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Held at Headquarters, New York,
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Chairman:

Mr. BORCH

(Denmark)

Rapporteur:

Mr. de SOTO

(Peru)

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security [39] (continued)
- International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [30] (continued)
- Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [31] (continued)
- Organization of work

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AGENDA ITEM 39 (continued)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
(A/C.1/L.670)

The CHAIRMAN: I have been requested to inform members of the Committee that Brazil, Guyana and Indonesia have been added to the list of co-sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.670.

AGENDA ITEMS 30 AND 31 (continued)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/9020; A/C.1/L.669)
PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (A/9020; A/C.1/L.669)

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil): The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space now before the First Committee gives ample evidence of the important work accomplished in 1973. Having participated in that Committee and in its various subsidiary bodies since they were established, the delegation of Brazil is pleased to acknowledge the expanding role of the United Nations in an area so wide in scope and so significant to developing countries.

The sessions held in 1973 gave Member States the opportunity to make their views known on the whole spectrum of subject matters under the Committee's mandate.

The annual review of the Committee's report by the General Assembly has always proved extremely useful. As a policy-oriented organ, the First Committee finds itself in a suitable position to assess the work accomplished by the Committee and to lay down guidelines for its future sessions, in accordance with the wishes of the entire membership of the Organization.

(Mr. Frazao, Brazil)

In order to contribute to this debate, I shall devote my statement today to a brief but comprehensive review of the report which was very ably introduced last Tuesday by the Chairman of the Committee, my good friend Ambassador Jankowitsch of Austria.

Let me begin with the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. My Government attributes great importance to the co-ordinating and disseminating role of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, in particular concerning the field of space applications where practical results are most needed.

(Mr. Frazao, Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation was among those which were disappointed with the meagre resources allocated to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications under the leadership of Mr. H. G. S. Murthy, to whose untiring efforts I wish to pay tribute. The amount of \$130,000 originally proposed by the Expert for 1974 was, in our opinion, quite appropriate in view of the magnitude of the tasks entrusted to him. The sum finally approved by the Committee -- \$87,000 -- represents a cut of \$43,000 in the budget originally worked out and will surely create serious problems for the carrying out of the work that developing countries rightfully expect from the Expert. To illustrate the constraints under which Mr. Murthy is operating, let me just recall that his total budget for 1974 is substantially lower than the cost that Brazil alone is willing to bear for the 15 fellowships we are offering in the field of space science and technology, as recorded in paragraph 32 of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee's report. It is our hope that, having agreed to review the programme on space applications on an annual basis, the Committee will be able to approve a budget next year that will be in keeping with the interests and expectations of the developing countries.

My delegation takes note with satisfaction of the work performed in the field of outer space by the specialized agencies and other regional organizations, in conjunction with the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. In this respect, we look forward to the report to be prepared by the Secretary-General on the various types of assistance extended by the United Nations system as a whole to developing countries in the field of space applications. We also attach great value to the activities of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and of its secretariat in the area of education and training. For its part, Brazil is prepared to co-operate fully towards the success of the Sub-Committee's work. In 1974 my country will host, as recorded in paragraph 51 of the report, the training workshop on remote sensing applications in the disciplines of cartography, mapping and land use, as foreseen in the Programme on Space Applications. The Brazilian Institute for Space Research, which will be in charge of the organization of the workshop, is confident that

(Mr. Frazao, Brazil)

the largest possible number of Member States will be represented, thus ensuring the success of the initiative.

In view of the far-reaching practical possibilities which are open in the field of outer space, my delegation is of the opinion that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should increasingly concentrate on space applications in its future work, with particular emphasis on the areas of exchange of information, as well as education and training.

Due to the reluctance of certain delegations, the Working Group on Direct Broadcasting Satellites was not able to meet in full the provisions of resolution 2916 (XXVII). The fourth session of the Working Group contributed, however, to a better understanding of the question and produced a compromise solution regarding its future work, which was endorsed by my delegation. The Working Group will thus, when reconvened next year in Geneva, finally consider and discuss principles on the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, with a view to making specific recommendations for the work of the Legal Sub-Committee in this field.

As my delegation has repeatedly pointed out, the Brazilian Government attaches particular importance to the work to be performed in this area. We are well aware that the new technologies of satellite broadcasting present manifold and far-reaching implications, in particular for the developing countries, in terms of expanding and improving educational opportunities and facilitating the flow of news and information to remote areas or to scattered population centres. Direct broadcasting may, in addition, open wide perspectives for the furtherance of understanding and co-operation among States, by means of a significant increase in the flow of cultural and intellectual exchanges.

Satellite broadcasting undoubtedly requires new and more extended forms of international agreements than the earlier conventional types of communications. Clear and significant differences exist between direct television broadcasting and traditional short-wave broadcasting, not only in terms of the technology involved, but also in view of the economic, social and political factors conditioning one and the other media.

(Mr. Frazao, Brazil)

Brazil thus favours the elaboration of specific rules of international law and the negotiation of international agreements to discipline direct broadcasting satellite activities. To our mind, there should be no contradiction between the principle of freedom of information and the protection of the sovereign rights of States. The agreements we envisage in the field of direct broadcasting satellites should, indeed, promote the free flow of information, provided that the broadcasting does not encroach upon the legitimate sovereign right of States to protect and enhance their political, cultural, social and economic values. We remain convinced that the best way to protect the sovereign rights of States in this area would be through international arrangements designed to guarantee that receiving States should exercise effective control over broadcasting directed to their territories. The element of consent by the receiving States is in our view fundamental in any international instrument to be negotiated in the area of direct broadcasting satellites. Without consent, countries could be subjected to various forms of open or disguised intervention in their cultural sovereignty and national security. Thus, instead of promoting over-all understanding and co-operation, direct broadcasting satellites would risk playing a disruptive role in international relations and could be an instrument of friction instead of an instrument of peace.

The compromise reached this year, as reflected in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution before this Committee, which my delegation is honoured to co-sponsor, is a fair compromise, since it allows work to be started immediately in the elaboration of legal principles. My delegation is entitled to expect that, first, the Working Group on Direct Broadcasting Satellites and, later, the Legal Sub-Committee, will be in a position to make progress in this important area.

(Mr. Frazao, Brazil)

Special mention should also be made of the very useful work performed by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and its Working Group with regard to the question of the remote sensing of natural resources of the earth by satellites.

Most of the principles which govern Brazil's position in the consideration of questions of direct broadcast satellites also apply mutatis mutandis to remote sensing activities. This is certainly a promising field in which technological developments, actual or foreseen, should serve the interests of progress and understanding while paving the way for intensified international co-operation on a world-wide scale.

At this stage in international life, the fulfilment of these encouraging possibilities will depend largely on the development of the international law applicable to outer space, or, more specifically, on the establishment of a normative framework to discipline the international effects of remote sensing.

As far as the legal and organizational aspects of remote sensing of natural resources are concerned, my delegation believes that a number of fundamental principles will have to be observed. Those principles should be the object of negotiation between interested States of all groups with a view to reaching a generally accepted agreement -- that is to say an international legal and binding instrument. Among the provisions of such an instrument, my delegation would expect to find, inter alia, principles regarding respect for international law, the promotion of international co-operation, the protection of the sovereign rights of States and of the legitimate interests of all countries, irrespective of the degree of their economic or technical development and the consent of all parties involved in remote sensing activities.

In the coming year, these principles will guide my delegation's participation both in the Working Group and in the Legal Sub-Committee, where the subject of remote sensing will be tackled as a matter of urgency.

Turning now to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, I should state that my delegation regrets the fact that it has been impossible to complete the two drafts still pending -- namely, the draft moon treaty and the draft convention on registration. It is our hope that in 1974 the Legal Sub-Committee will be able to finish elaboration of those two instruments. This will, of course, be no easy task. There are a number of fundamental principles involved in both instances

(Mr. Frazao, Brazil)

which must be respected if we are to arrive at final texts representing true and widely accepted advances in terms of the progressive elaboration of international law.

As far as work on the moon text is concerned, my delegation firmly believes it should lead to a consensus encompassing all groups of States and that it should not be limited to a mere reiteration of the general principles included in the 1967 outer-space Treaty. Among the elements my delegation regards as essential in any compromise in this field, I would mention the inadmissibility of claims of property over the moon and its natural resources, the declaration within the appropriate framework of the resources of the moon as the common heritage of mankind, and firm commitments regarding the establishment of an international régime to govern the exploration of these resources.

We fully realize that negotiations on the moon treaty involve quite specific and important rights and obligations of States and cover potential benefits to accrue not only to the present generation but mainly to future ones. A moon treaty encompassing significant progress in conceptual terms would thus be a landmark in the development of international law. Its provisions will inevitably constitute precedents for the elaboration of other international instruments. That being the case, we should be wary of undue haste in the acceptance of unsatisfactory formulae, in particular, in so far as the establishment of rights and the definition of legal situations are concerned.

The same reasoning applies, although in a different context, to the registration draft. Suitable compromise solutions have been achieved for all but one of the controversial provisions of the draft. The Legal Sub-Committee now has before it a text which is almost completed with the exception of the marking clause, which is considered by many delegations, including my own, to be a fundamental feature of the draft. Although my delegation would very much prefer a text that would make marking mandatory, we do not fail to recognize the technical difficulties raised by such a decision. In a spirit of compromise we are prepared to go as far as accepting a formulation which would foresee non-compulsory marking but make mandatory the provision of information on such marking to the Secretary-General. My delegation advanced that proposal in the Committee on the understanding that it would be acceptable to all groups of delegations and would be carried out in good faith by the space Powers. Coupled with

(Mr. Frazao, Brazil)

a reasonable review clause such as the one already agreed upon in the Committee, this mixed formulation on marking seems, at the present stage, to be the most likely to command the support of those delegations which have strong views on this matter.

Finally, with regard to the question of the enlargement of the Committee, my delegation is prepared to support any reasonable proposal which reflects the wishes of the membership of the General Assembly and the consensus of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are thus prepared to consider any specific suggestion with an open mind, as long as it does not depart from the principle of equitable geographical distribution set forth in our Charter.

Mr. CHEBELEU (Romania) (interpretation from French): We are the witnesses of many new and bold experiments that have been carried out successfully, as well as the improvement of techniques that have been increasingly perfected for the exploration of outer space and its use for the service of mankind.

The constant progress achieved in this field gives the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space new and urgent tasks and responsibilities. For it must be recognized that multilateral international co-operation in the scientific investigation of outer space and the peaceful application of space technology are far from having achieved the rhythm of the, at times, spectacular dynamism in the achievements of science and technology. We believe it is here, in the encouragement of international co-operation, that the Committee might be best advised to concentrate its efforts. After all, the conquest of outer space is not an end in itself. It is being, and should be, achieved so that the international community as a whole will benefit from the promising prospects of the applications of space techniques, and so that all States will have access to the benefits of the application of space techniques to their economic and social development.

(Mr. Chebeleu, Romania)

From that standpoint, we believe that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should further concentrate its activities on the study and adoption of measures that will truly encourage international co-operation. A very valuable contribution in this regard could be made by the preparation and implementation of concrete programmes of technical and scientific co-operation in the various fields of space applications. We emphasize the need for this type of guidance in the work, since, we must admit, the present programme in this matter is only symbolic. Furthermore, the material conditions of the facilities placed at the disposal of Member States, particularly the developing countries, are such that many of these countries see in them too few advantages to make them profitable.

In our view, the Committee has still a great deal to do in order to broaden the scope of its activities, so that, through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the United Nations may become a genuine centre for encouraging international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

A considerable part of the efforts of the Committee and its subsidiary organs was devoted to the development and codification of the rules of international law governing the exploration and use of space.

Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly last year, in the course of the present year the Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee concentrated on the solution of the problems left pending, and primarily on the contents of the draft treaty relating to the moon and the convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space. Although some progress was made toward a narrowing-down of differences in viewpoints on these matters, certain problems of the greatest importance on which agreement was not reached still stand. How those problems are resolved will, to a large extent, determine the value and effectiveness of the two international instruments contemplated. In our view, it is not impossible to reconcile such differences of view that still persist, provided the political will to arrive at agreement exists and so long as continuing efforts are exerted to that end. Thus we hope that the Committee will be in a position to put the finishing touches on the two agreements during the course of the next year, and to submit them to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session.

(Mr. Chebeleu, Romania)

At the same time, the Romanian delegation is of the opinion that the Committee and its legal Sub-Committee should accord a high priority in their work to the legal questions raised by the practical applications of space technology. We have in mind above all the use of satellites for direct broadcasting and the remote sensing of the earth by satellites, both of which matters are of immediate and particular interest to an ever-growing number of countries.

With regard to direct broadcasting by satellite, the specialized Working Group has made a useful analysis of both the technical developments in the fields concerned and the legal and political aspects of their application. We believe that the prospect of the use in the near future of this technique on an increasingly broad scale calls for the immediate elaboration of certain generally acceptable principles to govern such use. Those principles should at one and the same time encourage international co-operation in this field and ensure that broadcasting by satellite is employed exclusively for the purpose of raising the level of culture and education of mankind and for encouraging better understanding and closer relationships among peoples. There should be a clear definition, in our view, of the obligations and responsibilities of States with regard to the contents of the direct broadcasts received in other States, so that such activity will be carried on with full respect for the sovereignty of the receiving States and without interference in their internal affairs, while at the same time remaining completely in accord with international morality and ethics.

With regard to the remote sensing of the earth from satellites, although the techniques are today still in an experimental stage, even at this early date they open up wide possibilities for their exploitation for purposes of economic development and as a hopeful solution to certain problems besetting the developing countries. As far as Romania is concerned, we are keenly interested in the possibility of using these new techniques for environmental control and for the study of our earth resources.

There can be no doubt that for benefits to flow from the potential advantages of remote-sensing activities, wide-scale international co-operation is necessary. Here again the rules and principles thus far agreed on are

(Mr. Chebeleu, Romania)

not adequate. In our opinion, a much more precise legal system has to be worked out for governing this kind of activity, one that will take the specific characteristics into account.

Such a régime must ensure protection of the legitimate interests of all States, particularly of those States whose territories are being subjected to remote sensing. In this respect, we believe that there must be certain definitions laid down, including, among others, the obligation of States carrying on remote-sensing activities to place at the disposal of other States, either directly or through suitable machinery, the information gathered in regard to the territories of these latter States.

We therefore attach great importance to the recommendation made in the draft resolution, submitted yesterday by the representative of Austria, to the Legal Sub-Committee, that it respond to the request of the Working Group on remote sensing of the earth by satellite and to set down its views on the legal implications of earth-resource surveys by remote sensing.

In conclusion, I should like very briefly to refer to the matter of the composition of the Committee, a point that has been raised both in the Committee itself and in the course of the present debate.

The Romanian delegation is in favour of the idea of increasing the number of members and of adopting appropriate measures to allow all interested States to participate on an equal footing in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

We are convinced that the moment is ripe for us to redouble our efforts and act with greater vigour to increase the role of the United Nations in the encouragement of international collaboration, in order effectively to implement the goal set for us in article I of the treaty on the use of outer space, under the terms of which the use of outer space "shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development...". (General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI))

Mr. RESHETNIAK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): Although the questions of international co-operation in the area of outer space are being discussed last on our agenda, we think that this in no way diminishes their importance. The outstanding accomplishments in the conquest of outer space, both in the Soviet Union and in the United States, as well as the contributions of other States in this sphere of activity, have demonstrated most convincingly the real benefits that are being yielded to mankind even today by the use of outer space and the alluring and really boundless prospects that are being opened up in the near and distant future.

The representatives of many delegations have already told us a great deal about the progress made in the conquest of outer space and the concrete steps being taken to organize co-operation in this field among States, both within the United Nations and on a bilateral and multilateral basis, and this makes it unnecessary for our delegation to dwell on this aspect of the matter.

In our statement we would like to dwell on two issues: direct television broadcasting by means of artificial earth satellites and the work of the Legal Sub-Committee on the preparation of a treaty relating to the moon. In resolution 2916 (XXVII) the General Assembly has clearly stated that it;

"Considers it necessary to elaborate principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements; [and]

"Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to undertake the elaboration of such principles as soon as possible".

In our view, a good basis for the Committee's work in this area could be the draft convention proposed by the Soviet Union at the last session of the General Assembly. The Soviet draft already contained all the fundamental principles which should guide States in their use of outer space for direct television broadcasting, which is something which would do a good deal to facilitate the Committee's task. It is well known that the Soviet draft is designed to further co-operation among States in the use of outer space in the interests of peace, progress, the development of mutual understanding and the strengthening of friendly relations among all States and peoples.

In this regard it is important to observe that the Soviet draft proposes that States act in outer space in accordance with the generally acknowledged norms of international law, including the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Reshetniak, Ukrainian SSR)

As has already been stated here, direct television broadcasting can yield benefits to mankind only if it is based upon the observance of principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, equality, and mutual advantage. It is very important not to permit the use of outer space for propaganda in favour of war, militarism, nazism, nationalism or racial hatred and hostility among peoples, which is precisely provided for in the Soviet draft convention. I do not think there is any need to try to prove that broadcasts of an unfriendly, provocative nature are nothing but a form of subversive activity and a flagrant violation of the principles of peaceful coexistence among States, and therefore this kind of activity in space television broadcasts must be prohibited.

The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR, on the whole, takes a favourable view of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its auxiliary bodies, including the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites. We found the discussions which were held in the Working Group useful and also those in the Committee itself on questions connected with the international legal regulating of direct television broadcasting. The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR would like to point out that the report of the Working Group stressed that television broadcasting by means of satellites should serve the purposes of peace, the development of friendly relations, mutual understanding among peoples, and the social and economic development of States -- particularly that of the developing countries.

The Working Group pointed out also the tremendous potential involved in direct television broadcasting for expanding international exchanges in education, culture and information. Furthermore, the Working Group once again stressed the need for applying to direct television broadcasting international legal instruments, including the United Nations Charter, and expressed the view that the development of international co-operation in the field of space television should be based upon the appropriate norms and principles of international law. We would draw the Committee's attention to the fact that similar provisions can be found in the Soviet draft convention.

The Working Group also adopted a recommendation to consider at its next session the draft principles governing the activities of States in the use of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting for the purposes of concluding an international agreement or agreements, in accordance with resolution 2916 (XXVII) of the General Assembly and to present the proposal in question to

(Mr. Reshetniak, Ukrainian SSR)

the Legal Sub-Committee of the United Nations space Committee. The Ukrainian delegation shares the view entirely that the most appropriate organ for the drafting of these principles, which of course should be of an international legal character, would be the Legal Sub-Committee. At the same time, our delegation would like to point out that the instruction of the General Assembly to undertake as soon as possible the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting has not been carried out.

In this regard our delegation would like to express its views as to the form of the document which the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should prepare in compliance with resolution 2916 (XXVII). We understand the directive of the General Assembly requesting the Committee to elaborate principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting as entrusting the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with the task of drafting such legal provisions as would form the basis of a future international agreement on this matter. Accordingly, the purpose of the drafting of principles is to prepare a juridical basis for the drafting of an international legal document which would govern matters related to the use of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting.

(Mr. Reshetniak, Ukrainian SSR)

In our view, the best form for such an international legal instrument could be the convention which in a clear and binding manner would enunciate the rights and obligations both of the transmitting or broadcasting countries and the receiving countries.

I should like to say just a few words about the treaty relating to the moon. We recognize that the Legal Sub-Committee, whose report is to be found on pages 16-29 of document A/9020, has done some work with regard to the preparation of articles of a draft treaty on the moon, and we express the hope that the members of the Sub-Committee, imbued with a constructive spirit of co-operation and the desire to achieve positive results, will make further efforts to bring about a final agreement on those articles of the treaty which are not yet the subject of agreement. We sincerely hope that the Outer Space Committee will at a very early date be in a position to prepare and present to the General Assembly an agreed draft treaty on the moon.

Finally, some delegations in the course of this discussion have raised the question of the need to expand the membership of the Outer Space Committee. In acknowledging in principle the justice of such an issue, my delegation believes that its decision should not be detrimental to the effectiveness of the Committee's work. It would be desirable and useful to hear the views of the Outer Space Committee itself on this question.

Bearing in mind what I have said, my delegation supports the proposal as formulated by the sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.669, paragraph 28, to the effect that the Outer Space Committee should present a report on this matter to the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. SAITO (Japan): I should like to express the gratitude of my delegation for the lucid statement introducing the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which has been made by its Chairman, Mr. Jankowitsch. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Jankowitsch and other officers of the Outer Space Committee, as well as the officers of its Sub-Committees and Working Groups, for having so ably guided the work of these bodies during the record 12-week session in the first half of this year.

This has been another successful year in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. The complex research programme on the moon being carried out by the Soviet Union's Lunokhod 2 and the astonishing achievements already registered by the Skylab programme of the United States are typical examples of the progress we have witnessed this year. My delegation is gratified to note the closer co-operation between the United States and the Soviet Union and in particular the major progress in preparations for their joint experimental flight, scheduled for 1975. Progress in other countries has also been encouraging. ESRO has been active during the past year in Europe. The practical applications of remote sensing of the earth by satellites or rockets were successfully demonstrated in a number of countries, such as Argentina, Brazil and Canada. We noted progress in the preparation of India's first scientific satellite. This list is, of course, not exhaustive.

My delegation cannot claim any spectacular achievement in space activities in Japan in 1973. Nevertheless, we hope that this year will be a springboard for the further progress of our space programme. Work is now under way on the improvement of existing rockets and the development of new ones for launching satellites. Japan will continue to launch scientific satellites and is now intensifying preparations with a view to launching a meteorological satellite, an experimental communication satellite and an experimental broadcasting satellite in fiscal year 1976. The communication satellite will carry out experiments for the improvement of the communication system in Japan, and the broadcasting satellite will be used for experiments aimed at the elimination of difficulties which now impede the reception of television broadcasts in some areas of Japan.

(Mr. Saito, Japan)

Since the establishment of the Outer Space Committee in 1959, the exploration and use of outer space have passed from the phase of scientific research to that of practical applications of space technologies. This evolution has been manifest in various space activities of recent years; telecommunication, remote sensing, broadcasting and meteorological observation by satellites are some of the well-known examples of space applications of the new era. It is quite natural that many countries are increasingly interested in these space applications, since such activities are directly related to day-to-day life.

In the view of my delegation, this new tendency has a bearing on two aspects of the role of the Outer Space Committee.

First, the Committee is now placing increasing emphasis on specific subjects. In the first phase of space exploration, the main concern of the Outer Space Committee was to devise a political and legal framework of a general character for the orderly development of outer space activities for peaceful purposes. Thus, the Committee drafted the Outer Space Treaty, which forms the basis for such activities, the Rescue Agreement and the Liability Convention. The moon treaty and the registration convention, which are being considered during the current transitional period, may belong to this category. This year a working group of the Outer Space Committee initiated substantive work on remote sensing of the earth by satellites, and another working group resumed work in a more concrete manner on direct broadcasting by satellites. These are specific subjects and are more directly related to actual life than the Committee's earlier accomplishment in the task of working out a general framework for space activities. My delegation is of the opinion that such specific subjects should be dealt with by the Outer Space Committee not only from the political or legal point of view but from other angles, such as the organizational, technical and economic aspects, in view of the fact that the implications of these questions are not limited to one or two aspects. In other words, the Committee should make a balanced approach in order to find proper means for making the maximum benefits of new technologies available to all States.

(Mr. Saito, Japan)

The second aspect is related to the role that the Outer Space Committee is to play in view of the greater involvement of different bodies of the United Nations in space applications. Not only are various aspects of space activities under consideration by the Outer Space Committee and its subsidiary organs, but such specialized agencies as WMO, IMCO, ITU and FAO are actively working on them. In view of the fact that applications of new space technologies often have an interdisciplinary character, the role of the Outer Space Committee to act as a focal point has become all the more important. The Committee should always bear in mind the need for better co-ordination of activities relating to outer space within the United Nations system in order to make possible concerted action.

(Mr. Saito, Japan)

Having made these general observations, I should like to comment on some of the salient points of the report of the Outer Space Committee.

I wish to begin with that part of the report which relates to the moon treaty and the registration convention. Although the Legal Sub-Committee could not complete the drafting of the moon treaty or the registration convention at its twelfth session, it did succeed in finding appropriate solutions for some of the difficult problems. And even with respect to the remaining problems, there were some areas where we came very close to solutions. Further efforts were made at the sixteenth session of the Outer Space Committee to solve the remaining issues. With respect to the registration convention, differences were narrowed on the only unresolved problem, namely, the marking clause. The moon treaty offers three major problems: the scope of application, the provisions concerning natural resources, and the provisions on the preservation of the environment of the earth and the moon. As a result of extensive consultations, both in the Legal Sub-Committee and in the Outer Space Committee, a good basis for compromise on the question of natural resources was worked out, and we came close to an agreement on the scope of application. As regards the provisions concerning the environment, to which my delegation attaches great importance, the possibilities for a compromise were not fully explored, mainly because of lack of time. My delegation sincerely hopes that the Legal Sub-Committee will be given the opportunity to make its best efforts to complete the moon treaty and the registration convention at its next session as a matter of highest priority as recommended by the Outer Space Committee.

I now turn to the part of the report of the Outer Space Committee which deals with the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its tenth session. As reflected in paragraphs 56 to 58 of the report, the role and functions of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee were reviewed both in the Sub-Committee itself and in the Outer Space Committee. My delegation appreciates the positive role of the Sub-Committee as a body which is entrusted with the task of dealing with the scientific and technical aspects of space activities, and is also concerned with ways to disseminate space technologies for the benefit of developing countries. Moreover, the

(Mr. Saito, Japan)

Sub-Committee and its Working Group devoted much time this year to the first substantive examination of various aspects of remote sensing of the earth by satellites, and made positive recommendations. My delegation welcomes the reconvening of the Working Group on remote sensing, and the convocation of a Task Force regarding the dissemination of remote sensing data, and looks forward to active participation in the work of these bodies next year.

As the representative of India has pointed out, technical assistance to developing countries is an important item on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Japan is fully aware of its importance, and in this spirit it will host a United Nations panel meeting on satellite broadcasting systems for education from 26 February to 7 March 1974. We hope that this will be a fruitful meeting, with the participation of qualified experts from many countries. My Government believes that space technologies should be disseminated as widely as possible, in particular for the benefit of developing countries and, in this vein, it has offered fellowships for training in satellite communication engineering. Recently, we have improved our offers so that the Government of Japan will also meet overseas travel costs, living expenses and travel expenses in Japan. As a result of this improvement in the terms of the fellowships we are now receiving an active response from a number of countries. My delegation is greatly encouraged by the reaction.

Another subject of undoubted importance, that of direct television broadcasts from satellites, was considered this year by the Outer Space Committee. The Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites resumed its work and we had a useful exchange of views. In spite of the divergent views and approaches, a consensus was reached on the mandate of the Working Group to be reconvened. The Outer Space Committee endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group, and decided to reconvene the Working Group next year.

My delegation trusts that, under its new mandate, the Working Group will further consider various aspects of direct television broadcast from satellites, and hopes that this will result in making useful recommendations for the creation of an equitable international framework which will promote international

(Mr. Saito, Japan)

co-operation and harmonize various interests involved. The Outer Space Committee further recommended that the Legal Sub-Committee consider this important question at its next session, taking due account of the results of the work of the Working Group, as mentioned in paragraph 28 of the report. My delegation hopes that the General Assembly will endorse the programme of work recommended by the Outer Space Committee.

Before concluding, I should like to say a few words about the question of the enlargement of the Outer Space Committee. As I mentioned earlier, the Committee has many important subjects before it, and it will continue to play an active role in promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. It is quite understandable that many countries are increasingly interested in the work of the Outer Space Committee. Against this background, my delegation is of the view that it should consider the matter seriously with a view to finding the best way to discharge its task effectively in response to the expectations of the international community, and that the Outer Space Committee should make concrete proposals regarding its enlargement to the General Assembly at its next session.

The draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.669 meets with the views of my delegation on various aspects of the exploration and use of outer space, and reflects the consensus reached in the Outer Space Committee on many important questions which fall within its competence. My delegation has therefore co-sponsored the draft resolution and sincerely hopes that it will be adopted unanimously by the General Assembly.

Miss BEGIN (Canada) (interpretation from French): As is evident from the report of the Outer Space Committee and from the comments we have heard in these meetings, the Committee and its subsidiary bodies have completed another full and productive year of work. This result is due to a large extent to the leadership provided throughout the year by the Chairman, Mr. Jankowitsch, and the efficient role played by Mr. Abdel-Ghani and the staff of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat.

(Miss Bégin, Canada)

Although it would appear that there are still a few points of contention with regard to the two draft resolutions which my delegation had hoped would be adopted at the current session of the General Assembly, we are optimistic that these conventions will be ready for adoption at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

With regard to the registration of objects launched into outer space, my delegation attaches particular importance to completion of the draft convention, since in our view the present system of voluntary registration does not meet the requirements of the international community. We are pleased that the basic principles of the revised version of the joint Franco-Canadian draft of that convention received wide acceptance at the 1973 sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee and the Outer Space Committee.

(Miss Bégin, Canada)

We are confident that the Legal Sub-Committee under the tactful guidance of its Chairman, Mr. Wyzner, will be able to resolve the one outstanding question of substance, that relating to the marking of space objects by launching States. We note with satisfaction that work toward completion of this essential international instrument will receive priority in 1974.

Considerable progress was made in the Legal Sub-Committee during the past year on the text of the draft treaty relating to the moon, and the number of questions of principle remaining to be resolved has been considerably reduced. If the spirit of co-operation and conciliation which has traditionally guided the deliberations of the Outer Space Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee continues to prevail, this draft treaty should also be ready for adoption next year.

Turning to the work of the Technical and Scientific Sub-Committee, I would wish to convey my Government's particular appreciation to the Chairman, Mr. Carver, who guided that Sub-Committee through a very extensive work programme in an area of particular interest to Canada, that relating to the remote sensing of the earth by satellite. Canada has co-operated fully with the Sub-Committee's Working Group on Remote Sensing and has submitted its reply to both the questionnaire concerning Member States' views on remote sensing in general and the questionnaire circulated by the Task Force on the Dissemination and Utilization of Environmental and Resource Data.

Canada favours the continued development of co-operative international arrangements in order to maximize the benefits of remote earth sensing for all nations. That these benefits can be substantial is demonstrated by the results of the bilateral agreement between Canada and the United States providing for Canadian participation in the Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS) experimental programme throughout 1974. My Government wishes to express its appreciation to the United States Government for helping to arrange Canada's participation in this important programme, which we regard as a highly significant example of evolving international co-operation in outer space.

Since July of 1972, when the first data covering Canadian territories were received and processed, Canada's commitment has involved only moderate expenditures, in return for which we have obtained valuable expertise in this rapidly-developing area of technology. We have provided details of our financial expenditures in our replies to the United Nations questionnaire.

(Miss Bégin, Canada)

These expenditures have, in our view, been moderate in relation to the potential benefits of this programme. As current use of ERTS images is still largely experimental, it is too soon to identify many practical applications and their cost-effectiveness. My Government believes, however, that the possibility of achieving cost-effectiveness will be enhanced by the employment of remote sensing on a broad international basis.

The possibilities of this technology have aroused considerable interest amongst agencies of the Federal and provincial governments and amongst public users in industry and universities, all of whom have access to the data received from ERTS-1.

Future use of remote sensing will be dependent on a number of factors, including the creation of an awareness of the potential of this technology, the availability of opportunities for education and training, particularly in the interpretation of remote-sensing data, the granting of financial assistance to those developing countries which are able to benefit from this new technology, and the development of an international legal framework which will harmonize the sovereign rights of States to natural resources with the advantages to be gained through international co-operation. With these objectives in mind, my Government would give full consideration to proposals initiated by developing countries involving remote-sensing applications. We would specifically support the recommendations of the Outer Space Committee in this area.

My Government favours continued balanced consideration of the technical, legal and other aspects of remote sensing in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

We recall with satisfaction the significant steps taken during the past year. The Secretary-General's background paper of 12 June 1973 provides a useful summary of numerous and often divergent ideas on the technical, legal and organizational aspects of the subject and will provide a valid starting point for further studies.

An unofficial supplement of the Secretary-General's background paper was submitted to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its tenth session. It contains a number of informative replies by States to requests by the Secretariat for views on applicable international law and national legislations,

(Miss Bégin, Canada)

as well as data on the practices that States consider relevant to the surveying of environmental and natural resources. The replies to the United Nations Questionnaire on Remote Sensing, prepared by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its tenth session, and circulated by the Secretary-General to all Member States, undoubtedly will yield other useful suggestions for future international deliberations.

My Government is pleased to recall that the two major space Powers have, in different ways, demonstrated a willingness to contribute to the establishment of an appropriate international framework for remote sensing. We commend the United States for its generous offer to make available, to an international distribution centre -- or centres, should these be established -- master copies of the data it receives from its experimental satellite programme. This offer, we would recall, provided the major stimulus for the establishment of the task force on data dissemination and utilization. We also welcome the fact that the other major space Power, the USSR, has submitted a preliminary draft of legal principles to be applied by States utilizing space technology in exploring the resources of the earth, as have a number of other States, including France and Argentina.

As I have indicated, my Government continues to support the view that deliberations in the area of remote sensing must take place in a multi-disciplinary context, in view of the inter-dependency of the legal, organizational, technical, economic and social aspects of the subject. We welcome the request that the Legal Sub-Committee devote part of its next session, in May 1974, to the legal implications of remote sensing. We recommend that the Legal Sub-Committee be provided with a list of concrete legal issues to examine at its next session, based on the prior deliberations of the Working Group, Task Force and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, in order to avoid an abstract separation of the legal aspects from the technical and practical considerations involved.

(Miss Bégin, Canada)

I would now like to comment briefly on the work devoted to another subject of considerable interest to Canada, that of direct broadcast satellites (DBS). We are pleased to note the progress made by the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites at its fourth session and are gratified that the conclusions and recommendations submitted by it to the Outer Space Committee were endorsed in their entirety. In accordance with resolution 2916 (XXVII) of the General Assembly, the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites began a study of the principles to be laid down for the control of direct broadcasting by satellite. As the desired international consensus has not yet been reached, however, it will be necessary for the Working Group to consider this question again next year.

During its first four sessions, the Working Group carried out a detailed study of the technical problems posed by direct satellite broadcasting, a necessary first step in order to provide sufficient understanding of this aspect of the question. Thanks in particular to the excellent papers presented by the United States delegation, this part of the Group's mandate has been completed successfully, as evidenced moreover by its latest report. Nevertheless, were a mandate to be given to the Working Group to allow these technical discussions to be unduly prolonged, we would lose sight of the main goal and the real advantages of progress made thus far. It should be remembered that the real task of the Working Group, in accordance with resolution 2916 (XXVII) to which I have already referred, is after all to strive for an international consensus on the principles which should govern direct satellite broadcasting.

Some delegations may perhaps maintain that it is too soon to draw up such principles, since the technology of direct broadcast satellites is not yet fully developed and could be delayed or even hindered in its progress, and that premature action would deprive humanity of the considerable advantages it has to offer. Canada believes exactly the opposite. We are convinced that this technology will benefit humanity, but only if its use does not constitute a new cause of international conflict. It is precisely to prevent a technology, which offers such potential benefits for humanity,

(Mr. Spacil, Czechoslovakia)

In this regard we consider that the model draft principles governing the use by States of space technology for research into the natural resources of the earth, which was presented by the Soviet Union at the second session of the Working Group, could form a good basis for the consideration and resolving of the political and legal aspects of remote sensing.

As the Committee is aware, the Czechoslovak delegation has, in the past, had occasion to set forth in detail the reasons why it considers it important for all States to agree to adopt a document stating that television broadcasting by means of artificial earth satellites can be used only and exclusively in the interests of peace, international co-operation and international détente.

At the last session of the General Assembly we praised the initiative of the Soviet Union in asking for inclusion on the agenda of a special item on this question, and for submitting a relevant draft convention. We were pleased that consideration of this question ended with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII), which proposed that work should begin as soon as possible on the principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. In spite of the rather unambiguous language of that resolution, the authors of the draft resolution now before the Committee (A/C.1/L.669) nevertheless, state in operative paragraph 6, that the Legal Sub-Committee should still consider "the question of elaborating principles", although that is in our view a stage that has already been passed and the question has been settled. The Czechoslovak delegation hopes that that paragraph will be changed by its authors so that it does not contradict resolution 2916 (XXVII).

As for the question of expanding the membership of United Nations space organs, I should like to make the following point. This is a wish we fully understand, because it is a reflection of the fact that the membership of the United Nations itself has considerably increased and that such development has, as is well known, occurred in other organs of the United Nations too. The solution proposed in operative paragraph 28 of the draft resolution is, we believe, a sensible one. There is no doubt that this matter should first of all, be carefully prepared, and before we begin to implement the proposals contained therein, we must know the views of the outer-space Committee itself.

(Mr. Spacil, Czechoslovakia)

Almost 13 years have passed since the historic flight of the first astronaut, Yuri Gagarin. But how many outstanding exploits have occurred in the conquest of space during that period? Recently a great deal of progress has been achieved, particularly in research into the natural satellite of the earth, the moon. The Soviet Union has launched into orbit the Luna 20 and Luna 21 satellites and has sent to the moon the automatic self-propelled Lunokhod 2. The United States also has achieved major successes in the conquest of space and in lunar research, and we are proud of the fact that Czechoslovakia also has had an opportunity to take an active part in this work. Thanks to the international organization known as Intercosmos, our scientists have taken part in scientific research in the space research programme of the socialist countries. To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of the eminent Polish astronomer Copernicus, a scientist who fearlessly disseminated his materialistic ideas, the organization of Intercosmos launched the satellite Copernicus 500 which had on board a special device prepared in Czechoslovakia. As examples of international co-operation, there are also other similar joint projects, and we must assess most highly the co-operation of Soviet scientists with their American, French and other colleagues and their joint projects.

The whole world is awaiting with tremendous interest the carrying out of the great Soviet-United States project of the docking of the Soyuz and Apollo spacecraft.

On behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation I should like to congratulate the scientists of the whole world who have been working in the field of space research with great success and wish them new striking successes.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: There are 10 speakers for tomorrow morning. I think that we can conclude the general debate by tomorrow morning on items 30 and 31. If not, we can have a brief meeting in the afternoon to listen to the few remaining statements.

I have been requested by several members not to put the draft resolution on the strengthening of international security to a vote tomorrow, but to wait until Monday. I feel that, with the consent of the Committee, I should accede to that request.

I had hoped to bring the draft resolution on outer space to a vote tomorrow afternoon, but, because of continuing informal consultations, that will not be possible. In all probability, the draft resolution on outer space will not be ready for a vote before Tuesday.

With regard to the draft resolution on the World Disarmament Conference, which has not yet been introduced and is still the subject of continuing consultations, I can only hope that it will be ready by the early part of next week.

In these circumstances, I propose that we proceed as follows:

Tomorrow morning we shall continue and, I hope, conclude the general debate. If we do not succeed in doing so, we shall resume the general debate in the afternoon and conclude it then. We shall then adjourn until Monday morning, when we shall deal with the draft resolution on the strengthening of international security. Depending on our progress in the matter of outer space, we shall bring the relevant draft resolution to a vote either Monday or Tuesday, and I hope we can proceed similarly with the draft resolution on the World Disarmament Conference. That, however, may not be possible, in which case we shall have to go on for one or two more days next week.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.