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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 16 October 1974, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS

(Argentina)

- International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space:
report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /32/ (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 /33/ (continued)
- Programme of work

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AGENDA ITEMS 32 AND 33 (continued)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
 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/9620)

Mr. BOUSSE (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Thank you, Sir, for calling on me, thus enabling the delegation of Belgium to extend its congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of the First Committee. My delegation has already had an opportunity to note how, under your guidance and with the assistance of the officers of the Committee, the activities of this Committee are proceeding quickly, efficiently and in a spirit of perfect understanding -- I would even say of international co-operation.

On behalf of Belgium, I am also pleased to welcome the three new Members of the Organization: Bangladesh, Grenada and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

It is not my intention to make a lengthy statement that would merely reaffirm certain positions that we have already stated in the course of sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its various Sub-Committees and working groups. The delegation of Belgium would, rather, briefly and clearly summarize its views on the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as submitted to this Committee, so that the opinions, wishes and hopes, as well as our satisfaction, will be known and noted.

Belgium is very pleased that the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space has been adopted by the Outer Space Committee. We are, however, aware of the fact that that text -- which is, no doubt, the best that could be arrived at -- constitutes a compromise. We therefore wish to repeat now our intention, in due course, to apply the clause for the review of the convention to take into account technological developments relating to the identification of space objects.

(Mr. Bousse, Belgium)

Of course, after the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is far from complete, and my delegation hopes that that Committee and its subsidiary organs will have many more opportunities to demonstrate their effectiveness. On the one hand, they will have to determine the legal principles governing space activities, in particular by completing the draft treaty relating to the Moon and by studying the numerous proposals relating to remote sensing of the earth's resources by satellites. On the other hand, they will have to continue to carry out fruitful technical co-operation in all the practical fields of space applications, co-operation in which Belgium already participates in the Outer Space Committee.

But here I would also wish to mention, as was done earlier by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, the importance that my country attaches to ESRO as an initial stage of the European Space Agency and its active co-operation with United Nations organs.

The delegation of Belgium therefore supports every effort intended to bring to fruition the efforts of the subsidiary organs of the Committee, particularly in regard to direct broadcasting and remote sensing, and we are favourably inclined to re-establish the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites.

With regard to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the delegation of Belgium accepts the presently scheduled financial package but we would favourably consider the principle of re-examining that ceiling with a view to raising it in so far as it would be judicious to do so. In judging this criterion, we shall take as a basis the real effectiveness of the seminars, training panels and other study activities in order to disseminate space techniques among all nations, particularly among the developing countries.

Along the same line of thinking and continuing with the idea of disseminating technical knowledge about outer space among Member States, we appreciate the initiative taken under the impetus of the delegation of India to carry out an inquiry by means of a questionnaire to facilitate further the identification of the needs of the developing countries in this matter.

(Mr. Bousse, Belgium)

Still with the same approach, Belgium has taken note, with interest, of the suggestion to convene a new United Nations conference on the applications of space technology. Belgium recalls the undeniable usefulness of such a conference convened in 1968. Even though the work carried out within the United Nations and other institutions in the field of research and space technology may have already presented Governments with sufficient knowledge of the present status of space technology and the benefits to be derived from it, it is not only appropriate but also necessary after a certain period to undertake an over-all evaluation of the results obtained through a world conference. We believe that such a conference, which could cover the items mentioned in the report of the Expert on Space Applications, should not be excessively scientific or highly specialized, but should be of benefit to all countries. Ultimately the conference should reawaken the interest and enthusiasm of all countries for the practical possibilities offered by space technology. In our opinion, that conference could be scheduled for 1977 or 1978, that is to say, approximately 10 years after the first conference held in 1968 at Vienna.

I could not end my statement without mentioning in passing but with great satisfaction the excellent work done by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space under the very enlightened guidance of Ambassador Jankowitsch, as well as the work done by the Legal Sub-Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and their working groups.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Belgium for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. CLARK (Nigeria): Mr. Chairman, allow me first of all to congratulate you, on behalf of my delegation, on your well-deserved election to the chairmanship of our Committee. I am confident that under your competent and capable leadership our Committee will achieve important landmarks this session.

My delegation attaches great significance to the two items before us, items 32 and 33 of the agenda for this session of the General Assembly, relating to the peaceful uses of outer space. In an age when the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order provide the only viable alternative to confrontation and conflict among nations, in a world where international co-operation in all matters ranging from security to economics and from communications to environmental policies requires the participation of each and every country, one can hardly over-emphasize the importance of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Terrestrial studies, we know, cover, inter alia, oceanography, geology and all other earth sciences that touch all our lives; that have infinite possibilities of life more abundant for all mankind. More especially, they provide a new technology, the benefits of which cannot justifiably be denied to the developing countries -- for we are all partners, in greater or lesser degree, in the adventure of marvel that the space programmes and activities constitute. Otherwise, how can we accept with equanimity a venture by a single country, for instance, which surveys and maps all mineral deposits in the world; spots and details fishing grounds of the high seas and rivers, maps the topography of the sea-bed and the ocean floor within and beyond the limits of national jurisdiction; makes an inventory of subterranean water resources without regard to territorial sovereignty; maps and charts our countries; pries into areas of national activity that are traditionally regarded as sacred and matters of state security and so on, without our prior

(Mr. Clark, Nigeria)

authorization or approval, unless we are assured that all the consequent studies and information gathered are for the benefit of mankind? How are we to acquiesce in and continue to encourage the invasions of our territorial air space and sovereign privacy which space flights often entail, unless we know that they are now missions of hope and of expectation and of fulfilment for all mankind? These are not rhetorical questions. They typify the kind of questions that we have been asking ourselves since we realized that the potential for good of the outer space programmes far outweigh their original military and espionage purposes and intent.

The disasters of drought which recently afflicted the Sahelian region of Africa, the catastrophic floods in Bangladesh, the tragic earthquakes in Honduras and even the terrible tornado that brought so much death and misery to a little town in the mid-west State of Iowa, in the United States, are all strands of a common composite, the indivisibility of humanity. A more intensive and more imaginative pursuit of the space programmes must be made in order to enable us to cope better in future with disasters of these types. We may not be able to prevent them; but the survey of earth resources by remote sensing satellites, the use of earth satellites in meteorology, weather observation and so on should enable us to be forewarned and thereby be forearmed against these aberrant acts of nature.

I wish at this point to congratulate most warmly Mr. Jankowitsch of Austria, Chairman of the Outer Space Committee, and Mr. Wyzner of Poland, Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, for their statements and introductions of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/9620) and the report of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee (A/AC.105/133) respectively. We are immensely grateful to them for the clarity of thought and the perception which they have continuously and consistently brought to bear on the work of the Committee.

Nigeria was proud to participate for the first time in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the past year following the decision of the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session to enlarge its membership. We believe that the decision was right and timely and that it truly reflected the current international spirit of co-operation and involvement of

(Mr. Clark, Nigeria)

all States in the decision-making process of the United Nations. It was a great honour and privilege for us to be associated with the work of the Committee, on which the report in document A/9620 has been submitted. However, our joy is somewhat mixed. Some of the matters of which the Committee was seized were so important, according to General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII), that we had hoped that more could be achieved, given the requisite political will. Let me say right away that my delegation never conjures up the concept of political will as a deus ex machina. We regard political will as a necessary concomitant of free negotiation leading to constructive compromise, to agreement, to consensus among nations.

It is in this connexion that my delegation welcomes the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space. As the preamble of the draft convention in annex III of document A/9620 rightly says, the convention is being proposed and submitted to the General Assembly for approval because it fully recognizes "the common interest of all mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes". (A/9620, annex III). The draft is a marked improvement on previous efforts to arrive at rules that should govern the registration of objects launched into space. Both the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and the Treaty on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, as well as the Convention on International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects, envisaged that the international responsibility of States for their national activities in outer space should be correctly defined. This can be done only if identifying data can be reliably determined. It must be assumed that, with the increase in the number of space objects in orbit, the danger of some of them falling on earth and causing indemnifiable damage is correspondingly increased.

(Mr. Clark, Nigeria)

Hence the necessity of the convention. But how can we identify objects which are not marked and recognizable beyond reasonable doubt? We, on the basis of available technical facts, appreciate the argument that certain markings may not be able to withstand or survive the re-entry into earth of space objects. Granting we accept this argument for the time being, we wish to suggest for the serious consideration of the space Powers that further and urgent research should be undertaken with a view to devising durable materials for purposes of permanent marking. We are confident that this cannot be beyond the capacity of the genius that took man to the Moon.

We are glad that some progress was made also on the draft treaty on relating to the Moon. Even though General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII) accorded this matter the highest priority, no agreement has been reached on the issues relating to the legal status of the natural resources of the Moon and the scope of the treaty. In the context of the ongoing work of the Committee to elaborate a treaty relating to the Moon, my delegation would like to propose that an international authority similar to the one envisaged for the projected international régime of the sea be established to promote and regulate the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the Moon for the benefit of all mankind. We sincerely believe that the Moon belongs to all mankind and that its resources, if any, should be used to supplement the resources of the earth, most of which have been recklessly exploited and several of which are now irreplaceable.

Because we are a developing country determined to take advantage of every proven science and technology in order to give a better life to our people, we are eager that the benefits of the practical applications of remote sensing by earth satellites should be brought to our people more visibly. The questionnaire in annex IV of document A/9620, on the needs of the developing countries for assistance in the practical applications of space technology, is therefore not only necessary but also highly commendable. We firmly believe that most, if not all, developing countries will respond favourably to the questionnaire. However, we would like to urge that greater emphasis be laid in future on informing the developing countries in a systematic way and creating a more vibrant awareness of the possibilities open to the

(Mr. Clark, Nigeria)

developing countries in the uses and benefits to be derived from space technology. It is self-evident that the issue is not whether developing countries like mine are in a position to use space technology. The United Nations system should address itself to how the developing countries can utilize this new technology to their maximum benefit. To this end, we are glad to note that the Secretary-General has been asked to carry out studies relating, among other matters, to:

The establishment of an international centre for remote sensing, for collecting information in specific fields, monitoring the global environment, the assessment of global food production, etc.;

The establishment of regional data acquisition and/or data storage and dissemination centres; and

The possible attachment of education and training centres to the regional centres.

We are also glad to note the various offers of fellowships for training in the area of practical applications of space technology, and the increased involvement of UNDP and UNEP in assisting developing countries, as well as the assistance being extended to the developing countries by FAO, UNESCO, ITU, WMO and IBRD in the fields of space application. Naturally, we appreciate highly the several panel meetings, seminars and workshops that were held during the past year to alert the developing countries to the benefits of the United Nations Space Programme of 1973-1975.

Yet we cannot be sanguine. It is not enough to say that the African countries, preoccupied with the herculean tasks of clearing away the material and psychological debris of their recent colonial past, are not yet in a position to take full advantage of the sophisticated space technology. Nor is it justified to say that African countries accord low priority to space activities. Hence the report on the types of assistance extended by the United Nations system to developing countries in the field of the practical application of space technology, in document A/AC.105/124, has no striking success story to tell about Africa, apart from surveys of forests and some feasibility studies that are being undertaken.

(Mr. Clark, Nigeria)

With the experience of the Sahelian tragedy still fresh in our minds, we would have liked to see a more concerted effort on the part of the United Nations family of agencies to focus attention on Africa with a view to assisting us, through some spectacular and concrete projects, to overcome some of our problems of weather forecasting, afforestation and telecommunication. The regional training seminar on the analysis, interpretation and use of meteorological satellite data, which is to be organized in 1974 by the United Nations in co-sponsorship with WMO, for the benefit of developing countries in Africa is in the right direction. But more can and should be done. Matters should not rest with feasibility studies. Ways and means ought to be found to fund projects that have been identified to be viable and necessary. For we cannot afford a repetition of the Sahelian tragedy. The study by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace of the drought situation in the Sahelian region was a serious indictment of the callous indifference of the international community towards the poor, developing countries of the world, which lack both the knowledge and the means to take advantage of modern science and technology in the solution of their problems.

Two other matters covered by the agenda items under discussion are of direct interest and concern to my delegation. The first is the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. We are glad to note, in paragraphs 44 to 46 of document A/AC.105/124, that a preliminary study of a regional satellite system for education, culture and development of African countries was carried out by UNESCO in 1972 with the co-operation of the International Telecommunication Union and the Economic Commission for Africa. The study was at the instance of Member States. It is important to note this fact. So also the follow-up action to be taken to devise a regional plan of action so as to establish a regional satellite system in Africa.

We recall, in this connexion, a resolution adopted by the first assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, which met in Addis Ababa from 22 to 25 May 1963, concerning education and culture. Our leaders resolved then to secure the breakdown of linguistic barriers so as to promote understanding amongst the peoples of Africa through co-operation

(Mr. Clark, Nigeria)

in the educational and cultural fields and through the exchange of radio and television programmes.

It is significant to draw attention to the unresolved issues "such as, *inter alia*, participation, spill-over, prior consent, programme content and illegality of broadcasts", referred to in paragraph 55 (c) of document A/9620. These are not thin reeds. They are serious matters of State sovereignty and political independence. We hope that further efforts to elaborate the principles which should govern the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting will reflect the principles of respect for national sovereignty and voluntary co-operation for mutual benefit which are so patently implicit in the OAU resolution that I have just referred to.

(Mr. Clark, Nigeria)

In this connexion we are glad to know that the Legal Sub-Committee has already agreed on draft texts of five principles relating to the applicability of international law, the rights and benefits of States, international co-operation, the responsibility of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes -- principles that are at the heart of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity. In the light of those principles, we do not easily see how the concept of freedom of information can supersede that of respect for national sovereignty, which forms the essence of international relations as we know them today.

The other point is, of course, the question of the legal implications of the survey of the earth's resources by remote sensing satellites. This is a very difficult and delicate question. The violation of the English legal principle that every man's home is his castle, sacred and secure against external invasion, should not be lightly regarded. The less said about that at this stage, the better. Suffice it to say, however, that my Government shares the views of your country, Sir, and those of Brazil and France, as expressed in the points made in their proposals annexed to document A/AC.105/133. We can only hope that the information being gathered by remote sensing will not be used arrogantly or to the detriment of the weaker nations. We hope also that the results of meetings such as the Regional Panel on Remote Sensing, which was held in your great country of Argentina, Mr. Chairman, in December 1973, will be widely disseminated. We are anxious to know more about remote sensing techniques, about the platforms on which sensors can be flown and about the results of research or experiments already carried out.

In conclusion I wish to affirm that my delegation strongly supports the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in paragraph 27 of its report (A/9620) with respect to the future work programme of its Legal Sub-Committee and the priorities to be accorded to the various items on the agenda of our Committee. Furthermore, we wish to express our ardent support for the spirit of international co-operation and understanding represented by the joint Soviet-American space venture of 1975, the flight of Soyuz-Apollo. That is proof of the atmosphere of détente which should from now on characterize and condition our deliberations on disarmament and other important matters on the agenda of our Committee, under your able leadership, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Nigeria for his kind remarks addressed to my country and to myself.

Mr. DAMINDORZH (Mongolia) (interpretation from Russian): First of all, Mr. Chairman, I should like on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you on your unanimous election to preside over the First Committee and express the hope that under your wise guidance our Committee will have a successful discussion of all the items allocated to it, in a spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation. I should like also to wish you, Mr. Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen, the Rapporteur and all members of the Secretariat of the Committee every possible success in carrying out your work.

With the present move towards international détente, the prospects for business-like co-operation on a regional and an international scale in the conquest of space and the use of the results achieved in space research for peaceful purposes are constantly improving. At the present level, the scientific and technical progress of space research is becoming of vital importance for the further development of the study of the economic and natural resources of the earth, for space communications and for the determination of hydro-meteorological and climatic conditions. In the opinion of my delegation, that gives a powerful impetus to the further rapid development of space science and technology, upon which the attention of all States and peoples is riveted.

Previous speakers have referred in greater detail to the extensive co-operation among States, both bilateral and multilateral. In that connexion, I should like to mention particularly the pioneering joint activities of the two most advanced space Powers, the Soviet Union and the United States of America, in the conquest of outer space and the application of space science to the everyday needs of man. The programme of Soviet-American co-operation established by the two countries in the agreement signed in 1972 is truly a grandiose one. It is of great interest to everyone and will give practical application to the fundamental principles of peaceful coexistence among States with different social and economic systems. As we know, Soviet and American scientists and cosmonauts are co-operating successfully in research into the conditions of outer space and preparations are going forward for the joint Soyuz-Apollo space flight in 1975. In this connexion, we congratulate the Soviet Union and the United States of America and wish them further new success in the conquest of space for the welfare of mankind and in the interests of world peace and international security.

(Mr. Damindorzh, Mongolia)

The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic, as a member of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, takes an active part in the Committee's work and is making a contribution, in so far as it can, to the common cause of ensuring the peaceful use of outer space. Mongolia, which has a relatively extensive territory with a harsh continental climate and virtually untapped natural resources, attaches great importance to the use of outer space and space technology for peaceful purposes. Mongolia is carrying on appropriate activities in its territory under the programme of the international organization Intercosmos. We are engaging in the exchange of scientific and technical information with States members of Intercosmos and it should be noted here that co-operation between Mongolia and other member countries within the framework of Intercosmos is yielding certain results in the development of our national economy and in long-range weather forecasting; in particular, our Government is making available the necessary funds for projects connected with the Intercosmos programme on its territory.

In the opinion of our delegation, the question of the use of outer space for peaceful purposes is essentially global in character. It follows that scientific and technical work and also practical measures undertaken in space research can be successfully carried out with the participation of all States. Scientific research and the development of space equipment and technology are now being carried out on a national, regional and international scale, particularly within the United Nations system. United Nations activities in the development and expansion of co-operation in the uses of space for peaceful purposes have in recent years been going from strength to strength.

(Mr. Damindorzh, Mongolia)

Successive sessions of the General Assembly have repeatedly discussed the question of international co-operation in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. Over this period a number of important documents have been drafted and adopted, documents such as the United Nations Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space as well as other international legal documents such as the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space and the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects.

Since the twenty-eighth session, the Outer Space Committee, its sub-committees and working groups have done much work in drafting documents of international law to govern the activities of States in the conquest of space and in the use of space for peaceful purposes. Our delegation notes with satisfaction that the Legal Sub-Committee, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Wyzner, has finally prepared a draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, thus successfully carrying out one of the tasks set by the General Assembly. We trust that the draft convention on registration will be adopted at this twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly in its present form. However, the United Nations, the Outer Space Committee and its subsidiary bodies still have to do some vital work in this particular field. One of these tasks is to draft a treaty relating to the Moon, which has been on the agenda for several years now.

A number of matters remain outstanding in regard to the draft treaty. I refer to the question of the scope of the treaty, the question of reports concerning objects launched to or installed on the Moon, and the question of the Moon's mineral resources. As we know, in these problems Working Group I of the Legal Sub-Committee gave its main attention to the question of article X concerning the natural resources of the Moon. Unfortunately, the Working Group was unable to agree on this article. Accordingly, we should like to state that we are prepared to consider any rational proposals which would be genuinely in keeping with our common interests.

(Mr. Damindorzh, Mongolia)

In our delegation's view, the Legal Sub-Committee and the main Committee should give special attention to completing work on the draft treaty relating to the Moon in the near future in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly. One important item on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee at its spring 1974 session was the question of drafting an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. The Legal Sub-Committee's Working Group, in setting about the legal formulation of this draft convention, made a modest, but nevertheless positive step forward. I refer to the fact that on five principles -- applicability of international law, rights and benefits of States, international co-operation, State responsibility, and the peaceful settlement of disputes -- a provisional agreement was reached in the Working Group. Our delegation hopes that the Legal Sub-Committee will soon draft the text of a draft convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting. We believe that the early drafting and signing of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial satellites for direct television broadcasting would be of great benefit to the cause of peace and social progress of peoples.

As regards the question of the legal implications of the remote sensing of the earth's resources, the delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic notes the fact that the Legal Sub-Committee did have a brief exchange of views on these matters. In this connexion, our delegation considers that the joint Soviet-French draft of principles governing the activities of States in the remote sensing of the earth's resources, submitted to the Legal Sub-Committee, deserves due attention, and in our view represents an acceptable basis for the future international settlement of this problem.

My delegation would also like, briefly, to address itself to some aspects of the activities of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Our delegation believes that this Sub-Committee concentrated its attention on such questions as the remote sensing of earth satellites by the use of space technology and the use of space technology for peaceful needs. We consider that such an approach to these questions will foster an understanding of the advantages of making the fullest use of this new space technology for the

(Mr. Damindorzh, Mongolia)

international community. In our delegation's view, the Working Group on remote sensing has basically done the job that was entrusted to it. In this connexion, our delegation considers that, for the sake of the increased effectiveness of future work, the main work in the field of remote sensing should in future be concentrated in the main Committee and in the Sub-Committee.

(Mr. Damindorzh, Mongolia)

Regarding the review of the United Nations Programme for the application of space technology, we consider that an increase in the budget cannot be the sole means for attaining this objective of the programme. The main point should be a rational and more effective use of existing financial resources.

In conclusion, I should like to note that, on the whole, our delegation approves the report on the work of the Outer Space Committee, which under the wise guidance of Ambassador Jankowitsch, has successfully carried out its work; and we should like to wish that Committee success in its further undertakings.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Mongolia for the congratulations he addressed to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. OLCAY (Turkey) (interpretation from French): Since I am speaking here for the first time this session, I should like first, Mr. Chairman, to discharge a most pleasant duty and extend to you on behalf of the Turkish delegation our warmest congratulations on your election to preside over the First Committee. I shall omit mention of my personal feelings, since you are well aware that I am very pleased with the Committee's wish choice.

May I also, through you, Mr. Chairman, address our warmest congratulations to the officers of the Committee.

We also wish to congratulate the Permanent Representative of Austria, Ambassador Jankowitsch, Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, for his report -- excellent, as usual -- on its work. Although my country is not a member of that Committee, we have always attached special importance to its work, which we have followed closely, making our contribution to it, despite our minimal means in this field.

This year we have before us for consideration and adoption a draft convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space. It is the result of lengthy work spanning the course of eight years, if I am not mistaken.

(Mr. Olcay, Turkey)

Believing that any provision on marking should be binding and should constitute an essential element of the draft convention, we had hoped to see in the draft convention the Franco-Canadian text on the subject. We had also wished that the draft convention would include an article providing for the internal or external marking of the space object and that the Secretary-General would be informed before its launching.

We should have wished to see those two points appear clearly in the draft convention, because of our belief that it would then have been easier to establish liability and to have a quick and effective response in case of possible damage caused by a space object, whether during its fall to earth or in any sort of collision, which unfortunately becomes more likely every day, given the greater intensity of activities being carried out in outer space.

But in statements made on Friday, 11 October, respectively by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, the representatives of Austria and Poland successively drew attention to the fact that the text of that draft convention, which, while not completely satisfactory to all United Nations Members, did constitute at least the optimum level of compromise achievable at the present stage of technological development.

In view of those two speeches, and in a spirit of conciliation, we shall not press our requests; but we hope that when the draft convention is reviewed, as provided for in article X thereof, the concerns of a large number of States regarding marking and identification of space objects will be seriously considered in the light of the implementation of the convention during the intervening period.

The position of the Turkish Government on the other matters before the Committee has been stated on numerous occasions. As last year, I shall therefore not dwell in detail here on our views but shall simply confine

(Mr. Olcay, Turkey)

myself to mentioning the documents to which representatives may refer, namely, A/C.1/PV.1792, PV.1825 and PV.1868, and to repeating the following.

As Turkey sees it, outer space should in no way serve as an instrument for the political, economic or military domination of any country. The exploitation and protection of its resources should be carried out on behalf of all countries, for the benefit of all mankind. It is our hope that the system to be established for outer space will be in the service of peace and the common well-being of the international community.

As regards direct broadcasting by satellites, we believe that this system could have a more beneficial effect, particularly in the fields of education and technical training -- specifically in health, hygiene, family planning, agriculture and rural development. We believe that, without prejudice to the principle of freedom of information, that system should also include clear-cut provisions for the exercise of the sovereign rights of States.

We very much appreciate the joint initiative of the delegations of Argentina and Brazil in regard to the remote sensing of the earth's resources by satellite. A draft treaty on this subject, entitled "Treaty on the Remote Sensing of Natural Resources by Means of Space Technology", has just been submitted as an official document of the present session of the General Assembly, in document A/C.1/1047 of 15 October 1974. After initial examination, we believe that this document could serve as the basis for a working document. Moreover, inasmuch as this matter closely affects the interests of all countries, particularly the developing countries, we hope that high priority will be given to the consideration of this subject in the future work of the Outer Space Committee.

In conclusion, I should like to say a few words on the composition of the Committee, which was enlarged last year under General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII). As we suggested last year -- and we believe a large number of States share our feeling on this -- it would be better to give interested States an opportunity to participate in the Committee's work -- if possible, on an equal footing -- since the purposes towards which its activities are directed are to improve our knowledge of the universe and to place at the service of the whole international community the means afforded by space science and technology. We are indeed pleased that a like wish was expressed yesterday by the representative of a member State of the Outer Space Committee, Mr. Ion Datcu, of Romania.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank Ambassador Olcay for the cordial congratulations he was so kind as to address to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. KALOSHIN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): Mr. Chairman, since this is the first time my delegation has spoken in this Committee I should like, without violating the rules of procedure, on behalf of my delegation to associate myself with the congratulations already addressed to you and to all the officers of the Committee, and with the good wishes for the success of your work.

The successes of science in the exploration and conquest of space are so great that they are making it possible to resolve ever more complex problems in the study of space in the proximity of the earth, interplanetary space, the Moon and the planets of the solar system. The development of space science is speeding the development of space technology and creating conditions for its ever wider application to earthly needs. For example, studies carried out with Soviet manned spacecraft and orbital stations -- automatic satellites -- have produced fruitful results which are of great practical interest for the national economy. Space technology is being used more and more widely today in communications, navigation, meteorology, agriculture, oceanography, hydrology and geology to gauge the true scope of forest fires, floods and earthquakes, and to determine the pollution of the atmosphere and of waters. In Byelorussia, for example, we have set up an automatic hydrometeorological service which makes active use of information from weather satellites to improve the accuracy of weather forecasting and the forecasting of floods and other natural disasters.

Thanks to space technology, very recently -- only two weeks ago -- we here in New York were able to watch a transmission from Moscow of the second international encounter between the hockey teams of the Soviet Union and Canada and to admire the magnificent play of the Soviet and the Canadian hockey players.

The headlong progress of space science and technology in the exploration of outer space has stimulated the development of international law whose mission is to make possible the development and extension of international co-operation in this important sphere. An important contribution here is being made by the United Nations and its Outer Space Committee. The Committee has already drafted a series of important international legal agreements. It is important that all States which have not yet become parties to these agreements should associate themselves with them as soon as possible, so that these documents may become universal in nature. As a matter of fact, that is something that the General Assembly of the United Nations calls for every year in its resolutions.

Yet another important international document which has been completed to the credit of the United Nations Outer Space Committee is the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space which will come before the General Assembly for approval. My delegation is in favour of its approval at this session without amendment and its opening for signature by States. The agreements that have been concluded are of great significance and it is their mission to ensure the exploration and use of outer space and of space technology for exclusively peaceful purposes in the interests and for the benefit of all States and peoples. There are, however, still areas which require the elaboration of specific additional legal standards to govern particular aspects of the space activity of States.

For several years now the Committee has been drafting a treaty relating to the Moon. As we know, the proposal that such an international document should be drafted was first submitted in 1971 by the Soviet Union which at that time also submitted a draft treaty relating to the Moon, the fundamental provision of which was a clause prohibiting military activity of States on the Moon and stipulating that the Moon should be used for exclusively peaceful purposes. The draft treaty is ready, to all intents and purposes, but the final touches to this text and its opening for signature are being held up by an attempt on the part of certain States to include in it provisions having to do with various specific problems of international law which do not have any very crucial importance so far as the Moon is concerned. The question arises, therefore, as to whether the draft Moon treaty should not be approved as it stands, including the provisions that have already been agreed upon and in regard to which there is unanimity. By so doing, we would not preclude the possibility of further improvements in the draft treaty and the expansion of the field of agreement.

In the draft treaty relating to the Moon, article XIX provides that any State party to the treaty may propose amendments and article XVII provides that after five years following the entry into force of the treaty, at the request of one third of the States parties to the treaty and with the concurrence of a majority of the States parties, a conference may be convened to consider how the treaty is operating. My country would like to see the Legal Sub-Committee take steps to complete work on an agreed final text of a draft Moon treaty and submit it for approval to the General Assembly.

(Mr. Kaloshin, Byelorussian SSR)

On the initiative of the Soviet Union a proposal was put before the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly for the drafting of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. That initiative by the Soviet Union was prompted by the noble desire to put this important means of mass information at the service of peace, progress and humanitarianism and not to allow it to be used against the interests of mankind. The wide support elicited by the Soviet proposal in the United Nations indicates that it would indeed help to strengthen peace and friendship among all peoples and would serve the interests of all peoples. It should be noted that General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII) adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly stressed that direct satellite broadcasting should help to draw the peoples of the world closer together, to widen the exchange of information and cultural values and to enhance the educational level of people in various countries. Such broadcasting should take place under conditions in which this new form of space technology would serve only the lofty goals of peace and friendship among peoples. Measures must therefore be taken to prevent the conversion of direct television broadcasting into a source of international conflict and of aggravation of the relations among States and to protect the sovereignty of States from any external interference.

We should like first to note with satisfaction that in the time that has elapsed since the twenty-seventh session the topicality of the proposal of the Soviet Union concerning the need to draft principles that would govern transmissions from space has been amply borne out.

(Mr. Kaloshin, Byelorussian SSR)

At its last session the General Assembly in its resolution 3182 (XXVIII) recommended that the Legal Sub-Committee at its next session give consideration, as a matter of high priority, to the drafting of principles to govern the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, with a view to the conclusion of an international agreement, or agreements, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII). The Outer Space Committee's report to this session of the Assembly indicates that, although this work is going forward very slowly, certain results have been achieved over the past year. The Committee has started work on drafting appropriate principles to govern the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting.

My delegation considers that the bulk of this work should be carried on in the Legal Sub-Committee itself and that that Sub-Committee should continue its efforts to draft principles as an important task of the first priority. At the same time, my delegation would stress that to assist the work of drafting an appropriate international agreement on this important question, there is already a good foundation. This was the draft international convention submitted by the Soviet Union in August 1972 concerning principles to govern the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting.

My delegation understands the potential advantages to the international community of the use of space technology for the remote sensing of the earth and of space, and we would like to see the maximal use made of this with full respect for State sovereignty. The more effective development of international co-operation in this sphere for the good of all States will be served by the establishment of legal norms to govern the remote sensing of the earth from space. At the thirteenth session of the Legal Sub-Committee a Soviet-French draft was submitted, a draft of principles to govern activities of States in the remote sensing of the earth by means of space technology. A document which is also deserving of attention has been jointly submitted here in the Committee by Brazil and Argentina. In the view of the Byelorussian delegation, the Legal Sub-Committee should take up this question in accordance with the procedure for the consideration of items on its agenda, with a view to settling it in the near future, an outcome that would be in the interests of all States.

(Mr. Kaloshin, Byelorussian SSR)

It is most encouraging that international co-operation in space is becoming wider and more productive. This not only helps to foster scientific and technical progress but is also helping to lay a more solid foundation for the peaceful coexistence of States with different social systems, on the basis of mutual respect and mutual advantage. In its turn, the improvement of the world international climate will pave the way for further active extension of scientific and technical links among different States.

An integral part in the development of co-operation among States in the exploration and use of space are their joint efforts further to develop space law. Of great importance here is the provision in article IV of the Soviet-American Agreement on co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, of 24 May 1972, to the effect that both States undertake "to foster international efforts aimed at resolving international legal problems concerning the use of outer space for peaceful purposes for the sake of strengthening the legal order in outer space and further developing international space law". The Byelorussian SSR expresses the hope that all States, in a spirit of mutual understanding and goodwill, will help to bring this about.

My delegation regards the timely drafting and adoption of legal principles to govern the activities of States in outer space as an important and essential condition for the successful development of effective international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes in the interests of all nations. Allow me to express our confidence that, at this session of the General Assembly, further measures will be undertaken to assist the drafting and approval of international legal principles and other documents concerning the exploration and research of outer space.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of the Byelorussian SSR for the congratulations he has addressed to the officers of the Committee.

Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia): Mr. Chairman, it is indeed a pleasure and a privilege for me to be seated in a direct line with you. Nothing separates any of us from a Chairman who not only has captured our hearts but, indeed,

(Mr. Baroody, Saudi Arabia)

has made friends with us all. I would like to see anyone who, out of jealousy, whispered anything about our Chairman. This is why we congratulate ourselves in having you, Sir, in the Chair. And don't be deceived by that crop of white hair. He is very young, energetic and wiser than those who have whiter hair.

We congratulate ourselves also on having two vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur who are all dedicated to the work of this Committee.

But one thing rather strikes me as not being so unusual. People seem to be more interested in inner space today because half of the Committee do not seem to be in outer space, but in the Third Committee where human rights are being discussed.

Nevertheless, I think a great deal of progress has been achieved since 1971 when we were perhaps more excited about certain aspects of outer space -- namely, the question of broadcasts or relaying news and information through outer space. Many of us were disturbed -- amongst those myself -- because this had to do with the question of freedom of information. I must draw the attention of members to the fact that, since 1950, we have had the draft convention on freedom of information before us. It is 25 years since we started working on the draft convention at Lake Success, and we have not accomplished anything. And some who have developed outer space facilities two years ago confronted us with the idea that we all should be happy to have satellites used as broadcasting centres to disseminate news and views all over the world in the name of freedom of information.

(Mr. Baroody, Saudi Arabia)

I am heartened to find out that our colleague from the United States has changed the tone of the policy of his Government, since at one time we had been confronted with the idea that satellites should further freedom in the world, the love of liberty and the news, as they should be relayed.

The problem has not yet been solved. It will not be solved until the draft convention on freedom of information is completed and ratified. We have written five of its articles and every year it is given priority in the Third Committee, but postponed because propaganda has superseded freedom of information -- unfortunately so.

We have, of course, been told that one cannot differentiate between genuine opinion and propaganda. Who can, in the realm of thought? We are not talking about the factual but about the notional in freedom of information. That is why many of us came with the idea of having an international code of ethics, which would be observed by the owners, be they State or private owners of the mass media of information, visual or auditory -- visual, such as television; auditory, such as radio -- or a combination of both.

And lest Governments interfere in the free flow of information, we have said and we repeat today, the associations of the mass media themselves will regulate the free flow of information to ensure that no subversive propaganda is being used -- or, for that matter, pornography, which may touch the susceptibilities of certain States.

In some countries pornography is considered the acme of art, and I do not have to tell representatives that the Supreme Court of a big State three or four years ago considered it art and many judges relented.

What if certain pornographic films were relayed by satellites in which, for example, copulation were featured? Copulation is a very, very sensitive matter; it should not be put on the screen. Good God, there might be either a revolution or the receiving State might propose breaking off relations with the other country. I am giving an extreme example. You have only to go to the big cities of certain countries and look at the posters. This is in the realm of so-called art.

(Mr. Baroody, Saudi Arabia)

There are things that perhaps touch the culture of certain States. That is why this year I praised Mr. Kuchel. I have read his statement carefully and he took note that there should be no conflict on the question of relaying things that may touch certain sensitive points.

Therefore not until the draft convention on freedom of information is completed and ratified, not until there is an international code of ethics by which the disseminators of information will abide, giving them the right to self-discipline, will this problem be solved.

What if there is etatisme? Never mind, we have etatisme but there are always people who stand for the culture, for the bon sens, as the French would say, of a people and their names would be registered in the roster of the United Nations as belonging to the disciplinary body of the code of ethics so that they may bring the attention of their Governments to the salacious matter and the mischief-making type of freedom of information.

That is within man's control, and let us not be sold the idea that freedom of information interferes with liberty. In fact, it is the freedom of licence that prevails nowadays whether in the realm of politics, art or advertising -- for, after all, advertising falls in the realm of information, exaggerated information; otherwise they would not be able to sell the products, that is, if they did not dwell on the good points only of certain products.

We do not want to see satellites used for the export of a way of life of a highly industrialized country, which may be deficient morally and otherwise, just because it has reached maturity. History is the best example of what I am saying.

When people get wealthy and powerful they get drunk, and when they get drunk they think they are superior, and when they think they are superior they think others should benefit, by example, from their way of life. We do not want that way of life. Let each one of us evolve the best that is being contributed by every country, regardless of boundaries. But who is going to be the arbiter of the best, unless we have a convention on freedom of information and an international code of ethics?

(Mr. Baroodi, Saudi Arabia)

With regard to sensing the earth, it is most laudable to use those satellites for progress in the fields of agriculture, mining, spotting mineral resources and many others, including the wealth that is under water in the seas. But let us also think a little before we sign any agreement on sensing the earth. It is not sufficient to get the permission of the country to be sensed by satellite. Which country or countries? What are the countries? Is there going to be a referendum? It is the Governments. But suppose the Governments err? This is a very, very sensitive matter -- this sensing of certain areas. In spite of the fact that everybody is agreed that there should be permission sought from the State, the State may be ignorant and may give permission without knowing the implications. Therefore we should tread slowly before concluding any conventions on this matter, inasmuch as there is a lot to be done within "inner" space.

(Mr. Baroodi, Saudi Arabia)

Look at the famines we have. Look at the shortages of food-stuffs we have. To devote enormous funds to the sensing of the earth, I think, would not be a wise thing to do, although in good time things may be worked out for the benefit of all mankind. We have not yet reached the stage where Governments forget their national interests or where Governments do not make mistakes. After all, Governments are not sacrosanct. They are collectivities of human beings. Therefore let us tread slowly and not be hasty in what we do in questions concerning the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

There is no doubt that the most positive result was the draft treaty on registration, and I like the way in which either the summary records or the United Kingdom representative called them -- "space objects" or "satellites". What are those small things, satellites? It does not matter how big they are. When we studied astronomy, the Moon was a satellite and the Moons of Jupiter were satellites. They are space objects. But man is imbued with self-grandeur. The trouble is that scientists, who as a rule are very modest, begin to engage in ideas imbued with pride. We should all be humble when we talk of outer space, because when we come to the question of disarmament we shall have our say about what may be going on in outer space -- and in inner space. Let us not feel very proud about these space objects, as the representative of the United Kingdom, Mr. Macrae, who, I think, spoke this morning, called them. Let us try to use outer space as much as humanly possible for the facility of communications without trying to propagandize our neighbours or even indoctrinate them or sell them goods they can do without or tell them that it is necessary for them to have luxuries incorporated into necessities of life in order to have a higher standard of living. What a sham! Look at the high standard of living of certain industrialized countries. At what price was progress achieved? We developing countries would sometimes rather be left alone without so many gadgets. So I ask the industrialized countries in future not to try to sell us those gadgets through outer space. We are happier sometimes with a couple of faucets instead of ten and one bathroom in a house instead of three or four, because then we shall not have the tension caused by the problem of how to build three or four bathrooms in a house. Our children can be raised by their mothers instead of by baby-sitters.

(Mr. Baroody, Saudi Arabia)

or governesses attending them, while the rich mothers are playing bridge or gallivanting in dance halls. We do not want so many of their gadgets. Some of them are good, and we need them, but we do not want to make a fetish of a standard of living. We do not want them to use outer space in order to sell us things we do not want. To use a term used in the host country, they not only sell things, they sell ideas. "I sold him the idea", they say. They sell everything, those so-called civilized countries. Are they really civilized? I do not know what is the yardstick of civilization. Therefore let outer space be used judiciously and slowly, taking into account that freedom of information as such, not freedom of licence, should be strengthened. We should be thankful that we have scientists that are exploring space, but beware of the exploiters who use the results of those studies, those inventions, for ulterior motives.

That is the message I have on outer space. I am a layman. I know that nowadays the computer serves a great purpose. I mention computers because, after all, computers are used in outer space, but we do not want our personalities to be computerized. We shall lack the human element, through outer space -- as if the computer, which runs the affairs of many men, were not enough. What about those people thrown out of their jobs? Are we sure that outer space technology will not make drones of many of us? Who knows? Then what shall we do? Play golf or jog around the block or get into mischief? It is not funny. It is true. There are many people who would otherwise have jobs were it not for the politicians misusing many of the inventions, the so-called labour-saving inventions. Let us not be over-bedazzled by outer space. Let us thank those who are exploring outer space with a view to improving our knowledge, but it is a question of how to use the facilities that may emerge from outer space technology. That is the question.

Having said this, I must say that, on the whole, from what I have read -- I was not here all the time but I read the speeches of some representatives here -- what has been said here was most constructive, in the new approach shown in the statements dealing with this subject.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): It always cheers us up to have Mr. Baroody with us. I wish to thank him for the warm expressions of friendship he was kind enough to address to me.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to make a correction and an announcement. The correction refers to the announcement I made at the end of this morning's meeting, when I said that next week, when we deal with disarmament, we should have no meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. However, we shall have a meeting on Thursday afternoon. There will be two meetings on Monday, one on Thursday afternoon and one on Friday. Representatives intending to speak on disarmament items may inscribe their names on the list, thus co-operating in a positive way with the Secretariat and the Chairman in the orderly arrangement of our work. I should be most grateful for that co-operation. As I have said, there are speakers inscribed for the morning meeting on Monday, but there are none yet inscribed for Monday afternoon.

The announcement I should like to make is that Barbados is now a co-sponsor of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.676, co-sponsored by Japan and a number of other States.

The next meeting of the First Committee will be held at 10.30 a.m. tomorrow. I would appeal to all representatives to be prompt, so that we may hear the four speakers scheduled to speak. The Committee will then adjourn in order to hear the President of Portugal, who will address the General Assembly in a plenary meeting at noon.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.