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**Chairman:** Mr. Franz MATSCH (Austria).

### AGENDA ITEM 25


1. **Mr. MATSUDAIRA (Japan)** said that the report submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/4141) was fair and impartial and its conclusions left the General Assembly complete freedom of action. The United Nations should play as distinguished a part in connection with the peaceful uses of outer space as it had in the case of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In paragraph 17 of part IV of its report, the Committee suggested certain general functions and tasks that might appropriately be undertaken within the framework of the United Nations at the present time, stressed the need for international co-operation in the conduct of space activities, and stated further that there was an evident need in some areas for efforts of co-ordination and encouragement by the United Nations by way of support for international co-operation in that field.

2. Japanese scientists had a keen interest in the international co-operation involved in such joint projects as the international use of launching ranges and the instrumentation of satellites and of deep space probes, as well as the simultaneous launchings of sounding rockets. Japan had participated in the International Rocket Week in 1958, during the International Geophysical Year, and Japanese scientists were exploring the feasibility of launching sounding rockets which would reach to a height of 100 to 150 kilometres (62 to 93 miles), in order to observe the density of electrons and ions, the variation of geomagnetic fields in the ionosphere, etc.

3. International co-operation was desirable in all the fields of the peaceful uses of outer space. It was therefore unfortunate that the Ad Hoc Committee had not seen fit to discuss the vehicles used for the exploration of space. It was to be hoped that the countries concerned would without delay make public and exchange as much information in that field as was possible without impeding their national security.

4. The Japanese delegation was happy to co-sponsor the twelve-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247), which was the outcome of the co-operative and patient efforts of the United States and USSR representatives. He expressed the hope that, from 1960, international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space would be promoted on a global basis by the adoption of the draft resolution.

5. Mr. MICHALOWSKI (Poland) expressed his delegation’s satisfaction at the agreement achieved between the two Powers chiefly concerned, the United States and the Soviet Union, on the composition of the committee on the peaceful uses of outer space and on the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247), of which Poland was one of the sponsors. There could be no doubt that that happy result was due to the relaxation of international tension which had already become apparent during the session and which had been promoted to a large extent by the visit of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Mr. Khrushchev, to the United States.

6. The Ad Hoc Committee would have to perform universal tasks in an entirely new field. Unfortunately mankind was hardly prepared to meet the complex problems raised by the new era of the conquest of cosmic space, which demanded unity of effort and international co-operation on an unprecedented scale. The International Geophysical Year, in which Poland had actively participated, had been one of the best examples of such co-operation, and it was gratifying to note that the draft resolution provided for continuation on a permanent basis of the outer space research carried on within that framework.

7. The principle of the sovereign equality of States, as laid down in the United Nations Charter, was binding on Member States in outer space as well as on the earth. The international scientific conference proposed in part B of the draft resolution therefore met a real need. It was unfortunate that the Belgian delegation had submitted its amendment (A/C.1/L.248). The problem was not a legal or formal one, as maintained by the Belgian representative (1073th meeting), and the First Committee should not base its documents on nebulous formulas which took no account of reality. The problem was a political one: certain delegations were attempting to deprive a group of States of their right to participate in an international conference which, by its very nature, would be of a universal character. It was unreasonable to try to discriminate against certain States which were not yet Members of the United Nations. The Polish delegation would vote against the Belgian amendment.

8. The success of any programme of scientific cooperation in the exploration of outer space was closely related to another important issue, that of entirely peaceful uses of outer space. All mankind had hailed the remarkable successes of the scientists of the Soviet Union, then of those of the United States, in launching rockets and artificial earth satellites. Joy, however, had immediately been followed by the justifiable anxiety that those memorable triumphs of human
ingenuity might be turned against mankind. One of the most important tasks of the new committee would be to avoid the extension of present earthly national rivalries and conflicts into outer space. The achievements of science and technology should serve to promote better understanding and remove the causes of international conflicts. The Polish delegation therefore commended the draft resolution to the First Committee and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

9. Mr. JHA (India) paid a tribute to the United Nations for having realized, immediately upon the placing of the first man-made satellites in orbit, the importance of that event and its incalculable consequences for that purpose. General Assembly resolution 1348 (XIII) had established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, whose report (A/4141) the First Committee was now examining. Following President Eisenhower's State-of-the-Union message of 10 January 1957, the United States had proposed, during the debate on disarmament in the First Committee at the eleventh session of the General Assembly, that the testing of outer space objects should be brought under international inspection and control to ensure their development exclusively for peaceful purposes (821st meeting). That proposal had been followed up by the Disarmament Commission and at the twelfth session the General Assembly had adopted resolution 1148 (XII), which, inter alia, called for the joint study of an inspection system designed to ensure that the sending of objects through outer space would be exclusively for peaceful and scientific purposes.

10. The Indian delegation had consistently taken the position that agreement between the great Powers, and in particular between the United States and the Soviet Union, was essential for any progress in such questions. For that reason it had, together with Burma and the United Arab Republic, submitted a draft resolution at the thirteenth session (A/C.1/L.224/Rev.1) which requested the United States of America and the Soviet Union to try to reach an agreed solution to the question of the membership of the proposed Ad Hoc Committee. Unfortunately those efforts had been unsuccessful. The Ad Hoc Committee, established by resolution 1348 (XIII), had met in 1958, but five of its members, including India, had not participated in the meetings. India considered that any machinery which did not include one or the other of the two countries most advanced in the field would not serve the purpose of resolution 1348 (XIII) and of other earlier resolutions concerned with the matter. While not belittling the results of the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee, the Indian delegation was convinced that those results would have been far more satisfactory if the question of the membership of the Committee had been settled at the thirteenth session.

11. A recent happy development in a similar field confirmed that the essential element in such matters was agreement between the Powers directly concerned. On 1 December 1959 the Antarctic Treaty had been signed at Washington by twelve nations, including the United States and the Soviet Union. Article I laid down that Antarctica should be used for peaceful purposes only and that any measure of a military nature, such as the establishment of military bases and fortifications, the carrying out of military manoeuvres as well as the testing of any type of weapons, should be prohibited. That was the type of treaty that India thought should be concluded in the field of outer space. Although in that field there were several problems that did not apply to Antarctica, there was no doubt that, given good will and co-operation, it should be possible for the Powers directly concerned to settle their differences and reach a mutually acceptable agreement.

12. As the Chairman of the Indian delegation had stated at the thirteenth session (994th meeting), it was not the medium of outer space that was likely to lead to man's destruction, but what traversed that space. The scope of the proposed committee as indicated in paragraph 1 (a) of part A of the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247) was wide enough. Nevertheless, whatever might be the immediate objectives or possibilities of the proposed committee, the ultimate objective of any consideration of the problem must be the prohibition of the use of outer space for any military purposes whatsoever and the conclusion of a convention aiming at the sole peaceful utilization of outer space for the benefit of man. Needless to say, simultaneous progress should be made towards disarmament and the outlawing of weapons of mass destruction, such as missiles with nuclear warheads and chemical and bacterial weapons.

13. The sincere efforts of the great Powers, notably the United States and the Soviet Union, to submit a joint draft resolution, of which India was one of the sponsors, justified the hope that the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution would lay a firm groundwork for international co-operation aimed at the peaceful utilization of outer space.

14. Mr. BRUCAN (Romania) also expressed pleasure at the agreement which had been reached regarding the draft resolution before the Committee. The fact that agreement had been reached showed that, if due regard was paid to the views and interests of all parties concerned, the United Nations could, as the Charter prescribed, be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends.

15. International co-operation for the peaceful use of outer space had now become imperative. The launching of the first artificial earth satellite had marked the turning of a glorious page in history, but, like man's other great discoveries, the exploration of outer space had raised the problem of the uses to which it would be put: would it be used for the establishment of a better world or for general destruction? It was to be hoped that reason would prevail and that man would make the only choice that could be made. The number of sponsors of the draft resolution was a good omen in that respect.

16. It was, however, deeply disappointing that the Belgian delegation was insisting on submitting an amendment (A/C.1/L.248) which in fact sought to make the proposed scientific conference adopt a policy of discrimination. It could not be maintained that such practice was standard and customary; indeed the conference concerned was supposed to be scientific in character and, consequently, no political strings should be attached if it was to be a success. The Belgian amendment amounted to maintaining that Member States had a monopoly of knowledge on outer space. His delegation would vote against the amendment, and he hoped that all those who wished to make the conference a success would do likewise.

17. Mr. BERARD (France) said that, if scientific discoveries and achievements in recent years were well in advance of efforts towards international organ-
ization and co-ordination, that fact was neither surprising nor disturbing. It would have been pertinent only if the international community had turned away from the problem and had so far made no effort to study the many opportunities of solving the problem or to define methods for making use of those opportunities on behalf of the whole human race.

18. The fact was, however, that the results so far obtained were far from negligible. It had first been agreed at the thirteenth session that a study should be made of the peaceful uses of outer space without waiting for agreement on other aspects of the problem. It would in fact have been unreasonable to put off for an indeterminate period international decisions which were needed at a time when a new field of study, outer space, was being opened up to mankind.

19. After that first step, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 1348 (XIII), had established a Committee which had met and submitted a report (A/4141). The report was a valuable source of information, although it was only a preliminary work, and its authors had not claimed to have found any final settlement for any problem, nor did they seek to impose any solution. The spirit of friendly understanding and the constructive attitude shown during the Ad Hoc Committee's work augured well for future international co-operation in that field.

20. There was, however, a serious obstacle. One large country whose scientific and technical achievements were recognized by the whole world had not seen fit to take part in the Ad Hoc Committee's work, as it disapproved of its membership. The question had now been settled, thanks to the efforts of the United States and Soviet Union delegations, and the membership of the new committee, the establishment of which was proposed, would be different from that considered equitable by the majority of Members at the previous session of the Assembly. The French delegation, for its part, was still attached to criteria of geographical representation and technical and legal competence which must guide the United Nations each time that a similar body had to be set up. By giving its approval to the new committee, the French delegation expressed the wish that the concession it thus made to the cause of international co-operation would not be in vain.

21. It would be the new committee's responsibility to review and, if necessary, to make a more complete and thorough study of the questions which had been entrusted to the Ad Hoc Committee. Later, the committee would also have to study suitable means for carrying out concrete programmes of international co-operation. In addition, the committee would continue the legal documentation work which had already been begun and could submit suggestions for the solution of problems which arose in that connexion. It would, however, have to avoid laying down over-precise rules at the outset which would not make sufficient allowance for technical developments, as by so doing it might hamper developments later.

22. The French delegation joined with those who had welcomed the proposal made by the Soviet Union (523rd plenary meeting) to call an international scientific conference on the peaceful uses of outer space in 1960 or 1961. The committee would have to undertake preparatory studies to determine methods of work, the agenda, and the place and date of the conference.

23. The foregoing considerations were well expressed in the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247), which France had co-sponsored. His delegation also shared the concern which had led to the submission of the Belgian amendment (A/C.1/L.248). He stressed the hope that the text as amended would be adopted unanimously.

24. Mr. SCHURMANN (Netherlands) recalled that at the thirteenth session all delegations had by unanimously adopting resolution 1346 (XIII), agreed that outer space should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. In view of the many legal, scientific, administrative and political problems which arose in that connexion, it would be naive to think that the exclusively peaceful use of outer space could be ensured within a short time. Attention should therefore be turned for the moment to promoting international co-operation for the exploration and exploitation of outer space. In that connexion a wealth of interesting information had been provided by the Ad Hoc Committee, which should be congratulated for these main reasons. First, it had carried out its task in a dispassionate and thorough manner in spite of the absence of some of its members; secondly, it had borne in mind the exigencies and limitations of the real situation and had thereby made its report a precise, instructive and useful document; thirdly, it had placed before the General Assembly a certain number of recommendations which could serve as a guide for future work.

25. The Ad Hoc Committee had recognized that the exploration of outer space was still in its infancy and that it was therefore necessary to avoid establishing rules and regulations or multilateral agreements which might turn out to be too restricted and consequently prove more hampering than beneficial to international action. In addition, the Committee had fully realized the value of ensuring early inter-governmental co-operation and promoting its development. His delegation unreservedly approved the legal recommendations and suggestions which the Committee had made in its report, including the list of legal problems susceptible of prior resolution and the view that a comprehensive codification of the law of outer space was neither practical nor desirable at the present stage (A/4141, part IV, para. 7). He noted with satisfaction that the Committee recognized that outer space was by nature indivisible and the notion of State sovereignty could not apply to it, everybody being free to explore and use outer space in accordance with international law and existing and future international agreements. The Committee had also acted rightly in classing the question of where air space ended and outer space began as one that did not demand priority (ibid., para. 28).

26. The scientific part of the report was correctly based on the idea that international co-operation was desirable and sometimes even essential, if the greatest benefits were to be derived from outer space activities, not only in so far as increasing scientific knowledge was concerned, but also in the practical application of such knowledge to meteorology, telecommunications, television and broadcasting. International organizations, such as WHO, ITU and ICAO, would have their parts to play and the best possible co-ordination of the activities of those specialized agencies would have to be ensured. In conformity with the opinion expressed by the Economic and Social Council in the appendix to resolution 743 D (XXVIII), such co-ordination should
in the first instance be directed by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, before any of the agencies concerned started on a programme of its own.

27. As stated in paragraph 122 of part II of the Committee's report, space activities must be conducted in an orderly manner and all countries must have an opportunity to take part. In that connexion, there must be a reasonable guarantee that the maximum use would be made of the scientific material and technical talent available in the world, and that there would be a continuous exchange of information. The Netherlands was keenly interested in the legal and scientific problems connected with the exploration and use of outer space. Its scientists could make a useful contribution to supporting research and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences was at present studying how they could most effectively take part in the development of space science and space research.

28. The conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee with regard to the tasks and functions of the proposed new committee (A/4141, part IV, para. 17) seemed sound. His delegation was happy that agreement had been reached on the composition of that committee, but as that agreement was the result of a compromise reached after lengthy negotiations, it would refrain from commenting on it. The proposal concerning the establishment of a technical unit within the Secretariat (ibid., para. 14) should be given further study, perhaps by the new committee, for although such a unit might be able to do useful work in the future, it was first necessary to have a better insight into the character and limits of the Secretariat's task in that field.

29. The responsibility of Governments in connexion with outer space should not be allowed to overshadow the importance of the part played by scientists and by the international scientific organizations to which they belonged. Various non-governmental organizations were concerned with questions relating to outer space, among them the International Council of Scientific Unions and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR); the latter was to hold an international space-science symposium in 1960, in which scientists from all over the world would take part. Care should therefore be taken not to embark on activities that could be better undertaken by those organizations. A cautious approach also seemed indicated to international co-operation in order to give relations between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations concerned time and opportunity for harmonious development.

30. His delegation was in favour of holding an international scientific conference on outer space, but there again it was necessary to allow sufficient time for adequate preparation. That time could also be used to analyse, adapt and apply the experience gained in the organization of the two international scientific conferences on atomic energy. In addition, the international organizations concerned, particularly COSPAR and the International Astronautical Federation, should be asked to participate in the preparations for the conference.

31. His delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247) and of the Belgian amendment (A/C.1/L.248).

32. Mr. KURKA (Czecho-Slovakia) stressed the tremendous strides made by science and technology in the Soviet Union and in other countries and the events which would make the year 1960 a landmark in the history of interplanetary travel: the launching of an artificial planet in the solar system, of a rocket reaching the moon, and of an automatic laboratory transmitting extremely valuable information on outer space and photographs of the hidden side of the moon. The information obtained during the current year exceeded in quantity and value all the knowledge hitherto accumulated in those branches of science. Czecho-Slovakia welcomed those achievements with the greatest satisfaction.

33. The question of the peaceful uses of outer space concerned all the peoples of the world, who were facing the future with mixed feelings of hope and apprehension. He was convinced that the United Nations would do its utmost to ensure that science and technology were placed at the service of mankind. Czecho-Slovakia, whose scientists had made their contribution to International Geophysical Year, would support all measures intended to increase scientific co-operation among nations and thus to promote respect for the principles of peaceful co-existence. International co-operation was particularly important in the study of outer space. His delegation accordingly felt that the proposal, initiated by the Soviet Union, to convene an international scientific conference for the exchange of experience deserved the support of all Member States. On the other hand, it would vote against the Belgian amendment; it felt that all the world's scientists should be able to take part in the conference.

34. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the agreement reached on the composition of the proposed committee. It was regrettable that, owing to the failure to reach an agreement in 1958, a year had been wasted. It was to be hoped that the work of the new committee would be successful and that the joint draft resolution, which Czecho-Slovakia was a sponsor, would enjoy wide support in the First Committee, thus providing a firm basis for the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

35. Mr. NESBITT (Canada) was pleased that the Powers concerned had reached an agreement providing for the establishment of a United Nations committee in which the countries with the most to contribute in the field of outer space would be able to participate. No effort should be spared to avoid, in that field, the difficulties which had arisen with respect to nuclear weapons as a result of the failure to develop international agreement at the outset. The establishment of a United Nations committee was an indispensable first stage in order to maintain the freedom of space for peaceful purposes, for the promotion of international scientific co-operation in the exploitation, for the benefit of mankind, of the potentialsities of outer space, for the establishment of the rule of law in outer space while there was yet time, and for the promotion of an international régime for outer space. Canada, which was a member of the new committee as it had been of the old, would do its best to make a contribution consistent with its knowledge and resources. While the establishment of that committee was in itself a welcome development, the questions of substance which it involved should not be lost sight of. Obviously the
ultimate objective must be to promote international co-operation in, and international regulation of, the peaceful uses of outer space.

36. In considering the work of the new committee, it had to be borne in mind that international co-operation in the scientific field covered a whole range of activities: the traditional informal exchanges of information between scientists of different nations, exchanges of a more formal character arranged by international non-governmental scientific organizations, and the arrangements reached through intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations. As the first of those activities was of great importance, the objective of inter-governmental scientific activities should be to facilitate and supplement such exchanges. In that connexion, the proposed international scientific conference should play an important part in the exchange of experience in the peaceful uses of outer space. Of course, space research presented special problems because of its significance for defence and because of its extension beyond national boundaries. Even in that field, however, the best form of international co-operation was still the informal exchange of information among scientists. The United Nations could contribute by ensuring that scientists throughout the world could pursue research with their traditional freedom to exchange ideas and information. However, the United Nations had a more direct part to play. There were large areas of activity in space research that must ultimately become the responsibility of the United Nations, if only because activities in space were outside national boundaries and raised legal and regulatory problems which could be settled amicably only in an international organization. It was clear that some of the specialized agencies also had a part to play. Their activities should be co-ordinated from the outset so as to avoid any unnecessary competition. That was one of the questions which should be looked into by the new committee at an appropriate stage.

37. In approaching its task, the new committee would have the benefit of the very useful preliminary study done by the Ad Hoc Committee. The Canadian delegation endorsed the observations and tentative conclusions contained in that study. The report was objective and comprehensive, and all those concerned with its preparation should be commended. The Ad Hoc Committee recognized that the pace of developments in the exploration of outer space had been so rapid that progress, plans and needs in connexion with the peaceful uses of outer space should be reviewed by the United Nations in about one year. In his view, it was even more necessary to undertake a similar review in respect of legal problems. In the course of such a review, early consideration should be given to the whole range of problems relating to sovereignty. The Canadian delegation agreed with the Ad Hoc Committee that, while a comprehensive codification of space law was not practicable or desirable at the present stage of knowledge and development, it was none the less necessary to take timely constructive steps and to make the law of space responsive to the facts of space. One of the questions which the new committee should consider as a matter of priority was the formulation of a rule, and the means to gain universal acceptance of that rule, that no part of space or of any celestial body could be appropriated by or be subjected to the jurisdiction of any State. The General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the new committee, might adopt a declaration establishing that principle. Failure to adopt some such measure forthwith to prevent the acquisition of legal rights in outer space might well prejudice the ability of the community of nations later to devise equitable and wise rules to reflect the common interest and rights of all mankind in the utilization of space.

38. Mr. TARABANOВ (Bulgaria) recalled that, as had frequently been pointed out, cooperation between small and large countries was of major importance, not only for the further extension of knowledge of outer space, but for the development of technology and the achievement of even more striking advances in that field. He was therefore gratified that agreement had been reached on measures for undertaking the exploration of outer space on an international scale. It was to be hoped that that would make it possible to overcome the difficulties which now confronted the various international and national agencies concerned or which might confront them in future. To that end, all countries, without distinction, should be able to take part in the work and conferences which were to be organized. In the circumstances, it was regrettable that some countries were still discriminating against other States in that respect. He hoped that those who had helped to bring about the agreement did not support the sponsors of the amendment, which had the effect of limiting the scope of the agreement and undermining the prospects of fruitful co-operation among all States in future. The amendment was contrary to the spirit and letter of the draft resolution in which the Assembly expressed the desire to avoid the extension of present national rivalries into the new field. By excluding those countries which, though desirous of and qualified for admission, were not yet members of the United Nations or the specialized agencies, it injected an element of discrimination which created new obstacles to international co-operation both in the specific field of space and in that of disarmament and peace.

39. The Bulgarian delegation hoped that the solution of the problem of co-operation among all countries in the peaceful uses of outer space might contribute to the solution of the military aspect of the question. The problem would not arise and the danger of outer space being used for military purposes would be eliminated if, at the same time, nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction as well as other facilities and equipment for transporting and guiding them were also abolished. In any event, the Bulgarian delegation was convinced that the co-operation foreseen by the agreement on the draft resolution was conducive to even more brilliant achievements. It would therefore vote for the draft resolution. On the other hand, it would vote against the Belgian amendment and urged the same course on all who genuinely and sincerely wished to achieve tangible results both in the specific field of outer space and in that of international co-operation, and who truly desired peace.

40. Mr. LOUTFI (United Arab Republic) said that he had had great pleasure in joining other delegations in submitting the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247). That draft was the result of an agreement reached primarily by the great Powers, which should be commended on their efforts. He hoped that the draft
would enable the committee to work for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space with the help of all Member States.

41. His delegation welcomed the progress achieved by the Soviet Union and the United States in the peaceful uses of outer space. The work of the scientists, whose research had contributed to that progress, would be very useful. The new committee would have to settle major political and legal issues. If all efforts were bent towards attaining the desired goal, namely, the peaceful use of outer space, great progress could be made for the benefit of all mankind.

42. The treaty recently concluded on Antarctica was a significant precedent for international co-operation. Few Powers could advance alone in that field and carry out the necessary experiments, owing to the magnitude of the expenditure they would have to incur. International co-operation was therefore imperative; it also made it possible to co-ordinate observations.

43. He was glad to note that the draft resolution gave due recognition to the work of the International Geophysical Year. The convening of an international conference for the exchange of experience in the peaceful uses of outer space would be a valuable contribution to progress in that field.

44. His delegation hoped that the international co-operation to be established in the peaceful use of outer space would serve the interests of all mankind, and the United Arab Republic would do everything in its power to make a modest contribution to the work proposed.

45. Mr. ORTONA (Uruguay) said it was encouraging to find that many of the difficulties in the way of true international co-operation in the field of outer space had been overcome and that space was not yet associated with political, racial, territorial or economic problems.

46. Despite the absence of some of its members, the Ad Hoc Committee had been able to present a report of considerable interest. In the period since it had completed its work, there had been further progress in space exploration, and the cultural exchanges which had taken place between the United States and the Soviet Union held out hope that the two countries might conduct joint projects in the future. Moreover, the Antarctica Treaty regarding the peaceful uses of that continent was a splendid example of co-operation in the exploration and development of unknown territories. In fact, articles II and III of the treaty could be applied forthwith to the peaceful uses of outer space.

47. Once outer space was demilitarized and separated from air space, it would be more feasible to solve the practical problems arising from its exploration and use. It would be a mistake to fear that an early preventive regulation of the field was impossible or prejudicial, since there was a precedent for such regulation; for example, in the early years of aviation. Basic principles could certainly be established to guide future activities both in the interest of a more detailed study of legal rules and in that of ensuring orderly progress in the future.

48. The draft resolution reflected the great importance of international co-operation in the peaceful use of outer space. By adopting that proposal, the Committee would be defining a programme of work extending into 1961 and would enable the United Nations to guide the forces of the world into new scientific adventures. It was gratifying to note that the rights of all States were guaranteed and that space exploration was to be for the benefit of all. Rivalries among nations should be replaced by co-operation, and it was to be hoped that the proposed international scientific conference would bear out that hope.

49. He had been glad to hear the representative of Argentina refer (1079th meeting) to the possibility of establishing a special centre for studies, experimentation and co-ordination relating to the peaceful use of outer space, in accordance with the proposals made at the previous session. Italy was, of course, ready to give every assistance to that project, in particular, by offering a site for such an agency.

50. Mr. UDOVICHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) emphasized the importance of the successes achieved, particularly by Soviet scientists, in the conquest of cosmic space. Those achievements had shown that the world was not so large as it might seem, and it was therefore natural that several delegations had stressed the need for effective international co-operation in the exploration of space. In the observation of the phenomena occurring in the upper layers of the atmosphere, in the study of the earth's magnetic, gravitational and electric fields, and in a number of other types of research carried out with the aid of artificial satellites, co-ordinated international action was essential. Co-operation between all States would provide the means of exploiting all possibilities in a rational, effective way, and of solving far more rapidly the problems involved in the conquest of outer space. The proposal to convene an international scientific conference, which the Soviet delegation had announced during the general debate at the 823rd plenary meeting of the General Assembly and which was now the subject of part B of the draft resolution was therefore particularly timely, as a number of delegations had already stated. The Soviet Union, the country which was most advanced in rocket technology, had always advocated fruitful co-operation in the field of space research and had never made any secret of the data obtained from its launchings. Moreover, Soviet artificial satellites had always been so designed—in terms of their size, their orbit and the power of the radio equipment which they carried—as to facilitate their observation. A spirit of co-operation was a characteristic of Soviet science and technology, and one of the reasons for their success. The Ukrainian people were proud that its scientists had made a contribution to the Soviet Union's achievements, and that astronomical observations carried out by a number of Ukrainian scientific institutions had been put to use in the launching of various space vehicles.

51. His delegation hoped that the proposed conference would help to strengthen scientific ties between States. Reference should be made in that connexion to the success of the First and Second United Nations International Conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held at Geneva in 1955 and 1958. He was pleased that agreement had been reached on the composition of the proposed new committee, which would certainly play a major role in space studies. In the conviction that no State should be excluded from international action in that field, his delegation would vote
against the Belgian amendment. It would, however, vote for the twelve-Power draft resolution.

52. Mr. WEI (China) said that four areas of activity were open to the United Nations in regard to the peaceful uses of outer space: the promotion of international co-operation, the co-ordination of national programmes, co-ordination of the programmes of the various organizations concerned, and the gradual development of international law. It was imperative that the new discoveries should, like atomic energy, be used for peaceful purposes only. In that connexion, the Ad Hoc Committee was to be commended for its excellent report and for the modest programme which it recommended, despite the spectacular impact which artificial satellites and space vehicles had made on the general public.

53. Three arguments could be advanced in support of a limited programme. In the first place, there was little prospect of early practical application of the data obtained in the study of outer space. Secondly, it was neither desirable nor practicable at the present time to formulate a comprehensive code governing outer space; nevertheless, the Ad Hoc Committee had acted properly in defining the legal problems posed by the implementation of programmes for the study of outer space, and his delegation was in general agreement with the sections of the report entitled "General Observations" and "Legal problems susceptible of priority treatment". Among the principles which should be adopted in order to ensure the orderly exploration of outer space were the following: outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only; the principle of the sovereign equality of Member States should be upheld; the United Nations Charter and the Statute of the International Court of Justice should be applicable to space activities; and outer space should be, on conditions of equality, freely available for exploration and use by all in accordance with existing or future international law or agreements.

54. The third reason for a limited programme was that a number of international organizations, both non-governmental and inter-governmental, were already active in the field of outer space, as was shown by part I of the Ad Hoc Committee's report. In that regard, the draft resolution before the First Committee was in line with the Ad Hoc Committee's conclusions.

55. The United Nations' primary objective in the field of outer space was to ensure the latter's free and orderly use for peaceful purposes only, and for the benefit of mankind. The new committee should therefore give preferential consideration to the legal aspects of the question and should start by examining those problems which merited priority treatment, so that it could report on the matter to the General Assembly. On the scientific and technical level, the committee should endeavour to co-ordinate rather than duplicate the efforts of other bodies. The experience of the International Geophysical Year and of COSPAR showed that many Governments and scientists would take a more active part in space research if they were given the necessary encouragement and assistance at the international level.

56. His delegation had some reservations as to the advisability of holding the proposed scientific conference: science and technology were not so highly developed in the field of space exploration as they had been in the field of atomic energy at the time of the First United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. Moreover, radio-isotopes had practical applications which, in the present instance, were lacking. Consequently, he welcomed the United States representative's suggestion (1079th meeting) that the scope of the conference should be broadened. His delegation would support the Belgian amendment, which was quite logical—since the conference was to be held under United Nations auspices—and reflected the practice adopted by the United Nations for conferences of that kind.

57. Mr. GRYAZNOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) emphasized the historic nature of what had been accomplished during the past year, and listed the principal successes achieved by the Soviet Union in the field of space exploration. The space rockets and artificial satellites had shown that there was no limit to man's capacity to solve the problems involved in the mastering of nature; those boundless possibilities opened up for all peoples the prospect of a lasting peace, happiness and prosperity. The Byelorussian people also wished to congratulate the scientists of the United Nations on their country's accomplishments.

58. Co-operation between the scientists of the entire world could not but expedite new scientific discoveries. Such co-operation was particularly essential in the study of the universe, which had no frontiers and involved the interests of all mankind. If scientists in the various countries, especially the Soviet Union and the United States united their efforts, it would be possible to carry out the most daring projects, and man's knowledge of outer space would rapidly increase. The part which the United Nations must play in that regard was a vital one, and the International Geophysical Year had provided an example of the spirit of mutual understanding and friendly co-operation in which scientific work on a world-wide scale could proceed.

59. In 1958 the Soviet delegation had proposed the establishment of a United Nations body for international co-operation in the field of space research (A/3818). Unfortunately, that idea had, at the time, encountered opposition from a number of countries. It was gratifying that agreement had now been reached on the composition of the new committee proposed. It was also encouraging to note the favourable reactions to the Soviet proposal for the calling of an international scientific conference. His delegation hoped that adoption of the draft resolution would help to promote international collaboration in the field of outer space, for the benefit of mankind. The Belgian amendment was at variance with the need for broad international co-operation in the matter. His delegation, convinced that all countries without exception should take part in the proposed conference, would vote against that amendment.

60. Mr. NISOT (Belgium) said that he shared the general feeling of relief and satisfaction. It was remarkable that agreement between those with different points of view should have proved possible. That fact was, in his delegation's opinion, the best augury of success. The machinery provided in the draft resolution before the First Committee was, moreover, eminently calculated to ensure the international co-operation without which it would be impossible to solve, in a useful way, the agonizing scientific, political and legal problems that presented themselves. Centres and institutions of various kinds were being
set up everywhere for the purpose of studying those problems, both in their over-all dimensions and in their specific aspects. The generous proposal which the Italian Government had just renewed was a particularly noteworthy example of that trend. His delegation, which had taken a full share in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, would show equal zeal in striving for the success of the efforts to be made—in the present instance, by common agreement—under the terms of the resolution which the Committee was to adopt.

The meeting rose at 11.10 p.m.
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Chairman: Mr. Franz MATSCH (Austria).

AGENDA ITEM 25

GENERAL DEBATE AND CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/C.1/L.247)

1. Mr. LODGE (United States of America) said that there were a number of reasons why man's activities in outer space should be conducted on the basis of international co-operation through the United Nations. First of all, since outer space was the concern of all nations, all should share equitably in both the benefits and the burdens involved. The principles of partnership in outer space and of the openness and availability of outer space had won wide acceptance in the United Nations in recent years, and the United Nations was the appropriate instrument for putting those principles into practice. Secondly, international co-operation was essential to the success of various desirable undertakings in outer space; without such co-operation, for example, space communications might be impeded by overcrowding of the radio spectrum. Thirdly, the experience gained in international co-operation in the regulation of space activities might prove valuable in efforts towards disarmament.

2. His delegation fully endorsed the constructive report submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/4141). It concurred, in particular, in the view expressed in paragraph 22 of part IV of the Ad Hoc Committee's report that the United Nations specialized agencies should carry on such activities in connexion with outer space as lay within their competence, and should report thereon to the United Nations. The General Assembly might at times wish to call upon one or more of the specialized agencies to undertake specific projects in the field of outer space. Whereas some members of the Ad Hoc Committee had declined to participate in the latter's deliberations because of disagreement over its membership, agreement had now been reached between his delegation and the Soviet delegation on a formula for the composition of the new committee which should command general support. Consequently his delegation, together with a number of other delegations, had submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.247) calling for the establishment of a committee to study practical means for giving effect to programmes in the peaceful uses of outer space which could appropriately be undertaken under United Nations auspices and to study the nature of legal problems which might arise from the exploration of outer space.

3. The holding of an international conference under United Nations auspices to review and exchange the experience gained in current outer-space activities, as proposed by the Soviet Union (823rd plenary meeting), would be an appropriate initial step in international scientific and technical co-operation in the field of outer space; his delegation welcomed the Soviet Union's proposal as an indication of that country's willingness to share the data obtained as a result of its activities in outer space. The proposed conference could supplement international scientific exchanges of the kind already carried on by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions; it should go beyond the purely scientific exchanges previously undertaken and should deal with the engineering, technological and similar aspects of the problem of exploring outer space. The new committee should give early attention to arrangements for convening such a conference. His delegation supported the Belgian amendment just circulated (A/C.1/L.248), which specified that the conference should be attended by *interested Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies* and hoped that the Committee would adopt it by a decisive majority.

4. Expansion of the number and scope of the world data centres originally set up during the International Geophysical Year, which was recommended in paragraph 90 of part II of the Ad Hoc Committee's report, was another type of international scientific operation which could profitably be explored by the new committee; it was to be hoped that the participating countries would agree to the prompt and automatic transmission to the world data centres of all scientific information obtained by space craft and of essential related data. The committee should also consider the possibilities of co-operative endeavour in the instrumentatie of scientific payloads carried by space vehicles; his Government would be receptive to the idea of making equipment and facilities available for that purpose. Among the practical applications of space science which should be studied by the Committee were improved weather-forecasting, the creation of additional and more effective channels for world-wide communications, and the development of navigational satellites.

5. His delegation supported the view expressed in paragraph 9 of part III of the Ad Hoc Committee's report that it was becoming a generally accepted principle that outer space was freely available for exploration and use by all, on an equal basis, in accordance with existing or future international law or agreements. As the report stated in paragraph 7 of that part, however, a comprehensive code of space law was not yet practicable or necessary. At the same
The proposed committee should give consideration to such measures of outer-space regulation as the establishment of a system for identifying all objects placed in orbit around the earth and for removing spent satellites from orbit, and an approach could be made to the problem of regulating international relations with respect to celestial bodies. The committee should also examine the question of liability for injury or damage caused by space vehicles and the problem of the re-entry and landing of such vehicles. In addition, work should continue on such matters as the allocation of radio frequencies, which was already being dealt with by the International Telecommunication Union.

6. In order to avoid delay in achieving international co-operation on the peaceful uses of outer space, the Government remained willing to treat that question separately instead of linking it with the general problem of disarmament.

7. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the Soviet Union, by launching the first artificial earth satellite, had inaugurated the exploration of outer space and that a Soviet scientist, Mr. K. E. Tsiolkovsky, was generally regarded as having been the pioneer in creating the jet engine and conceiving plans for space flight. The Soviet Union's success in placing a rocket in orbit around the sun, in launching a rocket to the moon, and in sending a rocket equipped with an automatic interplanetary station around the moon had made it possible to conduct studies of radiation in the vicinity of the earth and in outer space, of interplanetary gas and of the earth's magnetic field, to establish that the moon did not possess a noticeable magnetic field or radiation belts of the kind observed around the earth, and to photograph the side of the moon not visible from the earth. The utilization of outer space for such purposes as long-range weather-forecasting and long-distance radio communication was now a practical possibility, and the time was not far off when men could be safely placed in orbit around the earth and sent to other planets and even beyond the solar system. The Soviet Union welcomed the successes achieved by the United States in the study of outer space and the co-operation maintained by the scientists of various countries under the auspices of the International Geophysical Year; it attached great importance to international co-operation in the study of outer space for peaceful purposes.

8. The very nature of space exploration, which affected the interests of all mankind, made international co-operation in that field essential. In view of the complex technological requirements and the great expense involved, it was imperative to avoid the duplication of effort and waste that would result from nationally efforts. Although valuable international studies had been carried out under the auspices of the International Geophysical Year, in which the Soviet Union had taken an active part, much remained to be done in studying the origin of the radiation belts around the earth and other cosmic phenomena; the launching of space rockets and artificial satellites was contributing greatly to knowledge of the spatial distribution of matter and energy in the universe and of the irradiation of celestial bodies and newly discovered nebulae. Many of the data obtained by Soviet scientists had already been published, and the Soviet Union would continue to make such information available to world science. As Mr. Khrushchev, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, had declared, the Soviet Union regarded its success in sending a rocket to the moon as a victory for all mankind.

9. An important role in organizing international co-operation in the exploration of outer space could be played by COSPAR; the recent agreement to set up COSPAR's principal organ on the basis of the principle of equal representation for all participants was a hopeful development in that regard.

10. The United Nations must also play a major role in the field of outer space, and the Soviet Union had submitted a broad programme with that end in view as early as 1958 (A/3818). The United Nations had unfortunately not yet been able to establish a body of truly international composition to deal with the problems of outer space, although, in the view of his delegation, genuine co-operation could be achieved only on that basis. However, it had now been possible to reconcile the opposing viewpoints so that agreement could be achieved on the composition of the new committee on the peaceful uses of outer space whose establishment was proposed in draft resolution A/C.1/ L.247; although his delegation would have preferred a smaller committee with greater representation for the socialist countries, it had accepted the present formula in order to make agreement possible. Accomplishment of the tasks proposed for the new committee in the draft resolution would unquestionably promote the development of international co-operation in the exploration of outer space.

11. In the belief that the results of all scientific work in the field of outer space should become the common property of mankind, the Soviet Government had proposed the convening of an international scientific conference for the exchange of experience in the peaceful uses of outer space; he was pleased that that proposal, which was embodied in draft resolution A/C.1/ L.247, had been widely supported by other delegations. However, his delegation would vote against the Belgian amendment (A/C.1/L.248), proposing that participation in such a conference should be confined to Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies. Genuine co-operation in the field of outer space was possible only if all States concerned were permitted to participate; his delegation could not agree to a draft decision which would discriminate against States which, for reasons over which they had no control, were not Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies.

12. The adoption of the draft resolution would represent a major step in the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and would contribute to the creation of a favourable atmosphere for solving other international problems.

13. Mr. NISOT (Belgium) introduced an amendment (A/C.1/L.248) to the draft resolution. Part B of the draft provided for the convocation of an international scientific conference without specifying the participants. His amendment was intended to fill that gap and thus to enable the Secretary-General to convocate the conference. The wording proposed was extremely broad in scope and was based on United Nations practice.

14. Mr. SANDLER (Sweden) prefaced his remarks by a reference to the treaty recently concluded at the twelve-Power Conference on Antarctica which had in certain respects opened the way for an agreement on outer space. The conclusion of the treaty had been
made possible primarily by the close co-operation and mutual efforts of the two greatest Powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Their attitude in respect to that treaty held out hopes that similar co-operation could be achieved in space research and that agreements could be reached on the regulations necessary for the conduct of movements in space.

15. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee was of far-reaching value in that it had defined the problems warranting study, enumerated the various organizations which could play a useful part in space research, and made cogent suggestions regarding international co-operation in the new field of endeavour. It was disappointing only in one respect: it failed to establish the limits of air space and of outer space, and held that such a definition did not present a legal problem calling for priority consideration. Sweden hoped that, since it was of paramount importance for each sovereign State to know the exact limits within which its rights and responsibilities were to be respected, space research would soon make it possible to agree on a precise definition as to the lower level of outer space.

16. The Ad Hoc Committee's report contained, in paragraph 132 of part II, two general conclusions: first, that there was a need for a suitable centre related to the United Nations which could act as a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space; second, that progress, plans and needs in connexion with the peaceful uses of outer space should be reviewed again by the United Nations in about a year's time. The purpose of the first point would be served by the establishment of the new committee. As to the second point, it should be left to the committee to decide whether such a review should be conducted as early as 1960.

17. The membership of the new committee should include, in addition to the existing space Powers, all other States capable of assisting in space research. Sweden agreed that there was no need at present to establish a specialized agency of the United Nations on space problems or to ask any existing autonomous intergovernmental organization to undertake over-all responsibility in the field of outer space. Since the new committee and the Secretary-General were entitled to avail themselves of the advice and suggestions of already existing bodies within and without the United Nations in pursuing their work, the draft resolution need not provide for a Secretariat advisory unit specifically for that purpose; COSPAR and the existing scientific advisory committee could be called upon in that connexion. It should be easy for the member States represented in the committee to have alternate representatives nominated, if necessary.

18. Sweden supported the proposal to convene a scientific conference on space research. Careful preparations for such a conference should be made by the co-ordinating committee to be established for the purpose. Sweden also attached primary importance to the principle that space activities should be conducted in an open and orderly way on the premise that outer space was freely available for exploration and use by all on an equal basis and in accordance with existing or future international law or agreements.

19. Mr. VAKIL (Iran), noting the inadequacy of existing political and legal institutions for dealing with problems created by scientific advances, emphasized the need for international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space. His delegation regretted the absence from the Ad Hoc Committee of the USSR and four other members and was therefore all the more gratified that agreement had been reached on the composition of the new committee proposed in the draft resolution.

20. The Ad Hoc Committee, of which Iran had been a member, had concentrated on limited steps towards the development of the peaceful uses of outer space which could be immediately applied and had not dealt with long-range measures. In the legal field, the Committee had adopted a cautious approach in the belief that premature codification might prejudice subsequent efforts to develop the law of outer space on a more practical basis. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee constituted the first United Nations contribution towards genuine international co-operation in outer-space questions, and Iran fully endorsed its conclusions.

21. In the view of the Iranian Government, all exploration in space should be confined exclusively to peaceful purposes and should operate to the benefit of all nations irrespective of the level of their economic and scientific development. Since the existing rules of international law were not entirely applicable to outer space and since the law of space should keep pace with scientific progress in the new field, it was essential, from the outset, to attempt to formulate basic rules of universal application governing space activities. The United Nations should immediately set in motion the permanent machinery for international co-operation proposed in the Ad Hoc Committee's report.

22. Mr. PLIMSOULL (Australia) said that his Government welcomed the agreement reached between the United States and the Soviet Union which had resulted in the presentation of the twelve-Power draft resolution. It was most important that the question of the peaceful uses of outer space should be approached by the world as a whole, not by one divided into two camps, and achievement of that single approach had been worth great efforts and substantial concessions. Australia would support the twelve-Power draft resolution and believed that all States could endorse it on its merits.

23. The analogy drawn between the agreement reached on outer space and the treaty recently concluded on Antarctica was valid to the extent that in both cases new areas were being explored in which there were as yet no vested interests and in which nations had not yet adopted fixed positions from which they could not subsequently withdraw. It was at the present stage that the United Nations had to establish international precedents and a pattern of international co-operation. The twelve-Power draft resolution took full account of that need, and Australia welcomed the new committee, with a wide and representative membership, which it proposed to establish.

24. He reviewed briefly the active role played by Australia in outer-space efforts, noting that, viewed against the tremendous achievements of the United States and the Soviet Union, its role was modest, but not insignificant. Smaller countries could usefully contribute to progress in space exploration by, for example, helping to track and report on satellites sent into space by the great Powers. Australia's geographical position in the Southern Hemisphere
gave it an accidental advantage in that respect. Moreover, Australia also had a considerable background of scientific experience in the field: it was one of seven countries which had launched rockets into space and done research on the peaceful uses of rockets. It had a great deal of equipment and experience in tracking space vehicles and was participating with the United Kingdom in the launching of Skylark rockets as part of COSPAR's international programme in high-altitude research. That programme should be of value in establishing the variations in upper-atmosphere measurements. Australia was participating in peaceful research into the upper atmosphere as part of an international effort in association with the United Kingdom, the United States and, through COSPAR and sometimes directly, with the Soviet Union.

25. The Ad Hoc Committee, although handicapped by the absence of certain countries, had produced a constructive report which did not stand in the way of wider agreement and which opened up lines of subsequent inquiry. Australia agreed with the Committee's general approach and with its conclusions. It was wise for the United Nations not to be over-ambitious at the beginning in the new field of space, and COSPAR should continue to be the body primarily responsible for co-ordinating international research, rather than the United Nations committee proposed in the draft resolution, although the position might change in the light of experience. The new United Nations committee, on the other hand, should have special responsibility for the dissemination of information and findings on outer space, ensure that the necessary information bodies existed all over the world, and fit the various international agencies into the over-all programme. There was no need, however, for a separate specialized agency on outer space for the present.

26. Australia endorsed the convening of an international scientific conference on outer space and supported the twelve-Power draft resolution in all other respects. That draft deserved full support: it provided a body to rationalize and co-ordinate activities in outer space which included the two great Powers that had done pioneering work in the field, and it prudently avoided adopting any rigid positions on related matters at the present stage.

27. Mr. GIBSON BARBOZA (Brazil), recalling recent significant achievements in the exploration of outer space, said that the General Assembly, at its thirteenth session, had been well advised to establish the Ad Hoc Committee (resolution 1348 (XIII)), on which Brazil had served. All Member States could contribute to the task of exploring outer space by joining in the efforts to further scientific activities in the field and by working for the establishment of a rule of law governing space. Even in the purely scientific aspects of space exploration, the geographical position of a country might not be a negligible factor. Moreover, the development of outer space should not be used to widen the already existing gap between the more advanced and the less developed States.

28. Brazil had participated in the preparation of the Ad Hoc Committee's report, which successfully excluded all political implications and thereby paved the way for its general acceptance. All States should take advantage of the improved international atmosphere to create a solid basis of international cooperation in dealing with problems concerning outer space.

29. It was essential for the United Nations to accept responsibility, as it did under the twelve-Power draft resolution, for the permanent study of the legal problems which might arise in connexion with space exploration and the peaceful uses of outer space. The organization would be assisted by an awakened public opinion on the question. Moreover, co-operation under the aegis of the United Nations was the only way to avoid the pitfalls of political controversy in relation to the use of outer space. Brazil was therefore glad to co-sponsor the draft resolution. It hoped that the benefits deriving from the exploration of outer space would be shared by all States, irrespective of their stage of economic or scientific development.

30. Mr. AMADEO (Argentina) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the agreement that had been reached. A tribute was due to the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union, whose mutual concessions had made possible the submission of a draft resolution reflecting the unanimous views of the Assembly.

31. As the Argentine delegation had pointed out at the previous session (985th meeting), the question of the peaceful uses of outer space was of interest to the entire international community and, since any country might, in the future, undertake the exploration of outer space, and international organization would be necessary to promote maximum co-operation between Member States. Such co-operation was particularly desirable since a number of countries, while having the requisite technical and scientific capacity, lacked the funds and equipment to develop it. A system must therefore be devised, within the framework of the United Nations, for co-ordinating, not only the preparation of international programmes, but also the procurement and adequate distribution of the resources, assistance and technical equipment of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies. Co-operation would not, therefore, be one-sided, but would be a form of mutual aid whereby capacities and skills would be provided in exchange for economic and technical resources.

32. With regard to the judicial aspects of the question, Argentina favoured the adoption of certain general principles of law governing the exploration of outer space. In particular, it emphasized the need to accept the juridical equality of all States and to declare outer space res communis omnium with the same status as the high seas. While the report did not use that specific term, it did state that, in principle, outer space was, on conditions of equality, freely available for exploration and use by all in accordance with existing or future international law or agreements. The Argentine delegation felt it was essential formally to agree to that rule as soon as possible. The lengthy disputes concerning the freedom of the seas had shown the need for establishing the principle of freedom at the outset: moreover, an early agreement on that principle would permit greater freedom of activity in the field of outer space.

33. Concerning the analogy that had been drawn between outer space and the Antarctic, Argentina considered such a concept with regard to the signing of international treaties, but could not agree that the status of outer space, which could not be appropriated by any State or group of States, could not be likened to the status of Antarctica, in which Argentina possessed rights of sovereignty.
34. The Ad Hoc Committee's report was completely objective and contained no reference which might impair the interests or offend the susceptibilities of any country. Accordingly, the Argentine delegation hoped that the Committee's conclusions would meet with the unanimous approval of the Assembly.

35. Argentina strongly favoured the proposal made by the Italian Government at the thirteenth session of the Assembly (982nd meeting) that a new international centre for co-operation in the field of outer space should be established and that its headquarters should be at Rome. It also agreed with the idea of establishing regional centres in different parts of the world.

36. Mr. BISBE (Cuba) said that, for the Cuban delegation, the most important aspect of the question was the possible use of outer space for destructive purposes. Unfortunately, rockets capable of launching satellites into outer space had been designed, not solely for that purpose or for the purpose of procuring meteorological data, but primarily as vehicles for nuclear warheads. The representatives of the two States most advanced in the exploration of outer space had both recognized that fact and the dangers inherent in it. It was now known that the Power capable of dominating outer space would be able to dominate all nations of the world. Therefore in proposing to limit the use of outer space to peaceful purposes it was necessary to recognize clearly the fact that rockets were primarily instruments of war and a manifestation of the arms race.

37. The Ad Hoc Committee was to be congratulated on its report, which contained many constructive elements. The Cuban delegation was pleased to note that the differences concerning the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee had been overcome and that the two great Powers mainly concerned would co-operate in the discussion of the complex questions involved in the peaceful uses of outer space. Cuba was also in favour of holding an international scientific conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, for the exchange of relevant information.

38. It was interesting to note that, as in many other new situations arising out of human achievement, a rule of law was laid down after the fact and did no more than sanction it. Since artificial satellites had passed over the territories of different States and no protest had been made, the basic principle had been accepted that in the peaceful uses of outer space all States, on a footing of equality, could freely use outer space in accordance with existing or future international law or agreements. The concept of freedom of outer space had superseded the principles governing the use of air space, whereby each State held sovereignty over the air space immediately above its territory.

39. Sir Pierson Dixon (United Kingdom) observed that the past year had seen considerable advances in technical achievements and in the practical arrangements required for dealing with new problems concerning the exploration of outer space. Spectacular successes had been recorded by the Soviet Union and the United States and, on a smaller scale, the United Kingdom had also taken significant steps. The United Kingdom Government had, for instance, initiated a programme of space research including the design and construction of instruments to be carried in earth satellites and studies for the adaptation of military rockets to space research. While that would enable the United Kingdom, should it so desire, to make a national effort in space exploration, its activities during the present year had mainly centred on international co-operation in matters concerning outer space, including consultations with other Commonwealth countries. An important development had been the inauguration of a programme of scientific experimentation in conjunction with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which had generously offered to launch other countries' satellites.

40. The United Kingdom Government was also extremely anxious to maintain the closest multilateral co-operation, and British scientists participated fully in the deliberations of the COSPAR. It was also gratifying to know that the new charter of COSPAR had been agreed upon, since it offered the prospect that the USSR Academy of Science would resume its participation in the research carried out by that body.

41. The United Kingdom Government was in agreement with the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee and felt that a special tribute was due to the officers and secretariat of that Committee, under whose guidance the members had produced a valuable report, which, in being objective, reflected the atmosphere of the Committee.

42. The United Kingdom Government attached great importance to establishing arrangements within the framework of the United Nations which would ensure sound future consideration of problems and activities concerning outer space. The United Kingdom supported the view of the Ad Hoc Committee that no autonomous intergovernmental organization for the co-ordination of international co-operation on the subject should be formed at present and that existing bodies concerned with outer space should not be asked to undertake over-all responsibilities. On the other hand, it agreed that the existing specialized agencies should continue their activities with regard to outer space and that they would include information on such activities in their reports to the United Nations.

43. The United Kingdom was pleased to be among the sponsors of the draft resolution and expressed its appreciation to the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union, whose patient negotiations had resulted in an agreement which should allow of progress on a fuller international basis.

44. If the proposed committee were established, it might well consider appointing a technical and a legal sub-committee. The technical sub-committee would no doubt consider the aspects of space research which required international co-operation between Governments, rather than unofficial co-operation between scientists. The legal sub-committee would perhaps keep the legal aspects of the matter under review and make appropriate recommendations for action concerning problems that appeared ripe for solution.

45. As to the proposal to convene an international conference of scientists, the United Kingdom delegation felt that it would be appropriate to use the formula adopted in the analogous case of the United Nations International Conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and hoped that the Belgian amendment would be adopted. The proposal to hold such a conference was to be welcomed since the exploration of outer space and its peaceful use should, ideally, be undertaken as a co-operative enterprise by all coun-
tries. While the United Kingdom would like to see details of the proposals before committing itself, it was pleased that the Soviet Union should be prepared to give the benefit of its experience to such an international conference.

46. The United Kingdom welcomed the new prospect of constructive co-operation and, for its part, would continue to contribute to the best of its ability in the exploration of outer space.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.