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**Chairman: Mr. Mario AMADEO (Argentina).**

AGENDA ITEM 21

**Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer  
Space (A/4987, A/C.1/857, A/C.1/L.301/Rev.1 and  
Rev.1/Corr.1) (concluded)**

1. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that a revised text of the draft resolutions (A/C.1/L.301/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1), submitted by twenty-four delegations, had just been distributed.

2. Mr. YOST (United States of America) pointed out that the draft resolutions submitted by Australia, Canada, Italy and the United States in document A/C.1/L.301 had been in conformity with the proposals made by the President of the United States, Mr. Kennedy, to the General Assembly on 25 September 1961 (1013th plenary meeting). One of those proposals, which were aimed at strengthening the United Nations, concerned the new frontier represented by outer space. The measures proposed in document A/C.1/L.301 had on the whole been favourably received; almost all those who had spoken appeared to think, as did his own delegation, that the United Nations should play a central role in establishing international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. In order that that co-operation might be as complete as possible, his delegation had held consultations with the Soviet and other delegations as a result of which agreement had been reached on a revised text (A/C.1/L.301/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1) that deserved the Committee's unanimous support. He noted with satisfaction that all the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had joined in sponsoring that proposal.

3. The changes in draft resolution B were intended to make it clear that several of the functions related to international co-operation should be conducted under the direction of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Naturally, the services and resources of the United Nations Secretariat should be used in that connexion. The decision to enlarge the role of the Committee had been made only after an understanding had been reached on the procedures of that body. Thus, the Committee should be able to convene early in 1962 and deal successfully with its task; indeed, it was now specified in draft resolution E that it should begin its work by 31 March 1962 at the latest.

4. As a result of the changes made in draft resolutions C and D, it was now the WMO and the ITU which were

to conduct the required consultations and studies and to submit the necessary reports, a number of delegations having taken the view that studies of the technical nature envisaged should be directed by the specialized agencies concerned.

5. Draft resolution E now provided that Chad, Morocco, Mongolia and Sierra Leone should be added to the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The inclusion of the three African nations took account of the fact that nations covering vast areas of the African continent had been admitted to membership in the United Nations.

6. The revised text gave formal recognition to two fundamental legal principles on which the Committee should base itself in examining legal problems which might arise from the exploration and use of outer space. In addition, the Secretary-General would maintain a registry of launchings which would be available to all Member States interested in the identification, tracking and use of space vehicles. The establishment of such a registry, together with the other functions to be performed by the Committee and the Secretariat, would provide a focal point for space co-operation related to the United Nations of the type which the Ad Hoc Committee had called for two years earlier in its report (A/4141). Moreover, the specialized agencies concerned were to undertake concrete studies with a view to the preparation of world-wide programmes for the application of space technology in meteorology and telecommunications. It was from those programmes that mankind would derive the most immediate and tangible benefits.

7. Finally, it had now been agreed that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should meet and set to work. His delegation sincerely hoped that that Committee would be able to discharge its task effectively so that the United Nations could play its full part in the exploration and use of outer space, for the alternative would be unco-ordinated national activities in that field. It therefore urged the members of the First Committee to give their support to the revised draft resolutions so that they might be approved without delay and a new era of United Nations co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space might be opened.

8. Sir Patrick DEAN (United Kingdom) said he was glad that the members of the Committee had reached an agreement which should enable the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to begin substantive work at last. He noted with satisfaction the very wide measure of unanimity in the expressions of opinion which had been heard in the course of the debate. Representatives had recognized, *inter alia*, that problems relating to the technical and scientific aspects of the exploration of outer space should be examined at the international level and that their solution required the co-operation of all countries. The present debate, of course, concerned only the peaceful uses of outer space, but his delegation shared the hope that agree-

ment would soon be reached, within the framework of a disarmament programme with effective international controls, to limit the use of outer space to peaceful purposes only. A system of international co-operation should be established while the exploration of outer space was still a new activity.

9. There had likewise been very little difference of opinion with regard to the programme of practical action which the United Nations and the other organizations concerned could undertake. The majority of speakers had subscribed to the legal principles enunciated in the draft resolutions. Although the first steps envisaged were limited, there was a general realization of the advantages to be gained from more complete co-operation and co-ordination, from fuller information about space activities and from an improvement in world meteorological services and in the world's system of telecommunications. There had been common agreement that those advantages should be available not only to the countries which had the scientific means to make such discoveries, but to all nations. It was precisely to solve that kind of problem that the United Nations had been established, and that was why the programme proposed in the draft resolutions now before the Committee deserved to be supported. His country was happy to be among the sponsors, especially since an important role was envisaged for the competent specialized agencies. In such a highly technical field there was no surplus of knowledge or resources and it was important to ensure that there should be no waste or duplication of effort.

10. His delegation regretted some of the views expressed concerning the principles which should underlie the composition of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its voting procedure. Talk of ideologies and of representation on a political basis seemed to be misplaced when the establishing of co-operation in an essentially scientific and technical field was at issue. The United Kingdom wanted the Committee to be able to work seriously and fruitfully: that would depend on the attitude adopted by those participating. For its part, it would strive to contribute in a spirit of harmony and hope that it would prove possible to reach complete agreement in the Committee on the questions that would come before it. The United Kingdom delegation would welcome the new members of the Committee as representatives of new Member States of the United Nations which had great interest in the rapid development of space science and high hopes for its practical application. He trusted that the Committee would be able to meet early in 1962 and to make steady progress in its work so that its future reports to the General Assembly might not be merely formal but might provide evidence of successful international endeavour.

11. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the debate on the question of the peaceful uses of outer space had shown that all States were anxious to see the establishment of international co-operation, on a basis of equality, in that new and important field of human activity. As a result of negotiations between the Soviet Union, the United States and other delegations, an agreed draft (A/C.1/L.301/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1) had been prepared and that text was submitted to the First Committee by all the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The draft resolutions in that document enunciated certain legal principles for the guidance of States in the exploration and use of outer space, and provided that the Committee on the Peace-

ful Uses of Outer Space should have the main task of organization in the relevant field. Naturally the Committee would need to co-operate with the Secretary-General; the facilities of the Secretariat, which would provide the technical services, would be used. While the specialized agencies would be asked to undertake certain studies, in consultation with such bodies as COSPAR, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would have to examine the results of those studies and submit its recommendations to the General Assembly. The membership of that Committee had been expanded in order to take recent developments into account: it was proposed that the Mongolian People's Republic, a socialist country of Asia recently admitted to the United Nations, and three African countries should join it.

12. In the course of their negotiations, the USSR and the United States had also agreed on a method of work for the Committee, which would enable it to organize effectively, on the basis of equality among States, international co-operation in the field of space research. The Soviet delegation hoped that the General Assembly would unanimously adopt the draft resolutions: such a decision could not fail appreciably to strengthen international co-operation in general, to promote peaceful coexistence between States having differing social systems and to consolidate world peace.

13. Mr. DAUGE (France) said that he was glad he had been called upon to speak after the draft resolutions had been revised. Whereas he would have had to express certain reservations regarding the original texts in document A/C.1/L.301, his delegation had joined the sponsors of the revised draft resolutions in document A/C.1/L.301/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1.

14. At a time when space was beginning to be opened up to mankind, it was essential that men should decide once and for all not to transport into space the conflicts which divided them on earth and should embark on genuine international co-operation in the new field. Such co-operation was not only desirable but necessary since the conquest of space would, sooner or later, undoubtedly be beyond the resources of any State or group of States. Although the results obtained so far were insufficient, it was encouraging to note that international co-operation already existed: only a few countries might have reached the stage of launching vehicles into space, but many countries had united their efforts in order that the experiments should yield all the results that could be expected. Some multi-lateral programmes had been organized and were even now being carried out. At the regional level, particularly in Europe, the desire for co-operation among States had already borne fruit in practice. In the scientific sphere, bodies such as COSPAR were performing important services, particularly in the registration of vehicles and in the dissemination of the information gathered. In such circumstances, the function of the United Nations and, in particular, of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, must not be to duplicate or replace existing activities, but to co-ordinate and encourage them and to ensure that all countries were associated in the common endeavour. There was no question of giving the United Nations a monopoly in the exploration and use of space, nor of imposing on Member countries a particular form of co-operation. The United Nations could not be led, in the name of co-operation, to take decisions which would harm the interests of any of its Members, particularly those of a country whose resources and

means were much greater than those of the majority of Members.

15. Turning to the revised draft resolutions, he expressed support for the cautious wording of operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A: while it was certainly proper to declare that international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, applied to outer space and celestial bodies, it would be a mistake to make precise recommendations before the jurists had reported on the results of their studies. The provisions of draft resolution B would perhaps have caused the French delegation some hesitation had it not been for the reassuring recommendation that the Committee and the Secretariat should make the maximum use of existing resources and avoid duplication. Draft resolutions C and D, when compared with earlier resolutions, represented a welcome innovation made possible by recent scientific and technical advances. However, in the field of meteorology and telecommunications, the General Assembly must not call into question the present distribution of functions; WMO and ITU must retain the roles which had been allotted to them by the agreements which they had concluded with the United Nations. The revised draft, in that respect, was completely satisfactory. UNESCO was another specialized agency which had a particular interest in the peaceful uses of outer space. At its eleventh session, the General Conference of UNESCO had adopted a resolution<sup>1/</sup> concerning the use of new techniques for combating illiteracy, including in particular the use of artificial satellites for the broadcasting of educational programmes. It was to be hoped that that possibility would be taken into account in future decisions, as the revised wording of operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution D suggested. So far as draft resolution E was concerned, his delegation welcomed the participation of new African Member States and stressed that members of the Committee should be chosen on the basis not of military alliances but of geographical distribution and capacity to contribute to the common task.

16. In concluding, he expressed the hope that the international community would find in the new field that was opening up additional motives for forgetting its divisions and working in harmony.

17. Mr. MATSCH (Austria) said that progress in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space had not kept abreast of technological developments. It was therefore urgent to take measures to adjust the situation, and, in view of the scope and the very nature of the problem, the guidance that the General Assembly would give the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on that subject must be realistic in its approach, and must confine the work of the Committee and of the various agencies and organizations that might be invited to participate to concrete, necessary and attainable goals.

18. The revised draft resolutions in document A/C.1/L.301/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1 appeared to represent such an approach. They laid down the fundamental principles and traced the path for the work of the immediate future, much of which would necessarily be of a preparatory nature. Supplementing General Assembly resolution 1472 (XIV), they should give appropriate guidance to all bodies concerned. Operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution B, in particular,

called for the study of measures for the promotion of international co-operation in outer space activities.

19. There were a large number of non-governmental international scientific associations actively engaged in space research, one of whose objectives was to facilitate and co-ordinate research into, and investigation of, problems requiring international co-operation. Co-operation with those scientific associations would be especially beneficial to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as it would be a guarantee against duplication of work. Furthermore, practically all those associations were united in the International Council of Scientific Unions, which maintained relations with the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It was particularly encouraging to note the success of the International Geophysical Year, which had marked the beginning of that Council's activities in space research, and also the usefulness of the work done by COSPAR, which had been established by the Council in 1958. The extensive studies carried out by COSPAR would certainly not fail to attract the attention of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

20. In his capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he thanked those delegations, and especially the delegations of the Soviet Union and the United States, which had been involved in elaborating the revised draft resolutions, for their efforts to reach an agreement. That successful co-operation was a good omen for the future work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

21. Mr. DE CARVALHO SILOS (Brazil) said that his delegation was happy to join in sponsoring the revised draft resolutions in document A/C.1/L.301/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1, firstly because the Brazilian Government thought that, in view of the tremendous progress made by the two leading Powers in the field, some general principles should be laid down concerning the exploration and exploitation of outer space, which should be considered as res communis omnium and not subject to national appropriation.

22. Secondly, in the interests of the scientifically less developed countries, it should be established from the very beginning that the exploitation of outer space should be only for the betterment of mankind and to the benefit of all countries, irrespective of the stage of their economic or scientific development. There should be no repetition in that new field of what had happened in the utilization of atomic energy.

23. Thirdly, most countries would not be in a position to benefit from the exploitation of outer space unless the legal problems arising from such exploitation were settled, and unless there were close international co-operation in that field. The most appropriate method would be to have the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space working in an effective and useful way.

24. It was to be hoped that the United States and the Soviet Union, the two pioneers of outer space, would employ all their talents in making the benefits of the conquest of outer space available to all mankind, through constructive and sincere co-operation, especially as some of those benefits could almost magically raise the level of living in the poorest regions of the world.

25. Mr. WEI (China) fully supported the objective that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only.

26. In 1958, after the launching of the first satellites, the General Assembly had started to promote inter-

<sup>1/</sup>UNESCO, General Conference, Eleventh Session, Resolutions, resolution 1.1322.

national co-operation in that important field. The efforts to that end had unfortunately been blocked for three years, for reasons contrary to the practices and rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

27. His delegation was in favour of continuing the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and increasing its membership in recognition of the new Members admitted to the United Nations in the previous two years. But it still maintained its reservations concerning the composition of that Committee, in which the communist countries were over-represented.

28. The General Assembly should no longer remain silent on the pressing issues of the space age. There were certain definite steps that it could already usefully take to ensure the orderly exploration of outer space and to give mankind the benefit of the results of space science and technology.

29. His delegation subscribed to the principles set forth in the revised draft resolutions concerning the tasks of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer

Space. Meteorology and telecommunications were two fields where space activities could bring immediate benefits to all countries, whatever the stage of their economic or scientific development.

30. Mr. BELAUNDE (Peru) was gratified to see that the sponsors of the revised draft resolutions in document A/C.1/L.301/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1 had taken his comments on draft resolutions C and D into account. He also welcomed the agreement that had been reached between the principal Powers concerned on the presentation of the draft resolutions, and he suggested that they should be adopted unanimously. .

31. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any objection, draft resolutions A, B, C, D and E in document A/C.1/L.301/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1 would be considered as having been adopted unanimously.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.