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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 25 June 1973, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. JANKOWITSCH

(Austria)

- Opening of the sixteenth session
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Statement by the Chairman
- Statement by the Under-Secretary-General
- Organization of work

This record is issued in final form pursuant to the decision taken by the Committee in September 1970 (see Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/8020, para. 10)).

OPENING OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION

The CHAIRMAN: I declare open the sixteenth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/AC.105/L.70)

The agenda was adopted.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: It is a great pleasure for me to welcome the representatives of Member States, old friends as well as those attending the session for the first time. I should also like to welcome the representatives of the specialized agencies and other international organizations who will be with us during this session.

As the Committee will remember, our last session was opened by the Secretary-General. That was the first time that the new Secretary-General came to the Committee. It was the last occasion on which the then Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Leonid Kutakov, participated at one of our sessions. Today, I am pleased to extend the cordial welcome of the Committee to the new Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Arkady Shevchenko, who is taking part in our meetings for the first time. As head of the Department whose responsibilities include those of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat, we look forward to close and fruitful co-operation with him. His high qualifications and wide experience, especially in matters concerning the United Nations, have already been acknowledged on previous occasions in various United Nations bodies.

Let me just add, therefore, that these qualifications, as well as the successful performance of his duties since he took office, amply justify our expectations that this Committee as well will be amongst those that profit from his services and abilities.

(The Chairman)

Furthermore, I should like to extend my welcome to the new United Nations Space Applications Expert, Mr. Murthy. Mr. Murthy has previously been Director of the Thumba Equatorial Launching Station in India, the first launching space station to be granted United Nations sponsorship, and was also the Project Director of the Sriharikota range, a satellite launching facility planned to become operational in the 1970s. He has been associated with outer space technology and its applications, particularly in developing countries, for a number of years and has participated in numerous international meetings and panels, including those organized by the United Nations. It is a pleasure to know that he will now serve as United Nations Space Applications Expert and I want to assure him of the full co-operation of the Committee.

Entering my second year with the Committee, I cannot possibly proceed with the remaining part of my statement without first saying that I feel privileged to be able again to preside over the meetings of the Committee and that, looking at the arduous task ahead, I find comfort in the thought that I can also look forward to the co-operation and assistance representatives have so readily extended to facilitate the conduct of the business of the Committee.

Let me now, with this Committee's permission, turn to a tour d'hORIZON of the most significant space achievements and co-operation since we last met, to provide a general framework, a general setting, in which we are to carry on our work during the weeks to come. These achievements and events of further international co-operation are highlighted, among many others, by the following events.

On 2 December 1972, the Molniya I-22 communications satellite was launched by the USSR to relay television programmes and telephone and telegraph messages across northern Siberia, the Far East and Central Asia.

On 7 December 1972, the Apollo 17, the last of the United States Apollo series of spacecraft, was launched from Cape Kennedy and landed on the moon on 11 December, remaining there until 14 December exploring the Taurus-Littrow region during three seven-hour periods. It was the privilege of your Chairman to be present at the launching together with other officers of this Committee.

(The Chairman)

On 10 December 1972, Nimbus 5 was launched by the United States to monitor the Gulf Stream off the east coast of the United States for assistance to shipping and the Humboldt Current off the west coast of South America to provide data on coastal changes.

On 8 January of this year, Luna 21 was launched, and on 16 January remotely controlled Lunokhod 2 explored the LeMonnier Crater and made detailed surveys of the lunar surface.

(The Chairman)

In February 1973, India launched a Centaur two-stage rocket from TERLS, described as the first of its kind, to measure nighttime air glow emission and other radiation.

In March 1973, the United Kingdom Skylark was launched for a first earth-survey role in Argentina, providing photographic coverage of nearly 200,000 square miles of Argentina's main agricultural region.

On 5 April 1973, the United States Pioneer 11 unmanned Jupiter probe was launched to journey beyond the orbit of Mars and to succeed earlier Pioneer 10 which will become the first to escape the solar system.

On 19 April 1973, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics orbited its scientific research satellite Intercosmos-Copernicus-500, a joint mission by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Poland and Czechoslovakia in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus.

On 15 May 1973, quite recently, Skylab, the first United States space station was rocketed into orbit, and after the successful elimination of technical problems by human effort was boarded by three astronauts on 26 May. Over 100 principal investigators from the United States and other countries have been selected for specific tasks of the Skylab mission, whose primary objective is to gather medical data on the effects of long-duration space flight and conduct other experiments such as acquiring earth resources data from EREP ... the earth resources experiment package ... and conducting astronomical and solar observations outside the dense Earth atmosphere.

I should like to end the reference to this vast area of scientific and technical achievement and progress by a brief reference to the remarkably satisfactory results achieved by the United States ERTS-1 satellite launched last year. The United States early this year had the opportunity of reviewing the results of the ERTS mission and of briefing members of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on its achievements, which in certain instances even exceeded the expectations of its planners. Images from the ERTS-1 experiments have furthermore been put to practical use not only in the United States but

(The Chairman)

also in other countries. The ERTS is now, for instance, being used to monitor the activity of 15 volcanoes in the United States, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Iceland in a programme which scientists hope will lead to advance warning of volcanic eruptions.

For those spectacular technological and scientific achievements which in such a relatively short period of time have brought mankind closer to a wide range and full benefits of practical applications, we must indeed congratulate the space countries and other countries concerned.

On the political side of international co-operation, a number of significant developments have taken place:

In September 1972, NASA and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Academy of Sciences approved the recommendations of their Joint Working Groups concerning the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) and agreed to proceed with system design and development programme. That development was followed by an agreement reached by the Working Groups in October to attempt to launch the Apollo-Soyuz on 15 July 1975.

In December 1972, a decision was taken for the merger of ELDO and ESRO and to integrate national programmes within European programmes. The merger is scheduled to take place beginning in 1974, with the establishment of a new European space agency which would be responsible not only for carrying out the existing satellite programme of ESRO and the launch programmes which the European Space Conference has decided to undertake, but also for the national programmes of Member States which would gradually be taken over by the agency.

In the same month, in further implementation of the United States-Union of Soviet Socialist Republics agreement on outer space co-operation signed in May 1972, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics experts signed a protocol on joint scientific expedition in the Bering Sea. Under that protocol, research vessels flying United States and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics flags, together with airborne laboratories, would carry out joint research in the Bering Sea on methods of monitoring natural processes on a global scale from satellites.

(The Chairman)

Also during the period under review, the Agreement on the Establishment of an International System and Organization of Space Communications (INTERSPUTNIK) had come into force.

In May of this year, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics approved an expanded co-operative remote sensing programme covering disciplinary areas such as geology and geomorphology; vegetation, soil and land use, water, snow and glaciology, microwave techniques and oceanology.

In the area of furthering accession to existing international treaties, it was encouraging to note the information provided to the Legal Sub-Committee by the representatives of the United States that as of March this year:

Eighty-nine States had signed the Outer Space Treaty, while sixty-three had either ratified or acceded to it;

Seventy-nine States had signed the Rescue and Return Agreement, while fifty-five had either ratified or acceded to it, and seventy States had signed the Liability Convention, while thirteen had either ratified or acceded to it.

It is against that background of encouraging and favourable developments in the larger framework of space co-operation that we are called upon to resume the activity and work of the Committee, to which I shall now address myself briefly.

The reports we have before us reflect the heavy workload and programme of the Sub-Committees and the Working Groups during the first half of this year, with the record attendance of 65 days and the difficult tasks assigned to them, and the progress achieved in their deliberations are reflected in those documents.

In this respect the thanks of the Committee are due to the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, Mr. Wyzner of Poland, to the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, Professor Carver of Australia, to the Chairman of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, Mr. Fiorio of Italy, and to the Chairman of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, Ambassador Rydbeck of Sweden, for their excellent accomplishments and the commendable leadership they have provided in conducting the work in their respective Sub-Committees and Working Groups.

(The Chairman)

May I now first turn briefly to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee. As the Committee can see from paragraph 11 of the Legal Sub-Committee's report, Mr. Wyzner has been requested, if possible, to attend our meeting in order to assist the Committee in its work. May I take this opportunity to offer the Committee the apologies of Mr. Wyzner who is, unfortunately, not able to come to New York at this time. I shall not dwell at length on the report which appears in document A/AC.105/115, but rather confine myself to observations relating to those areas on which the Committee is expected to act.

It will be recalled in this connexion that, in accordance with the request of the Committee made last year, the Legal Sub-Committee during its twelfth session in March and April 1973 in New York gave priority to the consideration of the draft treaty relating to the Moon and the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into space.

In regard to the draft treaty relating to the Moon, the Legal Sub-Committee had at its previous session agreed on the preamble and the wording of 21 draft articles. At its twelfth session, the Legal Sub-Committee continued this work on the basis of the texts approved by the Sub-Committee's eleventh session and concentrated on those provisions on which the main outstanding questions remained to be solved.

(The Chairman)

Those outstanding questions related to the scope of the treaty and whether the treaty should apply to activities on the moon or also to activities on other celestial bodies; to the legal régime over the natural resources of the moon and whether the treaty should provide that those resources form part of the common heritage of mankind; and, finally, the question of information to be furnished on missions and whether the treaty should call on States to provide notification of their intention to launch missions to a celestial body in advance of launching. In this connexion, the Legal Sub-Committee re-established its Working Group I for the article-by-article consideration of provisions of the draft treaty and particularly of those provisions on which agreement had yet to be reached. As a result of consultations and further negotiations Working Group I of the Sub-Committee approved the text of six provisions. Those provisions, of which the Sub-Committee took note, are set out in paragraph 17 of its report.

Following a review of the report of Working Group I on those articles, and after further attempts to reconcile differences on outstanding issues, the Sub-Committee recommended that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should make its best efforts to complete the treaty relating to the moon at its next session, in June, in order that the draft treaty might be submitted to the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly for adoption.

As regards the draft convention on the registration of objects launched into space, the Working Group appointed by the Legal Sub-Committee to consider the article by article drafting of that treaty -- Working Group II -- approved the text of a preamble and ten articles, as well as the title of the draft convention, as set out in paragraph 24 of the report of the Sub-Committee. There were, however, a few outstanding questions, primarily relating to the question of marking the space objects and the review of the proposed draft convention, that remained to be solved. In this connexion I should like to draw the Committee's attention also to paragraph 25 of the report, which contains certain relevant explanations. The Legal Sub-Committee, having reviewed the draft articles presented by its Working Group II and after further efforts at bridging differences of view, took note of those draft articles and recommended that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should make its best efforts to complete the draft convention for submission to the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly -- a recommendation identical to the one just quoted concerning the treaty on the moon.

(The Chairman)

The Committee is therefore seized of two requests to take it upon itself to seek to reconcile the remaining differences of view in regard to the provisions of the two draft international instruments with a view to completing them for submission to the General Assembly. It is my understanding that the Sub-Committee's formal and informal discussions were both extensive and detailed and that the formulation of the draft treaty and draft convention are now dependent on the resolution of a few remaining outstanding points. Indeed, it was my hope that had agreement been possible on those few remaining points we would have now had the draft treaty and draft convention before us. It is my sincere hope, therefore, that the Committee will strike a positive note in its response to the Sub-Committee's appeal.

There are several ways open to us to tackle these problems. One appropriate way might be to set up an informal working group which would have to look into both matters -- the draft convention on registration as well as the draft moon treaty -- since I do not believe that the plenary meetings of our Committee would provide the appropriate way of going about that task. If that is the feeling of the Committee, the working group could meet when our Committee is not meeting, and we could even contemplate the possibility of alternating between morning meetings of the Committee and afternoon meetings of the working group, as the need arises. Whatever course may finally be adopted I trust that an appropriate accommodation can be reached. I should therefore like to invite delegations to comment on this matter, and in concluding this particular point I should like to say that I feel -- as do delegations I had the pleasure of contacting last week -- that we should make every effort to achieve progress with respect to the outstanding legal questions.

During its twelfth session the Legal Sub-Committee also dealt with the question of the priority to be accorded other items on its agenda. While fully realizing that it would be difficult for members of the Committee at this stage to turn their attention to the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee without having the opportunity of deciding on the status of the two draft international instruments before it, I should like to invite members to think on this matter.

(The Chairman)

I should now like to turn to the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

At its tenth session, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee devoted considerable time and attention to the consideration of two important questions: remote sensing of the earth by satellites and promotion of the applications of space technology.

Having for the first time reviewed the substantive report of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee recommended a number of steps for approval by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Those recommendations, set out in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report of the Sub-Committee, ranged from a proposal for a second survey to be undertaken by the Secretary-General and to be addressed to Member States on the potential uses of remote sensing from space, to the proposed establishment of a task force whose principal objective it would be to identify, study and analyse for the benefit of the Working Group the best means of disseminating remote sensing data acquired from space in the interests of promoting the optimum utilization of space applications for the benefit of States and the international community.

The importance of remote sensing cannot be over-emphasized. The Committee has already given due recognition to the role that this new technology is likely to play in developing and developed countries alike, and the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, which is largely based on the progress report of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, has underscored this trend.

In the area of United Nations programmes on space applications, the Sub-Committee has witnessed progress in the implementation of past programmes as well as in the expansion of the programme for the coming year. The two technical panels held in Mexico and India last year and the three technical panel-training seminars to be held in France, Kenya and Argentina this year, as well as the various panels and training seminars envisaged for 1974, are all reflective

(The Chairman)

of the growing concern of the United Nations with practical applications of space technology for the benefit of developing countries. It is indeed encouraging to note that the Sub-Committee, realizing this continued United Nations concern with space applications programmes, had agreed in principle to the proposal put forward by the United Nations expert that future planning for the United Nations programme on space applications should constitute a rolling plan on a long-range basis similar to the long-range planning now in effect for other programmes of the United Nations.

In this connexion the view has often been expressed in the Sub-Committee -- and the Committee may wish to consider it -- that in order to facilitate the implementation programmes of space applications of the United Nations, with its limited resources, further assistance of Member States is needed, and that industrialized and developed countries could render this needed assistance by, for instance, making more readily available their facilities for the accomplishments of the United Nations programme. It is similarly encouraging to note that during the past year the United Nations Development Programme and the various specialized agencies -- particularly UNESCO, WMO, ITU and FAO -- contributed considerably to the implementation of the United Nations programme.

Serious consideration by the Committee of these various aspects of space applications and their co-ordination would therefore be urgently needed. In the area of education and training it is equally noteworthy that members of the United Nations which in the past have offered fellowships for training in the area of practical application of space technology not only renewed their offers but in some instances increased them. In this connexion views were often expressed that if the conditions of the offers were liberalized it would greatly assist the developing countries to make full use of the fellowships offered them.

(The Chairman)

One area of great importance dealt with by the Sub-Committee was the question of the role and functions of the Sub-Committee in its area of competence in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The fact that in the past the work of the Sub-Committee had to some extent been affected by the proliferation of subsidiary bodies and the recognition of the need for giving the Sub-Committee a more central role, co-ordinating activities in the area of scientific and technical co-operation in the future uses of outer space, had prompted the consideration of views presented by some members of the Committee on the need to give serious thought to the future role of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

It is, of course, generally realized that while the Legal Sub-Committee has had its future programme of work fairly clearly defined, the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee would seem to depend on short-range considerations decided on a session-by-session basis rather than long-oriented work programmes. It is noteworthy that the Committee had before it for the first time the view expressed by the Sub-Committee which singled out certain items to be considered among the priority items for its next session.

While it is not my intention to suggest any views in regard to what specifically should be done on the future role and function of the Sub-Committee, I sincerely believe that if there were an area where the Committee might be of immediate assistance to its subsidiary bodies, it would be in the area of providing the necessary guidelines in this respect.

I should now like to turn briefly to the question of direct broadcast satellites. In this respect, I have again been asked to offer apologies to the Committee, this time on behalf of Ambassador Rydbeck, Chairman of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, who unfortunately is not able to attend our meetings. With regard to direct broadcast satellites, it is in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee made last year that the Working Group was reconvened to study new substantive material that had become available since the Working Group last met in 1970, and to list possibilities for further action by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in their future work.

(The Chairman)

Among the new substantive material made available to the Working Group were recommendations of the 1971 ITU World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications; the UNESCO Declaration on Guiding Principles on the Use of Satellite Broadcasting for the Free Flow of Information, the Spread of Education and Greater Cultural Exchange; the UNESCO/WIPO work on the protection of television signals transmitted by satellites; and more recently, the USSR proposal on the preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting. During its deliberations, the Working Group also had the working paper submitted by Sweden and Canada on principles governing direct television broadcasting satellites.

In reviewing the state of the arts in direct broadcast by satellites, the Working Group offered a wide range of interesting and informative observations contained in its report. The Working Group noted in particular that while direct broadcast experiments were currently planned in a framework of domestic systems and that studies on regional systems had been undertaken in various areas, particular attention was drawn to the experiments being conducted under the ATSF programme, particularly those aspects of that programme relating to international co-operation.

In the light of the various factors set out in its report, the Working Group concluded that further studies and experiments were required in the technical and economic aspects of direct broadcast satellites, particularly on their use on a regional basis with a view to the widest possible benefit of this new technology to the international community.

Of particular interest in the context of the responsibility of the Committee are the conclusions reached by the Working Group in regard to its own mandate and the question of elaborating principles governing direct television broadcasts.

It is not my intention to tax the patience of the members of the Committee by dwelling on the main conclusions of the Working Group, which will be available to them, but they would seem to deserve the special attention of the Committee because of their immediate relevance to the tasks which lie ahead, particularly with regard to the reconvening of the Working Group, as set out in the conclusions and recommendations of the report. Here a decision of the Committee is called for.

(The Chairman)

I had the occasion of suggesting last year that the Committee should more vigorously seek to provide leadership and to come forward with its own initiatives and provide directives to its subsidiary bodies. The three reports before the Committee, which set out the various problems faced by the Committee's subsidiary bodies and the solutions they require have now borne out the urgent need for the Committee to provide such leadership, and the coming weeks, I hope, will provide the opportunity to act in such a manner.

Having now shared these thoughts with members of the Committee, I wish them well in their deliberations on the various important items before us, and I look forward, with the benefit of the advice and co-operation of members, to what promises to be two weeks of hard but, hopefully, very fruitful work.

STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

The CHAIRMAN: The Under-Secretary-General would now like to make a statement, and I call on him.

Mr. SHEVCHENKO (Under-Secretary-General, Department of Political and Security Council Affairs): Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for the kind words of welcome which you have addressed to me in my new capacity as Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs.

I consider it a great privilege to be with the Committee today on the occasion of the opening of its sixteenth session under your chairmanship. The task of the Committee in the coming weeks is a very important one, as you have indicated and explained today, especially considering the fact that for the first time in so many years the Committee has to deal with the reports of three of its subsidiary bodies instead of two.

(Mr. Shevchenko)

That the activity and work programme of the Committee have considerably increased since the first United Nations Outer Space Conference in 1968 has been due to the expanding area of international co-operation in this field, particularly in the practical applications of space technology. This expanded activity of the Committee has, of course, resulted in the need for a reinforced supporting staff in order properly to implement its programmes and decisions. I wish to take this opportunity to inform the members of the Committee that the decision of the Secretary-General to take certain measures to enhance the effectiveness of the Outer Space Affairs Division is under implementation.

(Mr. Shevchenko,
Under-Secretary-General)

You will recall that among the measures the Secretary-General has contemplated is the establishment of two sections in the Outer Space Affairs Division, one dealing with the servicing of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and the other with implementation of the United Nations programme on practical applications. That organization of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs is already envisaged in the Secretary-General's bulletin which is being issued. As for the additional staff that the Secretary-General has also contemplated for enhancing the effectiveness of the Division, this will of course be effected through the normal administrative procedures followed by the Organization, and I would express the hope that the members of this Committee will at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly strongly support the relevant measures in that regard.

It is therefore my sincere hope that, with the implementation of the decision of the Secretary-General, the effectiveness of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs will indeed be enhanced, so as to meet fully its terms of reference as the principal Secretariat unit responsible not only for the servicing of the Committee and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and its subsidiary bodies but also for implementing the United Nations programme for practical applications.

Knowing how important it is for all delegations to be prepared for the coming days, I merely wish to say that, for our part, the Secretariat and I personally as Under-Secretary-General will do our utmost to facilitate the work of the Committee in continuing its impressive record of achievement during the past years and in accomplishing the objective of providing the necessary focal point in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Under-Secretary-General for the welcome news he has given the Committee.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: We have now heard the statement of the Chairman and the statement of the Under-Secretary-General. Since no representatives wish to speak at this stage, I should like to place before the Committee -- following up

(The Chairman)

something I said a moment ago in my statement -- a procedural proposal for the organization of our work for the next few days and possibly for the two weeks of work we have before us.

In consultations which I had with various delegations the view was expressed -- a view which I reflected in my statement -- that it might be helpful for the Committee, in order to explore the possibilities of making further progress on the two conventions with which the Legal Sub-Committee is concerned, to establish an informal working group which would meet parallel with the main Committee and which would try to achieve progress on those two conventions. If that proposal is agreeable to delegations, I would suggest that after the closing of this meeting we proceed immediately, in an informal manner, to constitute such a working group. It would be understood that the Chairman, in consultation with delegations, would reserve adequate time for meetings of the informal working group, the idea being that, while morning meetings would be reserved for the main Committee, to give delegations a chance to make their general statements and to consider the reports before us, we could reserve the afternoon meetings -- or part of the afternoon meetings, if the need should arise to leave portions of the afternoon meetings for the main Committee -- for the work of the informal working group. If that is agreeable to the Committee, I would suggest that we proceed accordingly.

Mr. MILLER (Canada): Mr. Chairman, I have just a comment by way of support for what you have suggested. As you have very thoroughly catalogued for us this afternoon the work that is ahead of us in the next two weeks and have suggested to us -- correctly, in the opinion of this delegation -- that the plenary meetings will not necessarily lend themselves to the kind of positive approach, informality and hard work that you have indicated in your statement is necessary, my delegation would like to support firmly the idea of an informal working group along the lines you have suggested, that is, a group that would be available to meet at times when plenary meetings were not being held. I would suggest that we might be fairly flexible, to the extent that, if there are only one or two speakers at a morning meeting, we might take advantage of left-over

(Mr. Miller, Canada)

time in the morning to allow the working group to meet then as well as in the afternoon. This working group, meeting informally, might be able to review and, we hope, solve the relatively few remaining points of disagreement -- if I may use that term -- to be found in both the moon treaty and the registration convention.

Mr. CHARVET (France) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, the French delegation also supports your suggestion.

Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy): Mr. Chairman, we should like also to give our support to your proposal. In addition, we should like to advance the suggestion that, once the general debate is over and until the working group on legal questions has reached some conclusions, the Committee could examine the report submitted by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Italy for his suggestion. As there are no further comments, I take it that the Committee approves the proposals and that we may proceed accordingly.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held tomorrow at 10.30 a.m. So that we may have more time for informal consultations and also proceed swiftly with our general debate, I would appeal to members of the Committee to enable us to start our meetings as near as possible to the time scheduled. I hope that representatives will be ready to make their statements as soon as possible during the general debate.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.