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Chairman: Mr. Omar Abdel Hamid ADEEL (Sudan).

Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.1/868 and Add.1)
(continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the 1245th meeting of the Committee, held on 5 October 1962, the Canadian representative, supported by a number of other representatives, had proposed that agenda item 27 (International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Union) should be considered as the fifth item on the Committee's agenda and that agenda item 28 (The Korean question: (a) Report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea; (b) The withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea) should be the sixth item. The Soviet representative, supported by a number of other representatives, had proposed the opposite order of priority for those two items.

2. Since his subsequent efforts to bring about an agreement had been unsuccessful, he was bringing the matter before the Committee once again. It was essential that a decision should be made now, so that the two specialized agencies which wished to send observers for the debate on outer space would have time to make the necessary arrangements.

3. Mr. TREMBLAY (Canada) said that, although neither of the items under consideration was of an urgent nature, recent favourable developments in regard to the peaceful uses of outer space seemed to afford some prospect of constructive debate: the enlarged Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had met for the first time during the past year, decisions had been taken with a view to the expansion of scientific co-operation in outer space, there appeared to be agreement on the question of drawing up legal principles to govern the uses of outer space, and the Soviet Union and the United States had reached agreement, in bilateral negotiations, on co-operation in outer space.

4. On the other hand, there had been no new developments which might change the character of the Committee's debate on the Korean item; although it had been contended that the question of the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea represented a new aspect of the problem, it had in fact been dealt with at the previous session in connexion with a draft resolution sub-

mitted by the Mongolian People's Republic (A/C.1/L.302).^{1/}

5. His delegation therefore formally proposed that the question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and the Korean question should be, respectively, the fifth and sixth items on the Committee's agenda.

6. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Committee had postponed its decision on the order of priority of the two items in question not because it considered neither of them urgent but because many delegations had felt that a compromise solution might be reached after consultation. The question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space had been thoroughly discussed, before the opening of the seventeenth session of the General Assembly, at a meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. While his delegation attached great importance to that problem, it should be noted that the technical section of the report of that Committee (A/5181) had been carefully prepared and would therefore require little discussion by the First Committee. At the same time, since the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had reached a stalemate with regard to the legal aspects of the problem, it was desirable that that section of the report should be taken up first in informal consultations, with a view to reaching some sort of agreement before the formal debate in the First Committee.

7. Contrary to what the Canadian representative had said, the Korean question was an extremely urgent one, and its consideration should not be put off until the very end of the session. The withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea would not only strengthen peace in that part of the world but also promote the reunification of Korea on a peaceful, democratic basis. Nine years after the end of the Korean War, South Korea continued to be occupied by foreign troops in violation of the armistice agreement and was the site of military bases situated not far from borders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and the USSR. The people of South Korea were labouring not only under the burden imposed on them by the foreign troops but also under the dictatorial régime supported by those troops.

8. The Canadian representative had stated that the question of the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea had been discussed at the previous session in connexion with a draft resolution submitted by Mongolia. In fact, however, any real discussion of the matter had been prevented by a series of procedural manoeuvres, and it was the First Committee's duty to ensure that such a discussion was held now. The procedural manoeuvres in which the Canadian delegation was now engaged had a definite political purpose; they

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 20.

were designed to block discussion of the question by the General Assembly, and thus prolong the foreign occupation of South Korea and prevent a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. He therefore formally moved that the Canadian proposal should be amended to provide that the Korean question and the question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space should be the fifth and sixth items, respectively, on the Committee's agenda.

9. He now wished to turn to an important matter—the question of inviting representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to participate in the discussion of the question of withdrawing foreign troops from South Korea—which, in the view of his delegation, must be decided without delay, regardless of the decision on the order of priority. It was obvious that the presence of a large foreign army along its frontiers posed a constant threat to the security of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and that without the participation of its representatives the problems relating to a peaceful settlement in Korea could not be solved. It was essential that the matter should be decided now, so that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea could make the necessary arrangements. It could be decided without extended discussion, for the issues involved had been thoroughly aired at the sixteenth session of the Assembly. He therefore moved that the Committee should give immediate consideration to his delegation's draft resolution (A/C.1/L.318), under which invitations would be extended to representatives of both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the so-called Republic of Korea. He wished to emphasize in that connexion that the invitation to the Democratic People's Republic should not be made subject to unacceptable conditions, as it had in past years.

10. Mr. ANUMAN RAJADHON (Thailand) said that the question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space was more urgent than the Korean question. The extremely rapid advances made in space exploration during the past five years had transformed men's outlook on the world, and their ideas on warfare, and there was reason to fear that unless an agreement was reached on international co-operation, the arms race might soon spread to outer space; thus the question of outer space was closely linked to that of disarmament. Even if the situation in Korea could at any time raise a serious threat to peace and security, as some representatives had asserted, that threat would be far greater if outer space was not barred to non-peaceful uses. Moreover, the regulation of the use of outer space was made more urgent by the constantly increasing numbers of spacecraft in orbit, with the consequent possibility of strained relations among the States launching them.

11. His delegation wished to make it clear that it was not suggesting that the Committee should refrain from discussing the Korean item; the matter was merely one of priorities.

12. Mr. BELAUNDE (Peru) said that he had not abandoned the view he had put forward earlier in the session, that priority should be given to the item on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The question of outer space was an essential aspect of the disarmament problem, and it was unthinkable that the First Committee should fail to give the Geneva negotiators guidance on the matter, particularly when it had spent so much time on nuclear tests and other aspects of the work of the Eighteen-Nation Committee. Though there was no reference to disarmament

in the title of the item, the United Nations was obviously concerned with outer space as it affected international peace and security. In previous debates on the subject it had repeatedly been stressed that while space exploration offered a welcome opportunity for international co-operation, the fact that no rules of law had yet been formulated to govern outer space or the activities of States in it raised grave dangers. One motive for exploring space was the illusory hope of developing a decisive weapon; there had been talk of the advantage which might be gained by orbiting a space platform, and of the greater accuracy that could be achieved if nuclear weapons were carried in satellites. The question of outer space, therefore, like that of nuclear tests, was of the utmost urgency, for the survival of the human race was directly involved.

13. The Korean question, on the other hand, was not urgent. It was important, as were all the items on the agenda, and it bore a general relation to the problem of maintaining peace. Peru naturally believed that Korea should be reunified and freed from foreign interference. But the armistice was still being observed, and the United Nations was represented in Korea by United States forces. The situation had not changed in any essential respect for a long time. Thus there could be no comparison between that question and a matter which was of vital importance for the future of mankind. When the Committee took up the question of outer space, it would have to discuss the report of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which had two main aspects, the scientific and the legal. It seemed that the experts were agreed on the scientific aspect of the question; on the legal aspect there would presumably be a difference of views, but one which could be expressed clearly and quickly. The whole debate, therefore, need not take long, and there would be plenty of time left for the Korean question. There was no justification for changing the order of items that had first been proposed. The Soviet Union's reason for proposing such a change, however respectable, was merely political and could not outweigh more general considerations.

14. Mr. HASEGANU (Romania) said that the fact that it had proved impossible to reach agreement on the order of priority in discussions outside the Committee showed that the issue was not merely a procedural, but basically a political one. The aim of the Canadian proposal was merely to postpone the debate on the question of the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea for as long as possible. That question was extremely important, since it involved the fate of millions of people living under foreign military domination and raised a threat to peace and security in the Far East. It was high time for the Assembly to break the vicious circle which resulted in such questions being carried forward from one year to another without any progress. The Romanian delegation considered that the Korean question should be discussed immediately after disarmament and it supported the Soviet proposal to invite representatives of both the Democratic People's Republic and South Korea to attend the debates, since no success would be possible in a matter so vital to the Koreans unless both sides were represented. The reason why certain delegations were pursuing obstructionist tactics was that their aim was not to ensure peace and prosperity in Korea, but to maintain the military occupation of South Korea with the aid of the dictatorship of General Park, in order to achieve their own political and strategic ends. Invitations

should be sent to the representatives of the two sides forthwith, so as to give them time to attend the debate.

15. Mr. LAMANI (Albania) said that while his delegation in no way minimized the importance of international co-operation in outer space, it felt that the Committee should consider the Korean question first because of the urgent need for the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea and the importance of resolving a dangerous situation in the Far East. In addition, his delegation considered it essential that representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should take part in the Committee's discussions on the Korean question.

16. Mr. DUGERSUREN (Mongolia) said that the presence of foreign troops in South Korea was preventing the peaceful reunification of Korea. The situation could endanger peace and security in Asia and the whole world, and should therefore be considered more urgent than the question of the uses of outer space. His delegation supported the Soviet draft resolution (A/C.1/L.318), by which representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and those of the Republic of Korea would be invited to attend during the Committee's discussion of the Korean question.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that the situation had obviously not changed since the 1245th meeting. At that meeting, he had expressed his own views but had made no ruling on the nature of the Soviet proposal that the Korean question (agenda item 28) should be taken before the question of the peaceful uses of outer space (agenda item 27). He would leave the Committee to decide whether it was an amendment to the Canadian proposal within the meaning of rule 131 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

18. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had been obliged to put forward his proposal in the form of an amendment to the Canadian proposal because the latter was not strictly speaking a proposal at all. In his letter dated 24 September 1962 to the Chairman (A/C.1/868), the President of the General Assembly had listed the items allocated to the First Committee in a certain order. Normally anyone who wished to change that order would have to submit a proposal. Anyone who wished it to be adhered to, as did the Canadian delegation, had no need to do so; thus the Canadian proposal was entirely artificial. Since it had been made, however, the Soviet delegation, wishing to change the order of items given in the President's letter, had had no alternative from the procedural standpoint but to submit an amendment. A compromise procedure would be to put the matter to the vote in such a way that a vote in favour would be counted as a vote in favour of changing the order given in the President's letter, and vice versa.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that the President's letter had nothing to do with the question of priority, it merely listed the items allocated to the Committee. Under rule 100 of the rules of procedure it was for the Committee to decide the order of priority. Since a formal proposal on that subject had been placed before the Committee by Canada, the Committee would have to take a decision on it.

20. Mr. ROWAN (United States of America) said that rule 131 of the rules of procedure clearly stated that a motion was considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely added to, deleted from or revised part of that proposal. The purpose of the Soviet proposal was to re-

verse the Canadian proposal completely. It could not, therefore, be regarded as an amendment.

21. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the USSR motion that its proposal should be regarded as an amendment in accordance with rule 131 of the rules of procedure.

The motion was rejected by 54 votes to 11, with 25 abstentions.

22. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Canadian proposal that item 27 of the General Assembly's agenda (International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space) should be taken as the fifth item on the Committee's agenda.

The proposal was adopted by 52 votes to 13, with 30 abstentions.

23. The CHAIRMAN invited comment on the USSR draft resolution (A/C.1/L.318) by which the Committee would invite North and South Korean representatives to participate, without vote, in the discussion of the Korean question.

24. Mr. ROWAN (United States of America) said that the Soviet draft resolution was a substantive one. To discuss it immediately would in effect make the Korean question the fifth item on the agenda, contrary to the Committee's decision to give priority to the question of outer space.

25. Mr. BINDZI (Cameroon) and Mr. CAMPBELL (United Kingdom) associated themselves with the United States representative's remarks.

26. Mr. QUAISON-SACKEY (Ghana), supported by Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. TCHOBANOV (Bulgaria) and Mr. BLUSZTAJN (Poland) argued that the Soviet draft resolution was a procedural one and could properly be discussed immediately; if the Committee waited until it took up the Korean question, it would be too late to invite the Korean representatives.

27. Mr. BITSIOS (Greece) said it was clear from the debates on the Korean question at previous sessions that the Soviet draft resolution raised a matter of substance. In the past, the Committee had rejected the proposal to invite North Korean representatives because of the content of the North Korean Government's reply to its invitation. Circumstances might perhaps have changed since then so as to justify a new invitation to North Korean representatives; but that could not be decided without a substantive discussion.

28. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) urged the Committee to take an immediate decision on the Soviet draft resolution, which he regarded as procedural.

29. Mr. ARNAUD (France) agreed with the representatives who had stressed the substantive nature of the Soviet draft resolution. Moreover, he was sure that the Korean representatives would not need much time either for travelling or for preparing their material; thus there was no need for the Committee to consider the draft resolution at once.

30. Mr. CHANDERLI (Algeria), supporting the view that the draft resolution was a procedural one, moved the closure of the debate.

31. Mr. OKAZAKI (Japan), supported by Mr. ROWAN (United States of America), opposed the motion for closure, on the ground that representatives would need more time to consider amendments to the Soviet draft resolution.

The motion for closure was rejected by 38 votes to 26, with 27 abstentions.

32. Mr. ATHAR (Pakistan) suggested that the Committee might follow the procedure provided for in rule 122 of the rules of procedure.

33. Mr. SOULEYMANE (Mauritania) moved the adjournment of the meeting.

The motion was adopted by 61 votes to 10, with 8 abstentions.

34. The CHAIRMAN said that the Soviet representative had asked to make a brief statement.

Point of order raised by the USSR representative concerning agenda item 93

35. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the recent exchange of messages between the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the President of the United States had opened up new prospects for the reduction of international tension and the maintenance of peace. In his message of 28 October 1962, for example, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers had expressed satisfaction at the President's reaction to his statements regarding the possibility of ending the dangerous situation then obtaining and creating conditions favourable to a more reasoned appraisal of the international situation in general, particularly so far as concerned the need to avoid any further conflicts that might lead to a thermo-nuclear catastrophe.

36. Since the Cuban situation was the most urgent current question, since it was essential to complete the action undertaken to eliminate the causes of the crisis, and since the ground had now been cleared for the resumption of the work of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, the Soviet delegation proposed that agenda item 93 (Condemnation of propaganda favouring preventive nuclear war), which had been proposed by the USSR (A/5232) and transmitted to the Chairman of the First Committee by the President of the General Assembly on 27 September (A/C.1/868/Add.1), should not now be discussed by the First Committee or by the General Assembly, but should be referred to the Eighteen-Nation Committee.

37. The Soviet Union continued to deplore all such propaganda, for example, statements calling for revenge, for a review of frontiers in Europe or for the use of force against nations which were struggling for liberation. It hoped that the Eighteen-Nation Committee would do everything possible to ban such manifestations.

38. After a procedural discussion, in which Mr. BINDZI (Cameroon), Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia) took part, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should defer any further discussion of the Soviet proposal until the following meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.