committee a draft outline of his scheduled two years of activity, which, hopefully, will not be too much hampered by financial constraints. For, certainly, if we want to redeem our pledge to share the fruits of space applications with all countries, we have to provide the United Nations and the Expert on Space Applications with sufficient means to do so. So far the budget has been comparatively meagre.

The panel concept has now been tried for about two years and we find that it has been a valuable way of imparting practical space application knowledge, especially to developing countries. We feel that more experience is still necessary before a general assessment of the usefulness of the panel method can be made. Constant efforts must be made to attract students from developing countries to the projects. To that end continued attention should, inter alia, be directed towards providing sufficient travel funds for participants from developing countries to complement the amounts provided by the host country to cover the actual panel costs.

The innovations provided by the Expert on Space Applications and the panel concept have undoubtedly given new impetus to the work of the Sub-Committee. However, there was a general feeling at the latest session of the Sub-Committee that something

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

more needs to be done to further revitalize it in order to provide it with some more substantial work than is now the case. It was noted that the documentation was massive but not always very purposeful, quite irrespective of the fact that it was put at the disposal of members far too late to allow any meaningful discussion. The Swedish delegation ventured to suggest that, whereas the documents contained a comprehensive survey of the world's space activities and should continue, it was not actually necessary to discuss them all in the Committee. Rather, the Committee should select one or a few subjects of great topical interest where it could make a contribution and concentrate discussion on those during one or two sessions. Without making any formal proposals, we suggest that such topics might be, for example, aeronautical or meteorological satellites.

My delegation would very much appreciate it if before the next session of the Sub-Committee some thinking could be devoted to thus enhancing the work of the Sub-Committee. Such consultations, which could hopefully be directed by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, should also ponder the question of the relationship to the Sub-Committee of such organizations as COSPAR and IAF. These, as we know, possess great technical expertise and their repeated offers to co-operate actively with the Sub-Committee should be positively explored for mutual benefit.

Turning now to the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, I should like to record my delegation's satisfaction with the organizational meeting held by that Working Group in May, which created a good basis for our coming work. The Swedish delegation has from the outset stressed the organizational and legal aspects of remote sensing activities: namely the question of who should manage this technology and who should exploit its results. In so doing we certainly do not want to seem to disregard the formidable technical problems involved. But those problems are being assiduously tackled by an army of scientists and technicians. Probably the best proof of their proficiency is given by the recent successful launching of ERTS-I for which we want to express our sincere congratulations and admiration to the United States and NASA.

Now the question is: is anything being done to match this prodigious technical achievement in the organizational field? We submit that so far very little has been done and that, therefore, the United Nations Working Group

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

should proceed speedily to consider those problems. My own delegation submitted a working paper on organizational aspects which, after some initial hesitancy, was generally favourably received. This paper was intended as a first structuring of the organizational problems. We very much hope that other delegations will elaborate on it in the course of the Working Group's debates so that some substantive proposals emerge in the organizational field. For, failing this, the United Nations will probably have missed the chance to play a significant role in the operational phase of remote sensing systems. The losers would be the great majority of nations which cannot wield this technique on their own. We appeal especially to the great Powers to realize that the best way to avoid conflict around the utilization of this new technology goes through a United Nations type co-operation, which would be sure to safeguard the rights of nations to exploit their own resources.

The Swedish delegation has in this context studied with great interest the set of guidelines that the United States Government has prepared for selecting experiments for the ERTS and EREP programmes and for distributing data derived from these experiments.

I want to stress here, to avoid any misunderstanding, that the United States Government has pointed out, in its introduction to these guidelines, that they have been approved for use among interested United States agencies during the experimental development of the United States earth resources survey programmes and that they do not attempt to establish or forecast procedures to be followed in subsequent operational programmes.

We have noted that these guidelines clearly stipulate that all foreign ERTS-experiment proposals should be endorsed by a competent government agency in the proposer's country. This seems to rule out the possibility, for instance, that private corporations present proposals to NASA to obtain data from the territory of a State without the knowledge of the State in question. This rule does not make it clear, however, what happens when NASA is confronted with an experimental proposal that concerns not the territory of the proposer's country but is related to a third country. There is, however, another rule in the said guidelines which deals with the question of data from third countries.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

It is thus stated that NASA expects that most investigators should obtain ground truth to verify the results obtained through their scientific analyses. If an investigator requires airborne or ground access to the territory of a country other than his own to obtain ground truth, that access must of course be approved by a government agency of the country concerned before the experiment can be approved. NASA has further declared that this consideration will be applied to all proposals involving data concerning another country, whether originated by the United States or foreign investigators. This rule does not necessarily imply that prior consent from the State whose territory is being analysed must be obtained beforehand. I make these references to the United States remote sensing experimental programme just to show how urgent it is that we start to tackle the organizational and legal problems inherent in this new space technique. Having said that I want to stress that we find that the ERTS is characterized by a high degree of openness and a wish to accommodate national sensitivities. This approach, we hope, could be preserved in the operational systems to come. It is, however, a debatable question whether openness as such also means that all have the same chance to utilize the results of the technology. The contrary may well be true, especially for countries with a weak technological base and limited abilities to assess and make use of the information.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

This in turn points to one of the basic problems in the remote sensing field: namely, that of training and education. This problem must be tackled without delay, and my delegation looks forward to the first substantive meeting of the Working Group which is to take place in January 1973. We hope that the documentation that is now being worked out by the Secretariat and by a task force established by the Working Group will constitute a good basis for the January meeting.

The second Working Group of that Committee, dealing with direct broadcast satellites, has not met for about two years. You will recall that the Working Group has so far held three sessions and published three reports which were generally considered to be of great interest and considerably influenced later debate in the broadcast satellite field. The working group concept proved useful in this interdisciplinary field, where legal problems are intertwined with purely technical considerations, frequency allocation problems, etc. The Working Group in its reports adopted a suitably pragmatic approach where the legitimate claims of national sovereignty were balanced against the importance of the free flow of communications, both nationally and internationally.

The third report of the Group also stressed the need for the United Nations and its Outer Space Committee to serve as a focal point and co-ordinator of international discussion concerning broadcast satellites at a time when these are receiving increased attention in some specialized agencies -- notably UNESCO and ITU.

The General Assembly, in resolution 2733 A (XXV), which was unanimously adopted, endorsed the conclusions reached by the Working Group and invited the ITU and UNESCO to continue work on those aspects of broadcast satellites falling within their respective mandates. The Assembly also requested the Outer Space Committee to keep under review the question of reconvening the Working Group at such time as additional material of substance might become available.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

During the last two years, action has been taken by concerned international organizations on various aspects of broadcasting by satellite, some of which are of direct relevance to the work of the Outer Space Committee: namely: 1. the decisions and recommendations adopted by the ITU at the World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications in Geneva in 1971. These decisions, which upon ratification will enter into force on 1 January 1973, deal with the allocation of frequencies for all kinds of space communications, including satellite broadcasting, as well as with the technical and administrative regulation concerning the establishment and operation of satellite communication systems; 2. the draft declaration of guiding principles on the use of satellite broadcasting for the free flow of information, the spread of education and greater cultural exchange, transmitted by the Director-General of UNESCO to the Secretary-General; and 3. the on-going work performed by UNESCO and WIPO with regard to the protection of television signals transmitted via satellites.

In addition to these developments, the USSR has taken the interesting initiative of submitting to this session of the Assembly the question of the elaboration of an international convention on the principles governing the use of artificial earth satellites by States for direct television broadcasting. Since the Soviet initiative no doubt will be dealt with in depth and at length in the Outer Space Committee, I should like to confine my comments today to stating that the Swedish position comes very close to what was stated by the representative of France the other day, when he said:

> "Two dangers must be avoided: on the one hand, excessive censorship; on the other, the fact that some States may be subjected to a flood of broadcasts beyond their control. Freedom being a principle, as stated in article 1 of the draft treaty on outer space, a certain moderation in its exercise is nevertheless desirable through international agreements. As we see it, every State should in fact have the means to preserve the cultural originality of the community for which it is responsible; likewise, national economic activities related to culture, such as the film and record industry, for example, are entitled to protection." (1862nd meeting, page 7)

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

In the light of all these new developments, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space found it advisable that the Working Group, in view of its interdisciplinary character and its co-ordinating functions, be reconvened to study the new substantive material now available. In particular, the Working Group has been requested to assess the results of the World Administrative Radio Conference on Satellite Communications and their implications for the future work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies with regard to international agreements in the political and legal areas.

It is a fact that the detailed regulation proposed at the ITU Radio Conference concerning frequency registration, avoidance of interference, prior consultation, etc., with respect to broadcast satellites seem to go a long way towards diminishing certain fears of a legal and political character. But, again, the matter is very complex, and needs thorough examination. This could best be done by the Working Group.

As mentioned, UNESCO has drafted a declaration on satellite broadcasting to be submitted to the UNESCO General Conference this month. My own country initially had doubts about that declaration from the points of view of contents and procedure alike. In the process of drafting, the text has become less objectionable to us, and could probably be accepted in the form of a non-binding declaration. From the point of view of procedure, however, I wish to point out that we find it somewhat difficult to see why UNESCO should get involved at this stage in a matter which seems to fit exactly into the mandate of the United Nations Working Group. We certainly do not want to start any inter-agency feud on this matter, but we feel bound to declare that, in our opinion at least, it would be most appropriate that the United Nations Working Group, considering its central co-ordinating role in the broadcast satellite field, should review the UNESCO draft before it is finally adopted by the General Conference.

(Mr. Rydbeck, Sweden)

As we see it, a decision to reconvene the Group does not run counter to the new Soviet proposal to draft a convention on the use of direct broadcasting. On the contrary, the Working Group is eminently placed to highlight these aspects of ITU's and UNESCO's decisions, which are particularly relevant for a legal discussion and could also provide comments on the Soviet draft. We are convinced that discussion in the Outer Space Committee stands to gain from the procedure that we have just outlined.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation to those delegations which, during this debate, have supported and endorsed the decision of the Outer Space Committee to reconvene the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, of which I happen to have the honour of being Chairman.

Mr. KAMIL (Indonesia): Mr. Chairman, permit me to join previous speakers in extending to you the congratulations of my delegation on your well-deserved election as Chairman of the First Committee. My delegation would like also to congratulate the other officers of the Committee, Mr. Bishara of Kuwait, Mr. Datcu of Romania and Mr. Santiso-Galvez of Guatemala. With these outstanding personalities guiding our deliberations, my delegation is convinced that our Committee will have a fruitful and successful session.

Since 1957, when we here on earth heard the first signals emitted by Sputnik, then circling our earth in outer space, many major achievements have been scored by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the field of space exploration and the peaceful conquest of outer space. More than once man has set foot on the moon and has brought back to earth precious samples of moon particles. The collection of lunar particles by automated means has also been achieved by scientists of the Soviet Union.

Worthy of note as regards the recent achievements in space technology has been the successful launching of ERTS-1 earlier this year, which will permit scientists to conduct further experiments on remote sensing of the earth. It is also gratifying that the number of countries taking an active part in space research has increased notably. These are all activities whose immense benefit will eventually be felt by all mankind, especially in the developing countries.

Within the United Nations itself we witness with gratification the constructive and important work done on questions dealing with international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The work of the Outer Space Committee and its Legal and Scientific and Technical Sub-Committees has been noteworthy. The Legal Sub-Committee has drawn up a number of draft conventions and treaties which have been accepted by the international community. My delegation takes this occasion to pay tribute to the former Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, and to its present Chairman, Mr. Jankowitsch, who have so successfully guided the deliberations and the work of the Committee. The Outer Space Affairs Division has also done excellent work, for which we congratulate its leader, Mr. Abdel Ghani.

(Mr. Kamil, Indonesia)

My country, Indonesia, has in the past several years shown a special interest in space applications. Consisting of thousands of islands and located in an area extending several thousand miles from west to east and from north to south, Indonesia believes that the practical applications of outer space technology will be of immense benefit to Indonesia and its people, especially in the areas of agriculture, mining, forestry, education and communications.

Our activities in space research are co-ordinated and promoted by the Indonesian National Aeronautics and Space Agency (LAPAN), which was established in 1963. Its main tasks are, among others, to elaborate a space research and application programme in the light of the requirements of and prospects for the acceleration and modernization of national economic and social development; and to encourage the application of space-derived technology in the different branches of our national economic and social development. The existing programme of the Agency is already moving towards full participation in the areas of: first, meteorology, with its Automatic Picture Transmission Station in Jakarta; secondly, telecommunications, with its ground station at Jatiluhur, west Java; thirdly, remote sensing by airplane of Indonesia's natural resources, including possible mineral deposits in unexplored areas; fourthly, participation in international conferences on outer space technology, including the annual COSPAR meetings, the United Nations workshops on earth resources and the United Nations-sponsored panel on earth resources held in 1971 in Brazil.

The United Nations Expert on Space Applications, Professor Ricciardi, in the course of his visit to Asia visited Indonesia earlier this year. He visited and saw our facilities and equipment and had lengthy discussions with government officials and scientists. Professor Ricciardi found in my country an extraordinary interest in space applications and he noted that there was a substantial capacity for the use of remote sensing which should be adequately developed and used for the country's development programme. Permit me to pay tribute here to Professor Ricciardi, who has functioned excellently as the first United Nations Expert on Space Applications, and to the assistance and support he has extended to our officials with a view to enhancing Indonesia's activities in the practical uses of space technology. We regret that Professor Ricciardi has left us and we look forward to a close working relationship with his successor.

(Mr. Kamil, Indonesia)

From our experiences in Indonesia my delegation believes that an important role of the United Nations in space applications should be to increase the developing countries' awareness of the immense benefits of space applications. Hand in hand with this, the training of experts and scientists seems to my delegation to be important, as well as the holding of panel discussions and seminars. It is for this reason that my delegation endorses the conclusion of the Outer Space Committee that its future work should be concerned increasingly with space applications, particularly as they apply to the national development of the developing nations.

Indonesia supports the recommendations of the Outer Space Committee concerning the United Nations programme on space applications for 1973 and the guidelines for programming for 1974 as contained in chapter III, paragraph 24, of the report of the Outer Space Committee and paragraph 16 of the report of its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/102). We believe that these recommendations establish an effective framework within which to pursue the goals of the programme for the coming year. We especially support the convening of panels and seminars in different parts of the world as a means by which the necessary awareness can be created in the international community of the importance of the practical applications of space technology and we hope that due regard will be had to the particular needs of the representatives of developing countries on these panels and seminars so as to make it financially feasible for them to attend such meetings. My delegation is also gratified at the increase in the modest budget allocated to implement the programme proposed for the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. It will take some time before the impact of practical applications of space technology can be fully grasped by policy makers in developing nations, and a growing programme to make possible wide participation by those countries in United Nations programmes should be encouraged.

(Mr. Kamil, Indonesia)

My delegation has followed with keen interest the debate going on in this Committee with reference to the draft resolution submitted by the USSR concerning the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. It seems to my delegation that the crux of the matter is whether such a convention would contravene the freedom of information upheld by Member States. It is also claimed that direct television broadcasting to each individual receiver via satellite is still a remote technical possibility.

We in Indonesia greatly treasure and uphold freedom of information but at the same time we are also aware of the possibility that this freedom could be abused. It is with this in mind that my delegation considers the Soviet draft resolution. While recognizing that direct television broadcasting via satellites is not yet a matter of the immediate future, my delegation is inclined to agree with the basic considerations underlying the Soviet draft resolution. My delegation believes that the proposed draft convention could be referred to the relevant working group or committee for intensive and exhaustive discussion and study.

In conclusion, allow me to revert to the question of the membership of the Outer Space Committee which has been touched upon by several previous speakers. The Committee, as we know, was established as an ad hoc committee in 1959 to meet the exigencies of the space age. In the circumstances the composition of the Committee had of necessity to reflect a balanced representation, taking the interest of the space Powers primarily into consideration. In 1961, to reflect further agreement among the space Powers, the membership of the Committee was enlarged to 28 and has remained so since then, whereas other United Nations organs, such as the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and others, have enlarged their membership.

The Outer Space Committee's shifting emphasis from the general area of international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space to practical applications of space technology necessitates the widening of the area of international co-operation so as to enable developing countries to share in the benefit of such co-operation, especially as it relates to their programmes of economic development. Therefore my delegation concurs in the view expressed by some members of the Committee that serious thought should be given to allow wider participation of the international community, including the developing countries, in the work of the Committee.

(Mr. Kamil, Indonesia)

Finally, my delegation, along with 11 other delegations, has submitted for this Committee's consideration a draft resolution on international action for the investigation of the harmful effects of storms.

The terrible and terrifying disasters caused by storms, cyclones and typhoons in Bangladesh and the Philippines are still fresh in our minds, and all joint efforts must be harnessed in the scientific and technological fields with a view to mitigating the harmful effects of these destructive forces.

My delegation strongly commends this draft for adoption by this Committee.

Mr. VALLARTA (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): If you will allow me, I shall comply with the provisions of the new rule 112 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and turn immediately to the substance of the question now being dealt with by the Committee, which is so worthily presided over by you, Mr. Chairman, and one of whose distinguished officers is from Latin America.

The very limited membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space makes it extremely important that we hold a general debate on the report, since this is the only opportunity given to States that are not members of that Committee to participate in the debate on the subjects that fall within the mandate of the Outer Space Committee. It is for this reason that this occasion is extremely useful for the non-spatial States, whether or not they are members of the Committee on Outer Space, to make their views known and to hear the views of others on subjects that may be of special interest to them.

Pursuant to this line of reasoning, my delegation would like to draw the attention of the developing countries to the United Nations programme for the application of space technology. We believe that this programme calls for enthusiastic and whole-hearted support so that it will constantly grow and benefit those countries.

(Mr. Vallarta, Mexico)

With regard to the draft articles on the moon and other celestial bodies, the delegation of Mexico would prefer the future treaty to cover not only the moon but also other celestial bodies and even outer space itself. The developing countries attach special importance to the question of deciding whether or not the future treaty is to declare the juridical status of the resources of the moon and other celestial bodies. On this specific point, my delegation would invite the developing countries to weigh the appropriateness of the future international agreement laying down that outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies are the common heritage of mankind. There is surely no reason to limit the application of the concept of the common heritage of mankind to resources alone. The legal nature of the common heritage of mankind, when applied to outer space, flows from the international character, necessarily international, which attaches to outer space, to the moon and to other celestial bodies. It would be to the advantage of the non-spatial countries for the future treaty to set forth the principle of the common heritage of mankind, since from such a statement will be derived not only economic consequences but also the right of the international community to have the space Powers assume definite positions or stands on such questions as disarmament and scientific investigation.

My delegation believes that prior notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations of space operations intended to lead to activities on the moon, in outer space and on other celestial bodies is a right of the international community which flows directly from article 1, paragraph 1, 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, which reads as follows:

> "The exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind." (resolution 2222 (XXI), Annex)

(Mr. Vallarta, Mexico)

If the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, are of interest to all mankind, then the international community has the right to be informed, and the space Powers are not fulfilling their obligation so to inform it if the Secretary-General is told only of what has already been done.

This question takes us directly to the other aspect, namely the registration of objects launched into outer space, which should be entitled "Registry of space objects". The draft prepared by the Legal Sub-Committee on the registry of space objects does not set up a system of prior notification. The launching of objects into outer space is an operation that calls for planning over the years. The launching and the activities that follow the launching are acts which, in accordance with international law, are of interest to all mankind. Therefore this would be the right time to invite the non-spatial States to consider whether we are not abdicating a legitimate right if we agree that the future treaty on the registry of space objects is to provide for the registration of events or acts that have already taken place. It is true that the present registration of a voluntary nature based on resolution 1721 B (XVI) is a registry of acts already committed, a registry of objects that have already been launched into outer space, but it is no less true that that first registry was the first step taken, and it was taken before agreement that, in accordance with international law, the exploration and use of outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies were matters of interest and concern to all mankind. Furthermore, to agree to notification or registration of events that have already taken place is a very serious risk for non-spatial States, because if a heavy space vehicle or object should accidentally fall, the launching State might fall into the temptation of disguising its failure and not mentioning the launching in order to save face as a space Power and avoid having to meet the legal consequences flowing from the Treaty on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects.

(Mr. Vallarta, Mexico)

It is true that States have the right to keep their space programmes secret, but that secrecy must cease and there must be a notification officially communicated to the Secretary-General for publication when the date of the launching of the object draws near. States do not have the right to keep their plans secret when these plans have repercussions beyond national jurisdiction. This is the principle that is gaining ground in international law because of its very weight, exercised as it has been in many different fields such as space law, the law of the sea and international co-operation relating to the human environment.

The Mexican delegation considers the initiative of the Soviet Union on the preparation of an international treaty on the principles to govern the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting to have been a very pertinent one. May I venture to recall that in 1971 the Committee considered some of the paragraphs of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee regarding satellite broadcasting to promote training and education. When this took place the Mexican delegation proposed that the Committee declare that when carrying out such broadcasts, the sovereign rights of Member States should be taken into account. We can, therefore, now state that we believe that the Soviet draft and the initiative of Mexico, to which I referred, both flow from the same basic premise, namely, that it is the right of the receiving State to maintain adequate control over all broadcasting coming from areas beyond its national jurisdiction.

We in Mexico believe in the absolute freedom of information within national frontiers. However, we believe that, from an international standpoint, the principle of the sovereignty of the State must curtail the application of the principle of the free flow of information, and cannot allow it to be applied as freely as it is applied within national boundaries. My delegation does not believe that lack of technical development in the direct transmission of television through satellites is a valid argument to adduce against the initiative of the Soviet Union. International law has followed technology and we have to avoid the perpetuation of such a prejudicial situation. Article 13 of the Charter of the United Nations clearly states that the General Assembly shall initiate studies and make recommendations

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for the purpose of encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification. It has already been proved that a mere codification of the jurisprudence or practice of States is not in itself sufficient. The progressive development of international law a priori is the adequate method of our day.

However, I do not believe that this is the right moment to go into a detailed analysis of the texts presented by the delegation of the Soviet Union. For the moment, suffice it to state very generally that many of the ideas contained in the explanatory memorandum of the Soviet Union, circulated in document A/8771, in fact coincide with the Mexican views on the matter. We specifically agree with the principles according to which direct broadcasting by satellites will be used in order to ensure peace, progress, mutual understanding and the strengthening of friendly relations among peoples, and will serve to raise the educational level of the population, encourage culture and widen international exchanges. We also share the view of the delegation of the Soviet Union that direct broadcasts by television to foreign States must only be allowed subject to the consent of the States concerned.

We are certainly not unaware of the complexity and delicacy of the subject, and therefore we must be very careful to ensure that future international regulations on the matter should not encourage unjust limitations on the flow of information and on expression of points of view. My delegation hopes that the delegation of the Soviet Union will give us enough time to assess its initiative, and that, in the meantime it will allow us to continue to work on texts that have already been submitted to us by the Legal Sub-Committee particularly those dealing with the moon and other celestial bodies and on the registration of space objects.

My delegation will very carefully weigh the proposal of the delegation of Italy regarding an increase in the membership of the Committee on Outer Space, and on this point my delegation can anticipate that we shall, of course, support the entry of China to that Committee. The Mexican delegation feels that the concern that underlies the initiatives of Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand is not justified. I refer to the views contained in the draft resolution

(Mr. Vallarta, Mexico)

calling for international action for the mitigation of the harmful effects of storms. That draft resolution has already been carefully studied by my delegation.

Mr. ORTIZ DE ROZAS (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): I trust, Sir, that you will not call me to order because of the first words I shall speak, although violating the new provisions of the rules of procedure. My first words are in fact words of congratulations to you on your unanimous election to the Chairmanship of the First Committee. Mine, Sir, is not a ritual or a diplomatic formula. I am truly expressing my feelings of admiration, respect and friendship for you, as you well know.

May I also tender my congratulations to Ambassador Bishara of Kuwait, Ambassador Datcu of Romania, and Ambassador Santiso-Galvez of Guatemala on their election.

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

As Mr. Jankowitsch told us the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has in the past year made significant progress in its work. We have no doubt that his wise guidance was of significant importance in the Committee's achieving such progress and we wish to repeat the readiness of my delegation to increase our co-operation with the Chairman of that Committee, Mr. Jankowitsch.

We believe that important and additional efforts will have to be made by all countries represented here, particularly those that are ahead of all others in the use of outer space, for this Organization effectively to undertake the task of international co-operation in this field. And I say this is necessary because we believe that, since the entry into force of the Treaty on outer space, international co-operation is now a legal obligation and must condition the legality of activities in outer space and celestial bodies, including space communications. We believe that adequate expansion of the Committee on Outer Space would contribute to allowing these efforts to achieve fruitful results.

Furthermore, the very composition of the United Nations has changed significantly since that Committee was established and it is our opinion that we should ensure greater participation by the developing countries in that Committee -- countries of Asia as well as Africa and Latin America.

With regard to the scientific and technical aspects, may I first of all express our satisfaction with the way in which the United Nations programme for the encouragement of space technology has been carried out. We believe that this session of the General Assembly should expressly recommend that that programme should be continued and expanded, taking particularly into account the needs of the developing countries. In our view, in order to do so, budgetary provisions will have to be made so that the benefit derived from the programme can be increased in the near future.

Again, we should like to say that we fully endorse the words of praise that have been earned by the Expert on Space Applications, Professor Humberto Ricciardi, and we trust that his successor will be equally successful in carrying out his responsibilities.

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

My delegation would like to express its appreciation of the recommendation made by the Committee on Outer Space that the United Nations should continue sponsoring the bases of Thumba in India and CELPA in Argentina. We trust that that measure will be ratified by the present session of the General Assembly and we are convinced that this vote of confidence will endorse this clear example of what international co-operation channelled through this Organization can truly mean.

With regard to the remote sensing of the earth by satellites, the delegation of Argentina is happy to congratulate the United States of America on its successful ERTS-SKYLAB programme and on the readiness of that Government to ensure that the benefits derived from that programme can be shared by other countries -- which is a proof of its attitude towards international co-operation.

Within the framework of the Organization, we attach special importance to the substantive work to be carried out by the Working Group on Remote Sensing next year. We are convinced that this Working Group will shortly conclude its work and will prepare an adequate multilateral system of data acquisition and processing, followed by a dissemination of information, so that the use of these techniques of inventory and study of earth resources will benefit all mankind. This is precisely what is proposed in article 1 of the draft international treaty on activities related to remote sensing of the earth by satellites, which was submitted at the ninth session of the Legal Sub-Committee by the delegation of Argentina. We trust that this draft will be considered as soon as possible both by that Sub-Committee and by the other competent organs of the Committee, and that the provisions of that agreement will then be reflected in some future international agreement. We are convinced that regulations will have to be drafted so that activities in this field will take full advantage of, and be able to take account of, the participation of all countries and that, at the same time, these activities will be carried out with all due respect for the sovereign rights of States.

We are very pleased to see the joint proposal of Canada and France regarding the registration of space objects. The general principles are principles that Argentina can well share. We believe that we should complete the preparation of a draft convention on the matter as soon as possible, and that thus we can

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

devise an effective way for the United Nations to serve as an effective and active centre of information on national registries of objects launched into outer space, data on which respective States will have to communicate and make available as soon as possible. Otherwise, the agreement on the rescue of astronauts and the return of space objects, as well as the draft convention on liability for damages caused by space objects, would be very difficult to implement.

We note with satisfaction that considerable progress has been achieved in the preparation of a draft treaty on the moon although, as we realize, there are important questions still awaiting solution. I should like to make known the views of my delegation on this matter.

First of all, we believe that the scope of the draft treaty should include all celestial bodies and that there is nothing to prevent this from being done. The three draft treaties that have been agreed to on space questions, under the auspices of the United Nations, contain norms that do not discriminate or differentiate between celestial bodies and, as can easily be understood from the time in which they were prepared, even less information was available at that time than is available to us today on outer space. It is for these reasons we believe that to limit this draft convention solely to the moon is a concept that cannot be justified by the absence of information or knowledge and that, furthermore, the framing of a draft treaty on the wide scale basis which we propose would certainly not stand in the way of new special norms being agreed to in the future, if necessary, to cover one or more celestial bodies or specific aspects of certain space activities.

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

Secondly, we feel it indispensable that the future convention should set forth that the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies are part of the common heritage of mankind. That position was made known in detail by the delegation of Argentina when in 1970, in the course of the ninth session of the Legal Sub-Committee, it submitted a draft treaty on principles governing activities in the use of the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies. We trust that those provisions will be duly reflected in the text at present under preparation.

Finally, we share the idea that that text should contain norms governing responsibility in aspects not provided for in the Treaty which has recently come into force on the matter, and that it will provide for a system of prior information on missions undertaken to the moon and other celestial bodies. We trust that these problems will be solved as soon as possible and as adequately as possible by the Outer Space Committee, so that the General Assembly will receive a complete and fully drafted document on the matter and so that there will be no need to make recommendations specifically detailing the expected contents of the convention and the criteria that the commission will have to follow in order to ensure that the text includes such views.

May I now refer to the other aspect: direct television broadcasting. My delegation is very gratified that a new session has been planned for the Outer Space Committee's Working Group on Direct Broadcasting Satellites. As the permanent representative of Sweden pointed out when submitting that idea to the Committee, it is advisable that a new study be made of the subject in the light of technological progress achieved in the last few years and of the activities being carried out in the matter by other organs of the United Nations, such as UNESCO and the International Telecommunication Union. Furthermore, we all know of the interest shown by many countries in continuing the study and discussion of a subject of such importance, in order to lay down juridical norms that will allow of the adoption of a convention which will ensure that the benefits to be derived from these techniques of direct television broadcasting by satellites will be shared by all countries but which will also duly safeguard the rights of the receiving States in matters exclusively within their domestic jurisdiction.

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

My delegation therefore believes that the draft declaration of guiding principles in the use of satellite broadcasting for the free flow of information, the spread of education and greater cultural exchange prepared by UNESCO (A/AC.105/104) is a highly positive contribution towards the regulation of the subject and a valuable document which should be borne in mind by the Committee. We also believe that the draft convention submitted by the Soviet Union in document A/8771 is an important element that should also be considered within this context, and we are extremely happy to have received that document. Together with the delegation proposing the draft convention, that of the Soviet Union, we feel that, without prejudice to the studies on the subject that may be carried on by the Working Group, the main responsibility for the elaboration of a treaty on the subject must fall to the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

We reserve our right to make known the views of the Argentine Government on the matter when we find the opportunity is right to do so. However, we do feel that we should have a text regulating important activities of this nature which will prevent the conflicts that might arise by setting forth an adequate procedure for entertaining claims that States parties might submit because of violation of the provisions of the convention by States carrying out these broadcasts. That procedure should be rounded out by an assessing or controlling organ and the creation of special mechanism to assess responsibilities and apply the corresponding sanctions. We know that this task will call for additional and arduous efforts, but, as we said at the beginning of our statement, international co-operation, which is today a legal requisite of space activities, fully justifies those efforts, since they are intended to harmonize and dove-tail the respective rights and interests at play so that with appropriate conciliation we can make sure that the potential benefits of such activities will be achieved without unjustified limitations, while averting the dangers that those activities might create.

Mr. DIAZ-CASANUEVA (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): Speaking for the first time in the Committee, Mr. Chairman, may I be allowed to express to you our warmest congratulations on your well earned election. We trust that under your wise and able guidance our work will culminate in effective resolutions. I extend my congratulations also to the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur, as well as to the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Mr. Jankowitsch.

When considering the reports of the Outer Space Committee it is obvious that certain progress has been achieved and that useful directives have been laid down concerning the international legal system governing and the legal and use of outer space. International law may well be expanded norms arrived at may encourage the utilization of outer space and ensure its use for the benefit of mankind, at the same time encouraging concord and co-operation among all nations. However, there is still much to be done, and in this field scientific and technological progress advance much more rapidly than legal and moral progress for the international community as a whole peacefully to enjoy the results of man's conquests.

My delegation is gratified at the scientific and technical progress made in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space. Experiments with the data from ERTS-1 and Lunar Station 20 allow us to foresee that we are now on the threshold of a new era that is evolving rapidly, with research work that may almost immediately, and with a speed unknown in previous eras, become a utility that can be enjoyed by all mankind. We, the dependent nations that are developing, know full well that sooner or later we will benefit from space techniques, so long as international agreements are arrived at that will ensure trust and co-operation and avoid the monopolizing and controlling of information by a few nations.

(Mr. Diaz-Casanueva, Chile)

In the field of the exploration and use of outer space we can measure the enormous distance between the super-developed and the underdeveloped nations. The former have the resources, the scientific know-how and the technological means to undertake the great adventure of outer space. The latter celebrate their extraordinary triumphs or continue to contemplate mysterious, endless space with the amazement they felt thousands of years ago.

Nevertheless, we believe this to be a joint human undertaking and not the privilege of a few. If, because of the special circumstances of our era, only a very few countries have achieved the exceptional opportunity of being the main protagonists of such enormous progress, the other countries, with the assistance of the United Nations and its machinery and instruments of co-operation, must all without exception one way or another be able to see themselves as one and participating in this joint undertaking.

It is not merely a question of our complacently and supinely enjoying the benefits of the use of outer space in meteorology, topography, ecology or broadcast by satellite. Our scientists, our technicians and our jurists must take an active part in the elaboration and achievement of the programmes; there must be an increase in the number of scholarships and seminars; our universities must receive data and instruments: experimental stations must be installed in our countries; our youth must take part in the space undertaking. In a word, what we are speaking about is the call for an international policy that will tend to ensure the participation of men of all latitudes in these space activities.

We have very carefully weighed the reports of the two Sub-Committees of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We appreciate the work that has been done, and we have been deeply impressed by the programmes of future work of the two Sub-Committees. However, we believe it to be imperative that the membership of the Committee be expanded to include other States irrespective of their degree of development, and it is also imperative that we expand contacts with other international and national entities. In other words, outer space is the common heritage of mankind, and developed and developing countries must join in its exploration and use.

For the moment, the developing countries lack the necessary economic and technical resources, but they do possess human resources; they do possess the

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brains and the will to contribute as far as their powers allow. This is apart from from the duty of meeting the needs of our countries and satisfying many of our interests with the practical applications of space technology.

My delegation wishes for the moment to dwell only on the one problem of direct television broadcasting through artificial earth satellites. In this Committee a nice distinction has been drawn on the matter which I do not believe to be justified. For example, we are told that direct radio broadcasting by satellite to community receivers at present requires land stations at the location where the signal from the satellite is received. The technology of community radio transmissions has progressed considerably, though only on the experimental level. Furthermore, we should point out that direct television broadcasting from satellites to home receivers without going through the intermediate community stations is some years away. It would therefore be premature to deal with this matter at present. So said some delegations. But others, with perfectly valid grounds, have said that it will take a number of years to deal seriously with the problem.

Ambassador Bush, with greater vision and honesty, has confessed that in the near future the United States is planning experimental broadcasts by satellite to community receivers located in areas of sparse population, such as Colorado and Alaska. He added that joint agreements have been arrived at with the Governments of India and Canada to carry out similar experiments beamed to community receivers in their countries.

In a study by Werner Hirsch I have just read that conventional television can, depending on the topography of the zone and the power of transmission, cover a territory of approximately 30,000 square kilometres. For comprehensive educational purposes, and in vast countries of the third world, this must be set aside. There is still hope in satellites. They can broadcast school programmes over entire continents. And Hirsch adds, "Let us see what the cost of such a plan would be. A satellite for television broadcasting with a programme of two hours' duration a day, plus 500,000 receivers, sufficient for all the villages of India, would cost as much as three supersonic aircraft -- that is, approximately $150 million." Similar prospects were outlined at a recent seminar on educational television held in Chile. I venture to point out that when some delegations say that it will be "some years" before complete direct

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television broadcasting by satellite is effective, they are being over cautious and are lacking in imagination. I recognize that the members of the First Committee are not in duty bound to be -- if I may coin a word -- "futurologists". But I also recognize that each of us possesses sufficient information to note that a few years are very rapidly swallowed up, given the break-neck speed with which science and technology in outer-space matters has progressed.

(Mr. Díaz-Casanueva, Chile)

None of us believed that men would be walking on the moon as soon as they did. On the basis of such experience, and taking into account present scientific and technical programmes, there can be not the slightest doubt that we are not very far from the time when direct television broadcasting by means of satellites will reach all corners of the world and be seen by all its inhabitants, whether they be in cities, in the forests or in the deserts. The broadcasts will serve different purposes: utilitarian, commercial, political, educational, cultural, and so on. The multiplicity of systems and of their applications -- many of them as yet unsuspected -- will have to be the subject of study by experts. Here in the United Nations we are called upon to exercise, preferably, a preventive type of action, with an eye to succeeding generations, as the introduction to the Charter says. What I wish categorically to state here is that direct television broadcasting by artificial satellites constitutes simultaneously one of the potential possibilities of greatest benefit to mankind and, at the same time, one of the greatest threats to man -- that of reducing him to a mere statistic and of subjecting him to the power of the imperialist forces. It is for this reason that this First Committee is weighing an alternative of profound historical importance -- the use of space technology for direct television broadcasting for the benefit of all mankind, or its use for the benefit of a great Power which, employing subterfuge and fallacy and appealing to a false conception of what is known as "freedom of information", seeks to consolidate its domination over the passive masses of the dependent or underdeveloped nations. May I mention a few of the aspects that bring out more clearly the danger to which I refer: (a) the influence of television as an audio-visual means of informing the masses; (b) monopolistic control over the techniques of direct television broadcasting by satellites, particularly with regard to Latin America; (c) the resistance raised by certain North American circles to acceptance of guiding principles to govern broadcasts by satellites, under the pretext of defending "the free flow of ideas and information".

(Mr. Díaz-Casanueva, Chile)

At a recent congress of writers, critics and publishers, held in Caracas as part of the Year of the Book being celebrated by UNESCO, we were analyzing the competition offered by television to books in all parts of the world, which is a cause of grave concern in the developing countries. The electronic media, including the audio-visual and particularly television, combining as they do both sound and image and transmitting a greater amount of immediate information, placing the whole world within the viewers' reach and benefiting from the complicity implied in the passivity of the television viewer, exercise a far greater influence over man than does a book. One of the most important thinkers in contemporary culture -- paradoxical, prophetic, impressive -- is Marshall McLuhan. He states that the era of the book is approaching its end and that of television is being consolidated. Writing made oral communication obsolete; printing made writing obsolete; the electronic media, especially television, are making printing obsolete. There still exist all the traditional media of communication -- oral, written, printed; but obviously the masses are being dominated by radio, movies, television; and of these three, the last is the most important. McLuhan is not entirely correct when he speaks in apocalyptic fashion of the book, above all in the industrial and developed world. According to UNESCO statistics, in 1969, 75 per cent of the world's production of books was attributed to North America, Europe and the Soviet Union; Europe accounted for 45 per cent of titles published, with 13 per cent of the world's population; the Soviet Union, with 6.8 per cent of the world's population, produced 15 per cent of the total. On the other hand, Asia, Africa and Latin America offer tables of statistics that are truly frightening, fortunately with certain extraordinary exceptions in some of our countries. The excessive accumulation of books in the developed countries has already made necessary their reproduction on microfilm. On the other hand, in the dependent countries our libraries are poorly stocked with books, our publishing houses are financially poor, and we have millions upon millions of illiterates and semi-illiterates. Into this world there enters television, which fascinates and hypnotizes both the literate and the illiterate masses; television, to a large extent commercialized,

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rarely subject to the influence of universities or the State; television which feeds on the worst, on the most vulgar, on the dregs of mass culture -- violence, pornography, triviality and mediocrity. Commercialized television, with the rivalry among the channels and the necessity of satisfying the tastes of a public that has had no opportunity to raise its cultural standards, constitutes a source of concern for our educators, sociologists and statisticians and for all of us who participate in a cultural policy that seeks to ennoble rather than to degrade our peoples.

(Mr. Díaz-Casanueva, Chile)

Psychologically, no one can deny the fact that the television viewer is intellectually passive. He very easily imbibes whatever is broadcast to him. His critical senses are asleep. He is alienated from all around him. The programmes are inferior in quality. His taste is perverted. Television is a double-edged sword. It can be a violation of the masses, as it might also lead them to liberation and dignity. Thus, we are justified in wondering what it might mean to the people of Latin America to be bombarded by imperialist monopolies through direct television broadcasting, by means of artificial earth satellites, freed of all and any control and without any thought given to international law.

Freedom of information is invoked. But that freedom is the exclusive right of the transmitter and not the receiver. The latter is not consulted in any way. The latter's freedom is not taken into account. If the new space techniques are not framed within and controlled by legal provisions, the peoples of Latin America will be exposed to spatial, political, economic and cultural contagion from the large imperialist monopolies.

It is well known that United States television is in the hands of large transnational corporations. Obviously, some chains of North American television networks have progressed. They have given some signs of independence. But many of them do not reflect the true and high and noble culture of this country. Many of them reflect a subcultural level, and these are the products that are exported to our countries.

North American sociologists have proved that the development of electronic means of mass information has always been in the hands of capitalist and imperialist companies. Suffice it to mention one gigantic corporation, ITT, which has not been satisfied with merely earning profits. It has linked marketing with politics. It even tried to interfere in the domestic affairs of Chile, endeavouring to plot to overthrow the Government of President Allende -- a President legitimately elected -- a plot which has been sufficiently proved to need no further words.

(Mr. Díaz-Casanueva, Chile)

Therefore, imagine the dangers to which our countries would be exposed if transnational or multinational monopolies, such as ITT, or Kennecott, which is trying to regain control over our copper and to strangle our economy, were able to control or influence direct broadcasting through satellites. We cannot absolutely identify a State with a multinational monopoly, but imperialism is a complex of financial, economic and political factors that are very closely interrelated, and this interrelationship is aimed at the exploitation and subjection of the under-developed peoples. There are also cultural factors in the imperialist penetration to lull the people and to strengthen the power of the monopolies, as well as trying to avert social change in the developing countries that might imply a restructuring of the socio-economic set-up of the countries and a liquidation of their economic, political and cultural dependence.

The people of Latin America are rebelling against imperialism that tries to stifle their cultural personality through the export of certain inferior elements for mass information. An effort is being made to impose upon us standards of life, of style, of ideology, that are contrary to our very way of being: the glorification of the cowboy; the slaughters of the Indian and the buffalo, sex, violence, representing the Chinese as dark and evil beings, the customs of the consumer society, the models of a bourgeois society, conformity, hatred towards those who rebel against capitalist societies, cheap sentimentalism and mediocrity.

On the other hand, we do not receive the great contributions of the United States people to the culture of our day: the achievements of its learned men, of its universities, of its writers, its musicians, the awakening of black culture, experiments in modern art. The countries of Latin America, each in its own way, are developing a cultural policy which frees them from the imperialist subcultural pressure, a cultural policy that protects our traditions, the creative personality of our peoples, that brings us in direct contact with the universal manifestations of the culture of all times and of all peoples. That is why we are so concerned over the present subject.

(Mr. Díaz-Casanueva, Chile)

My delegation is extremely interested in the draft declaration prepared by UNESCO which contains guiding principles on the use of satellite broadcasting. That declaration points out that satellite broadcasting should be placed within the framework of international law, respecting the sovereignty and equality of States, encouraging education and cultural exchange, enriching cultures and value and the dignity of each of them. However, we believe that that declaration does not define nor sufficiently pinpoint the principle of "freedom of information".

Obviously, we agree with such a principle, but the meaning attached to it by free men and people is very different from the meaning attached to it by imperialist monopolies. We fully support the initiative of the Soviet Union for the preparation of an international convention that will deal with the legal problems governing the use of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting in order to safeguard the sovereignty of States, prevent interference in their domestic affairs, to benefit all States, to to exchange cultural values and encourage peace and friendship among nations.

(Mr. Díaz-Casanueva, Chile)

Furthermore, we have to consider the need to plan for the future, taking into account the economic, social, educational and cultural needs of countries, the increase in population and leisure hours, and so on.

The system of satellite communications should, for example, provide technical assistance, increase world-wide objective information, and serve to encourage international co-operation. These new instruments of progress must be placed at the service of all mankind, without regard to selfish interests. Resolution 1962 (XVIII), in operative paragraph 5, places responsibility on States for activities carried out in outer space by governmental organs or non-governmental entities.

Resolution 1963 (XVIII) likewise recommends the possibility of including in an international agreement suitable legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space.

There are other, earlier documents, such as the 1936 Convention on the use of radio broadcasting in the interest of peace.

I want to state very clearly, as a citizen of a country with the highest degree of freedom of information, that we intend not to curtail such freedom but rather, through juridical agreements, to prevent the abuses and vices which derive from commercialization, to avoid the damage done to developing countries that try to safeguard their heritage and culture, and to spurn hostile propaganda and the incitement to hatred among peoples. It is a question not only of achieving international regulation, which is just as important as in the field of the traffic in drugs, but also of co-operation on a legal basis among all peoples, great and small, so that progress in space technology will serve the cause of peace, cultural development and economic and social progress, in accordance with the principles of the Charter.

The proposal of the Soviet Union cannot meet opposition from any quarter. Obviously ideas may be put forward for its improvement, but they must not invalidate it or render it impracticable. My delegation considers that the Soviet Union has made an important contribution and we reserve our right to speak again on this matter of such importance to all nations of the world.

Mr. ABDULLA (Sudan): Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to extend my heartiest congratulations to you on your well-merited election to the chairmanship of the First Committee and through your good self to the other officers of the Committee. You may all be assured of the full co-operation of the delegation of Sudan in your important task.

We fully associate ourselves with the words of appreciation extended to Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria, Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, for the able and enthusiastic manner in which he guided the work of that Committee.

I am following for the first time the discussions of this Committee on the subject of outer space and I must admit that I am beginning to realize how impressive and important those explorations are. This realization is pleasantly mixed with the feeling and hope that these activities, guided by the principles of the Charter, will in the near future make a marked contribution to the heritage of mankind in general.

At a time when we are appalled by our drawing ever nearer to the year 2,000, when mankind will reach the figure of 6,000 million, with all the frightening consequences attendent thereon, we begin to see a ray of hope in the new outer space explorations -- that they may help to alleviate the difficulties of food supply and the demand for more efficient communications and for the greater extension of human knowledge and culture.

For small countries like mine whose contribution to the human heritage is so far meagre or nil, these explorations may present new opportunities to make a contribution to the total enrichment of mankind.

Having read the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/8720) and listened to many illuminating statements, I beg to make a few brief remarks and observations on certain aspects of the questions under consideration.

As regards the draft registration convention, my delegation wishes to congratulate the Legal Sub-Committee on the appreciable progress it has made on the France-Canada draft as far as general principles are concerned. Until such time as similar agreement is reached on details, the continuance of the practice of depositing with the Secretary-General information on objects launched into outer space seems adequate in the circumstances.

(Mr. Abdulla, Sudan)

As regards the draft moon treaty, my delegation shares the view expressed in favour of the continuation of the Legal Sub-Committee's efforts to finalize that draft during its 1973 session. With regard to other celestial bodies, a forecast of a future draft treaty planned well ahead in the form of general principles and guidelines will facilitate the production of a final draft treaty about celestial bodies when the time comes. This work can be entrusted to both the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee forthwith. We estimate that in both draft treaties -- that concerning the moon and that on other celestial bodies -- there should be provisions pertaining to the exploitation of any resources and emphasizing that such resources should belong to the human heritage. We stress this condition as we believe that without such provisions these expensive experiments on the planets will be tantamount to squandering vast material and technical resources so badly needed for meaningful projects on earth in the service of humanity.

As to remote sensing by artificial earth satellites, we believe that to all intents and purposes this experiment, as devised and planned, promises to give reliable indications on potentialities which our universe may possess and which otherwise would not be fully detectable by means currently available. The conservative assessment of the present stage of experimentation given by Ambassador Bush gives us reason to infer that the survey data at present available have already proved their practical usefulness. It is hoped however that the Working Group on Remote Sensing at the Outer Space Committee will confirm our inference.

We venture to suggest at this juncture that owing to the importance of that experiment for the development of this universe and of the earth, on and underneath the surface, some simple literature on the science and technology of the experiment should be prepared for school children as well as students. This is the sort of human investment which will give the new generation, on the attainment of working age, a better understanding of and ability to handle the problems of their new scientific era. In this regard the experience of UNESCO in preparing such material for educational institutions will prove most useful.

(Mr. Abdulla, Sudan)

While on the subject of ERTS-1, my delegation wishes to state that it concurs in the remark made by Mr. Vinci of Italy on the likely orientation of the meaning of national sovereignty that such universal flying gadgets as ERTS-1, and for that matter direct television by satellites, may bring about. I trust Mr. Vinci will permit me to extend his forecast by adding that national sovereignty has proved itself to be malleable and resilient enough before the changing events of history. It is the more so when it is proved that such orientation entails sufficient advantages to any nation. Indeed it is a process which is constantly taking place during our present epoch at bilateral, regional and international levels.

I wish now to refer to the Soviet initiative in favour of the preparation of an international convention on the principles of direct television broadcasting by artificial earth satellites. We congratulate the Soviet delegation on taking this early initiative in anticipation of the application of such television on a world-wide scale. In the same manner as that in which my delegation supported an early consideration of draft treaties for other celestial bodies, we support adequate consideration of the draft convention proposed. We maintain that television broadcasting by satellite as a means of diffusion of knowledge is important. We equally maintain that it is difficult to decide at this early stage what sort of knowledge and what purposes it should serve. Diffusion of science and technology is easy to agree upon and indeed to welcome, owing to the universality and objectivity of their nature. Yet, as pointed out by a number of delegations, it will be difficult to decide on the spot on questions of culture, civilization, ideologies and matters of national security. This is not to say that it is impossible to reach an agreement on some acceptable formulas. It is possible, for instance, to visualize a democratically appointed international council or councils to deal with the administration, the policy making, the programme formulation and supervision. In other words, the project could be under international control, since it is for international benefit. In these circumstances my delegation, while supporting the project in principle, wishes to suggest that the text should be a subject for further consideration by the two specialized committees at this stage.

(Mr. Abdulla, Sudan)

Finally, my delegation wishes to conclude by reiterating its belief in the importance of these peaceful explorations of outer space and by stating that it shares the impressions of the Secretary-General about

> "the sincere desire of members of the Committee truly to promote the peaceful exploration of outer space, honestly to search for ways and means through which the benefits derived from such exploration would be shared by all Member States, and to employ the machinery of the United Nations for these ends whenever possible." (A/8720, p.13)

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) : Were it not for Rule 114 of the rules of procedure, Mr. Chairman, I should congratulate you and the other officers of the Committee upon your election. We are sure that the impartial guidance you will give to our debates will enable this Committee to complete its tasks for this session.

I should like also to congratulate the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, Mr. Jankowitsch, on his excellent report.

The Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee has made substantive progress on two of the conventions before it: the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space and the draft moon treaty. With regard to the first of these, an account of the difficulties experienced by the New Zealand Government in returning some space objects which recently landed in New Zealand may be of relevance to the present debate.

Between 3 April and 12 May 1972 five spherical titanium alloy pressure vessels were found in Canterbury in the South Island of New Zealand. They were clearly space debris asscciated with the decay of a large object in the atmosphere which occurred at 1 a.m. local time on 3 April 1972. Published data on the re-entry of space objects into the atmosphere indicated that the only two space vehicles with which the objects concerned could possibly have been associated were launched by the Soviet Union and the United States respectively and that, whereas the path of re-entry of the United States craft was such that it would not have passed over New Zealand, the re-entry line of the Soviet vehicle coincided with the

(Mr. Scott, New Zealand)

the sightings and eventual landing sites of the objects found in Canterbury. The examination of the spheres carried out by New Zealand scientists also led them to conclude that the objects were of Soviet rather than American origin.

Pursuant to article 5 (1) of the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects launched into Outer Space, the New Zealand Government notified the Soviet authorities and the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the objects had been found. The Soviet authorities subsequently disclaimed ownership of the space objects, and later on the United States authorities confirmed that the objects were not of American origin. Earlier today the New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs announced that, since the space objects had not been claimed, they would be disposed of in accordance with New Zealand law relating to found property.

In this particular case my Government was merely taking the action required of it by an international convention to which New Zealand is a party. However, we should note that in the circumstances no State was prepared to admit responsibility for launching the objects concerned. A very slight change in the course of the space vehicle from which these objects originated may have caused them to land in a populated area, and they could possibly have caused severe damage or loss of life. My delegation believes it probable that, if such damage or loss of life had occurred, our task in finding a State willing to accept responsibility for launching these objects would not have been any easier.

For this reason, the New Zealand delegation fully supports the preparation by the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee of a convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space. We commend the initiative shown by the delegations of Canada and France in preparing a draft text of such a convention and we express the hope that this important step in the development of the law relating to outer space will not be postponed by the consideration of other items of a less urgent character. We have also noted that in relation to this convention there is a proposal that components of objects launched into outer space should carry markings indicating their origin. My delegation believes that such a provision should be included in the convention if at all possible.

(Mr. Scott, New Zealand)

The Legal Sub-Committee has also been considering the text of an international treaty concerning the moon. My delegation believes that the extension of such a treaty to other celestial bodies until such time as agreements covering particular celestial bodies are reached would be an appropriate and prudent step. We also are prepared to accept the principle that the natural resources of the moon and other celestial bodies should be the common heritage of all mankind, but we feel that it would be premature at this point to include in the treaty detailed provisions covering the extraction of such resources. This step could better be left until we know what types of technology are likely to make practicable the extraction of the moon's resources.

(Mr. Scott, New Zealand)

My delegation has taken careful note of the Soviet proposals on the principles governing the use of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. We believe that States feel legitimate concern about the possible effects of such broadcasting, but we understand that direct broadcasting to individual domestic television receivers is not likely to be practicable for some years yet. Thus, while we support reference of the Soviet proposals to the Outer Space Committee, we do not think that at this point they should be given precedence over the other important and urgent topics before that Committee. Since the Soviet proposals raise a number of important scientific and legal issues, we feel that this Committee should refrain from making a judgement too quickly as to whether a convention or any other international agreement or declaration would be the best way of dealing with this problem.

Finally I should like to express my delegation's support for and co-sponsorship of the draft resolution on international action for the mitigation of the harmful effects of storms. My delegation has become a co-sponsor of this draft resolution because we attach considerable importance to such regional initiatives, which demonstrate the positive humanitarian steps which the United Nations is able to take. We have an immediate interest in the Tropical Cyclone Project and we played a positive role in its first stage. We hope to ensure that this project continues because, taken together with the other measures detailed in this draft resolution, it should go a long way towards mitigating the effects of such dangerous storms.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to inform the Committee at this stage that Jamaica has become a sponsor of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.606/Rev.1.

I should also like to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that there is a misprint in document A/C.1/L.608, paragraph 24, in the English and Spanish texts. Paragraph 24 should read:

"Notes with appreciation that a number of the specialized agencies, in particular the World Meteorological Organization..."

The words "World Health Organization" should be replaced by the words "World Meteorological Organization".

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to make a few comments about our programme of work with regard to the outer space items under consideration.

As members of the Committee are aware, our time-table provides for seven working days to be devoted to the consideration of these items. So far we have used up five days, including today. For tomorrow, Thursday, 19 October, we have scheduled two meetings, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, in order to be able to conclude the general debate. There are nine speakers on the list for tomorrow morning's meeting and also nine speakers on the list for tomorrow afternoon's meeting.

On Friday, 20 October, we shall have a morning meeting, and if necessary an afternoon meeting, in order to vote on the draft resolutions and amendments that are before the Committee and to hear any explanations of vote that members of the Committee may wish to make. Thus, we shall adhere to our time-table and complete the consideration of the outer space items by Friday, 20 October.

These are the proposals of the Chair, but I shall, of course, entertain and consider any views delegations may wish to express on these issues. It is my hope that at the end of our meeting tomorrow morning we shall be able to take final decisions in respect of these procedural issues.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

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Twenty-seventh Session

FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 18 October 1972, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. RAMPHUL (Mauritius)

Rapporteur: Mr. SANTISO-GALVEZ (Guatemala)

- International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /28/ (continued)
- Preparation of an international treaty concerning the Moon: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /29/ (continued)
- Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting /37/ (continued)

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The co-operation of delegations in strictly observing this time-limit would be greatly appreciated.

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