Draft declaration of basic principles governing the activities of States pertaining to the exploration and use of outer space

1. Outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States in conformity with international law. This freedom shall include free navigation by means of space vehicles, the establishment of space stations and other like devices, the conduct of scientific research, and the landing on and exploration of celestial bodies, and shall be exercised by all States with due regard to the interests of other States in the exploration and use of outer space, and to the need for consultation and co-operation between States in relation to such exploration and use.

2. Outer space and celestial bodies are not capable of appropriation or exclusive use by any State. Accordingly, no State may claim sovereignty over outer space or over any celestial body, nor can such sovereignty be acquired by means of use or occupation or in any other way.

3. In the exploration and use of outer space and celestial bodies States are bound by international law and by the provisions of the United Nations Charter and other international agreements which may be applicable.

4. All States shall, for themselves and for their nationals, have equal rights in the exploration and use of outer space. These rights shall be exercised in accordance with international law and with the principles affirmed in this declaration.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/880

Letter dated 5 December 1962 from the Permanent Representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour herewith to submit documents relating to an agreement reached on co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space as a result of meetings between Dr. Hugh Dryden of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Academician A. A. Blagonravov of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

We request that these documents be circulated to all Members of the United Nations as an official United Nations document.

(Signed) Adlai E. Stevenson
Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations

(Signed) V. Zorin
Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations

STATEMENT DATED 8 JUNE 1962 BY ACADEMICIAN A. A. BLAGONRAVOV OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND DR. HUGH L. DRYDEN OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

The representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have conducted discussions on the question of co-operation in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes during the period 29 May to 8 June 1962. The agreed upon recommendations are described in the attached documents, the texts of which have been checked by us in both languages and are identical.

(Signed) A. A. BLAGONRAVOV

(Signed) Hugh L. DRYDEN

Summary of understandings

Introduction

1. Following the exchange of views between Nikita S. Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America, regarding co-operation in the exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes, the USSR and United States representatives designated for the purpose have discussed in some detail the possibilities of co-operation in meteorology, a world geomagnetic survey, and satellite telecommunications.

2. In the field of meteorology, it is important that the two satellite launching nations contribute their capabilities toward the establishment of a global weather satellite system for the benefit of other nations.

3. The compilation of a map of the magnetic field of the earth with the aid of satellites is extremely important both for the further successful exploration of space and for advancing the science of earth magnetism.

4. Telecommunications by means of satellites is expected to lead to a considerable improvement of communications facilities all over the world and can be a most important contribution to the extension of contacts and friendship among nations. Communication satellites can also be used for domestic needs within a single country.

5. The USSR and United States representatives have arrived at the following understanding which they agree to refer to their Governments for consideration.

Meteorology

6. It is agreed that this program falls naturally into two stages, an experimental and an operational stage.

7. The first stage will extend approximately from the present time through 1963-1964 during the development of experimental weather satellites by both the USSR and the United States.

8. In this first stage, the two countries will arrange for the establishment of communication links adequate for the transfer, from each to the other, of the data gathered by each nation from its own experimental meteorological satellites. These communication links would connect the World Weather Centres at Moscow and Washington. A Joint Working Group of technical
State or States or international organization responsible for launching

D

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: DRAFT PROPOSAL ON LIABILITY FOR SPACE VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Recognizing that there may occur personal injury, loss of life or property damage as a result of space vehicle accidents, Recognizing that States and international organizations responsible for the launching of space vehicles should be liable internationally for such injury, loss or damage, Believing that there should be agreed rules and procedures applicable to such cases,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to constitute a small advisory panel of legal experts drawn from various geographic areas;

2. Requests the advisory panel thus constituted to prepare a draft of an international agreement dealing with the liability of States and international organizations for injury, loss or damage caused by space vehicles;

3. Commends to the advisory panel for its guidance the following principles:
   (a) States or international organizations responsible for the launching of space vehicles should be liable internationally for personal injury, loss of life or property damage caused thereby, whether such injury, loss or damage occurs on land, on the sea or in the air;
   (b) A claim based on personal injury, loss of life or property damaged caused by a space vehicle should not require proof of fault on the part of the State of States or international organization responsible for launching the space vehicle in question, although the degree of care which ought reasonably to have been exercised by the person or entity on whose behalf claim is made might properly be taken into account;
   (c) A claim may be presented internationally to the State or States or international organization responsible for the launching of a space vehicle causing injury, loss or damage without regard to the prior exhaustion of any local remedies that may be available;
   (d) The presentation of a claim should be made within a reasonable time after the occurrence of injury, loss or damage;
   (e) The International Court of Justice should have jurisdiction to adjudicate any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of the international agreement on liability in the absence of agreement between the States concerned upon another means of settlement;

4. Requests the advisory panel to transmit the draft international agreement to the Legal Sub-Committee at an early date.

E

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC: DRAFT CODE FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,

Having in mind that the Members of the United Nations, according to the Charter, are determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, Recognizing that it is imperative in the interest of mankind that activities in outer space should be exclusively devoted to the peaceful uses of outer space, Recognizing further that the General Assembly, in its resolution 1721 (XVI), has urged that the United Nations should be a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space, Noting the interrelationship of the technical and legal aspects of any activity in outer space, Conscious of the impact of consolidating the efforts of Member States in promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, Believing that, to reach this end, it is necessary to have as guidance a framework which defines the future of its activities,

I

Decides that the Committee should be guided in its work by the following principles:

1. The activities of Member States in outer space should be confined solely to the peaceful uses;
2. In their policies toward outer space Member States should promote international and peaceful co-operation;
3. Member States bear special responsibility emanating from their obligations to secure the safety of space for astronauts in outer space;
4. Member States agree to provide every possible assistance to personnel of space vehicles who may be the subject of accident or exposure conditions of distress or who may land by reason of accident, distress or mistake;
5. Member States shall undertake to return to the State or international organization responsible for launching space vehicles these space vehicles and their personnel;
6. One of the main objectives in international peaceful co-operation in outer space is to develop special programmes in which the developing countries can participate with a view to promoting world-wide interest in outer space;
7. Member States agree to make full use of the facilities and experience of all international organizations, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations which have activities in outer space;
8. Member States will exert every possible effort to provide the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, with all information necessary for the promoting of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space;
9. Member States shall undertake to give all possible assistance to the United Nations and its affiliated organizations to underwrite joint programmes of training and research to promote science and technology in outer space;

II

Decides to establish a sub-committee to examine the best practical procedure in order to put into practice the aforementioned principles.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/879

Letter dated 4 December 1962 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee

In connexion with the debate on agenda item 27 (International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space), I have the honour to request that the attached "Draft declaration of basic principles governing the activities of States pertaining to the exploration and use of outer space," be circulated as a document of the First Committee.

(Signed) A. H. CAMPBELL
For Sir Patrick DEAN
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations

[Original text: English]
[4 December 1962]
experts will meet in October 1962 to decide upon suitable communication links to be established with due regard to the sharing of costs and the interests of other nations.

9. The Joint Working Group will also establish the criteria for the two-way transfer of satellite data over such links, with the understanding that such transfers will include selected cloud-cover pictures, especially related to storms, vortices, fronts, and the generation of these phenomena, with geographical co-ordinates provided for all pictures selected, together with nephophanyses based upon the data as a whole. The Joint Working Group will agree upon a date for initiating the two-way transfer of such data, designating this date with due regard for the readiness of the communication links and the readiness of the USSR and the United States to provide data of approximately equivalent interest. Data should be exchanged as quickly as possible. The same communication links would be used to exchange weather charts, diagrams, vertical cross-sections, and the material required for solving the problems of weather forecasting, including the extension of prediction periods. Co-ordinated research efforts should be directed toward these goals.

10. The second stage of the meteorological satellite programme will begin approximately in 1964-1965 and will apply to the co-ordinated launching by the two nations of a system of operational weather satellites. In order to prepare adequately and in a timely manner this co-ordinated launching, a second Joint Working Group will meet in March 1963 to determine mutually agreeable launching schedules for the operational satellites, the numbers of such satellites, their orbits and the comparability (to the degree desirable) of the characteristics of their sensors and the data to be obtained.

11. These discussions as to satellite characteristics, numbers and orbits shall be made with due consideration of recommendations of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) with regard to the objectives of weather data acquisition by satellites for both operations and research.

12. The two-way transfer of data during the second stage shall be determined by the two nations and shall be made on a real-time basis. This transfer and the wider dissemination of such data to other nations will proceed with full consideration of the recommendations and procedures of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Nephophanyses, pictures of cloud cover, and processed data on radiation fluxes will be exchanged mutually.

World geomagnetic survey

13. It was agreed to be useful to arrange for a joint effort in this field by the co-ordinated launching of two artificial earth satellites equipped with magnetometers during the period of the International Year of the Quiet Sun. These two satellites will be launched, one by the USSR and the other by the United States, on different mutually agreed orbits. The period before the International Year of the Quiet Sun will be used by both parties (the USSR and the United States) to continue magnetic measurements in space in accordance with national work programmes, with mutual exchange of processed data of the magnetic measurements.

14. The representatives of the USSR and the United States agreed that it would be desirable to establish a Joint Working Group, consisting of USSR and United States specialists, for the preliminary consideration of the scientific and technical aspects of the compilation of a map of the magnetic field of the earth with the aid of artificial earth satellites. In particular, the Joint Working Group is to make recommendations on the shape of the orbits, their angle of inclination to the equator, the period during which the satellites are to be operated, the necessary accuracy of measurements, the type of magnetometers to be used on the satellites, the methods of processing and analyzing the data obtained, the methods of correcting them, and so on.

15. Conducting its work, the Joint Working Group will take into consideration any possible recommendations on this question of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

16. The parties agreed that it would be desirable for the members of this Joint Working Group to be appointed by each side as soon as technically possible to begin work on the problems placed before the group, by correspondence and by subsequent meetings, if necessary.

17. The parties recognized that data obtained in earth magnetic observatories were of particularly great importance for the successful compilation of a map of the magnetic field of the earth with the aid of the artificial earth satellites. They therefore agreed to make efforts to arrange, through World Data Centers A and B, for a prompt exchange of standard magnetograms from earth observatories, and to arrange that these magnetograms contain all the data required for their use for analyzing the data acquired by satellites. Each side agreed to use its influence with non-governmental organizations (such as the International Committee on Geophysics (CIG), the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), and others) to expedite the transmission to World Data Centers A and B of the necessary earth magnetic data from third countries co-operating with the USSR and the United States.

Satellite telecommunication

18. Recognizing the role of the International Telecommunication Union and the importance of the establishment of bilateral co-operation between the USSR and the United States in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space, we submit the following recommendations:

19. In 1962-1963 the USSR and the United States agree to co-operate in experiments on communication by means of the United States satellite “Echo A-12”.

20. We agree to give further consideration to the possibilities of co-operation in joint experiments using active satellites that may be launched by either nation in the future, including the mutual exchange of information on the results of such experiments, and to resume discussions of these possibilities at our next series of meetings.

21. Among the problems which should be discussed at the following meetings is that of the preparation for the working out with other nations of a project for an experimental global system of space communications with due regard to the recommendations of the ITU.

Conclusion

22. The recommendations proposed at the present stage of the bilateral discussions by the representatives of the USSR and the United States have a preliminary character and will be presented by both parties to their
Governments through appropriate agencies for final consideration. If either of the two parties finds it necessary to make any corrections, additions or deletions in the text of the prepared documents, then all of these changes should be made within the period of two months from this date by correspondence, which will be sent to the following address in Moscow:

Academy of Sciences of the USSR
Leninsky Prospekt 14
Moscow
USSR

and to the following address in Washington:
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Attention: Dr. Hugh L. Dryden
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington 25, D.C., U.S.A.

Appendix

The following persons participated in the discussions:

_USSR representatives_:  
Academician A. A. Blagonravov  
Deputy Minister I. V. Kikotov  
Professor Y. D. Kalinin  
Professor V. A. Bugaev  
Mr Y. A. Barinov  
Mr G. S. Stashovsky

_U.S. representatives_:  
Dr. Hugh L. Dryden  
Professor Donald F. Hornig  
Dr. John W. Townsend, Jr

_Other U.S. consultants_:  
Mr Arnold W. Frutkin  
Mr Howard Furnas  
Dr. Richard W. Porter  
Dr. Harry Wexler  
Dr. James P. Heppner  
Mr Philip H. Valdes  
Congressman George P. Miller  
Congressman James G. Fulton

United States note of 29 August 1962

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and has the honour to refer to the technical agreement reached in Geneva on 8 June 1962 by representatives of the USSR and the United States of America, headed by Academician Blagonravov and Dr. Hugh Dryden, on co-operation in space activities.

The Embassy recalls that the agreement of 8 June took the form of recommendations submitted to the two Governments for final consideration, and specified a period of two months during which either side could propose changes in the agreement. On 9 July 1962, Dr. Dryden wrote to Academician Blagonravov informing him that as United States technical representative he had no changes to propose on behalf of the United States of America.

As the period of two months has elapsed and as Academician Blagonravov has not proposed changes, the Government of the United States of America therefore proposed to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics an exchange of notes referring to and confirming the agreement of 8 June. This exchange could take place in Moscow or Washington, as the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics prefers.

Note by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR of 12 October 1962

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and in connexion with the Embassy's note No. 216 of 29 August 1962 has the honour to state the following:

In the course of a meeting at Geneva of United States and USSR scientists which took place in June 1962, technical recommendations on several questions of co-operation in the field of the peaceful research of the use of outer space were agreed upon between the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States.

On 13 September 1962, Academician A. A. Blagonravov, during the course of his stay in New York for a session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, informed NASA representative Mr. A. Frutkin of the approval by the Soviet side of the aforementioned recommendations of the scientists regarding outer space.

The President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR is sending the Administrator of NASA appropriate official notification on this question.

Letter dated 12 October 1962 from the President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States

Referring to the agreement on co-operation in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space which was reached during the meetings between delegations of Soviet and American scientists, headed by Dr. Hugh Dryden and Academician A. A. Blagonravov, in June 1962, the Academy of Sciences of the USSR notes that neither side has proposed within the specified period of time any changes or additions to the text of the recommendations as agreed in Geneva.

In view of this, we consider the above-named agreement to have thus entered into force and are informing you herewith that Soviet scientists are prepared to commence its implementation.

The Academy of Sciences of the USSR expresses the hope that the agreement on co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space will provide a good beginning for the further development and expansion of co-operation between Soviet and American scientists in this noble task for the sake of scientific progress and the strengthening of peace on earth.

(Signed) M. V. Keldysh
President,
Academy of Sciences of the USSR

Letter dated 30 October 1962 from the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States to the President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR

This will acknowledge your letter of 12 October 1962, expressing the desire of the USSR Academy of Sciences...
to commence implementation of the agreement reached in Geneva last June by Dr. Dryden and Academician Blagonravov. Since our two Governments have now confirmed this agreement, I believe such a step to be appropriate and desirable.

I am asking Dr. Dryden to communicate with Academician Blagonravov in order to establish mutually agreeable dates for convening working groups to begin this agreed co-operative program.

I hope, with you, that this first step will be a fruitful one, and that it will lead to other such steps.

(Signed) James E. Webb
Administrator,
National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/881

Letter dated 8 December 1962 from the representative of the United States of America to the Chairman of the First Committee

[Original text: English]
[8 December 1962]

2. In the exploration and use of outer space and celestial bodies, States are bound by the relevant rules of international law and the relevant provisions of international treaties and agreements including the Charter of the United Nations;

3. Outer space and celestial bodies are not subject to national appropriation;

4. States shall render all possible assistance to the personnel of space vehicles which may be the subject of accident or experience conditions of distress, or who may land by reason of accident, distress or mistake. Space vehicle personnel who make such a landing shall be safely and promptly returned to the launching authority;

5. States shall return to the launching authority any space vehicle or part that has landed by reason of accident, distress or mistake. Upon request, the launching authority shall furnish identifying data prior to return;

6. A State or international organization from whose territory or with whose assistance or permission a space vehicle is launched bears international responsibility for the launching, and is internationally liable for personal injury, loss of life or property damage caused by such vehicle on the earth or in air space;

7. Jurisdiction over a space vehicle while it is in outer space shall be retained by the State or international organization which had jurisdiction at the time of launching. Ownership and property rights in a space vehicle and its components remain unaffected in outer space or upon return to the earth.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/L.320 AND ADD.1*

Canada and United States of America: draft resolution

[Original text: English]
[29 November 1962]

envisaged in the United Nations Development Decade programme,

Having considered the report (A/5181) submitted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in response to resolution 1721 (XVI),

I

1. Endorses the recommendations set forth in the report concerning the exchange of information;

2. Notes with appreciation that a number of Member States have already, on a voluntary basis, provided in-