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President: Mr. Abdul Rahman PAZHWAK
(Afghanistan).

AGENDA ITEM 9

Question of the postponement to 1968 of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

1. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider agenda item 9, entitled "Question of the postponement to 1968 of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space". In this connexion a draft resolution has been submitted by twenty-three Members [A/L.518 and Add.1-2], and the Secretary-General has prepared a note on financial implications [A/6645]. I give the floor to the representative of India, who wishes to introduce the draft resolution.

2. Mr. PARTHASARATHI (India): I should like, first of all, to express on behalf of my delegation our sincere sympathies to the United States and Soviet delegations on the accidents which involved the deaths of outstanding and brave astronauts. Those astronauts sacrificed their lives in their pioneering activities so that humanity might benefit from the new discoveries made in outer space.

3. My delegation has the honour to move draft resolution A/L.518 and Add.1-2 on the question of the postponement of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The resolution would have the General Assembly decide that the Conference should now be held in Vienna from 14 to 27 August 1968, dates which are convenient to the host country.

4. The General Assembly, by resolution 2221 (XXI), had unanimously decided to hold this Conference in September 1967. That was the result of extensive

deliberations by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and by the First Committee. However, the need for and desirability of postponement of this Conference by approximately one year was brought up at the first meeting in February of this year of the panel of experts, which was set up by General Assembly resolution 2221 (XXI) to discharge certain necessary tasks in connexion with the preparation and conduct of the Conference.

5. The panel of experts, after careful deliberation under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, recommended to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that it consider the suggestion that the postponement of the Conference by a period of one year might allow for a better preparation of the Conference.

6. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space considered the recommendation of the panel of experts at its meeting on 13 February 1967, and unanimously agreed to recommend to the General Assembly the postponement of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space by approximately one year.

7. Now, the General Assembly has to take a decision on the postponement of the Conference to 1968. My delegation would commend to the General Assembly the acceptance of this unanimous decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the approval of the draft resolution, which has been tabled by my delegation, together with twenty-two other delegations, to postpone the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space from the planned date of September 1967 to 14-27 August 1968.

8. My delegation would urge the participants, particularly the countries which by virtue of their experience, have most to contribute to the deliberations of the Conference, to take the postponement of the proposed Conference in terms of the additional time available to them for fuller and better participation in the Conference. We also hope that this postponement will provide an opportunity for better preparation for a conference of such great importance and magnitude, thereby improving the results of the Conference for all participants. We would, therefore, request all Member States to redouble their efforts and start preparing for the Conference in right earnest to ensure the maximum benefit to the participating countries.

9. The Conference would examine the practical benefits to be derived from space research and exploration on the basis of technical and scientific achievements and the extent to which non-space countries, especially the developing countries, may enjoy these benefits, particularly in terms of education and de-

velopment, as well as the examination of the opportunities available to non-space Powers for international co-operation in space activities. It is the view of my delegation that the proposed Conference will be of use to all participating countries, irrespective of the size of their outer space programmes or the effectiveness of the research conducted by them. History has demonstrated that the real social and economic fruits of technology go to those who apply them through understanding. Therefore, a significant number of citizens of every developing country must understand the ways of modern science and of the technology that flows from it.

10. India, as one of the developing countries deeply interested in the results of the peaceful exploration of outer space and in an examination of the opportunities available to non-space Powers for international co-operation in space activities, has been looking forward to participating in the proposed Conference. The Indian delegation would appeal to all Member States, in view of the significance and importance this Conference will have on the development of science and technology, to participate as effectively as possible in the proposed Conference.

11. The United Nations has made efforts for meeting the challenges posed by the great advances made in this field in a short time, for harmonizing the interests of the countries concerned and also for providing opportunities to all countries to benefit from the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. The proposed Conference is a notable effort in this direction by the United Nations. The Conference would be unique in its history. My delegation is confident that the developing countries are looking forward to the tremendous opportunities the Conference would afford them.

12. Mr. ADAMS (United States of America): The United States was a co-sponsor of the draft resolution setting the dates for the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We see this conference as an opportunity—one opportunity among many, but a very important one—for the countries with major space programmes to share some of their experience with other nations. The United States proposes just that. We plan to share our knowledge, and to make a contribution commensurate with our experience. We have already given much thought to this conference, with emphasis on the benefits which the developing countries may expect from the rapid development of space technology.

13. If we are able to hold to a firm date for this conference, and continue from today with energetic preparations for it, the outer space conference should be one of the most successful the United Nations has ever sponsored. Through this conference, we will be able to work to give concrete effect to Article 1 of the outer space Treaty [resolution 2222 (XXI)], which provides that: "The exploration and use of outer space ... shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries".

14. Neither inertia nor political problems must be allowed to hamper this conference. Allow me to put on record again something of the history of the planning for this event.

15. When a 1967 space conference was first proposed in 1964,^{1/} the United States had two reservations. We recalled the history of a similar event which had been planned for the early sixties, but which was never held. And second, we recalled that a great many space conferences and symposia are already being held by the various organs of international scientific and engineering communities. Many of these conferences enjoy the support of United Nations agencies. We saw no need for the United Nations to provide a forum which would only duplicate what already is being done.

16. I have spelled out these reservations so that it will be clear why they were overcome when the United States delegation to the conference working group saw the subject matter desired by the developing nations and the non-space Powers. While there is no need for another scientific meeting, there is indeed justification for a conference focused on practical benefits and co-operation. Although meetings on this subject are not unknown, only the United Nations could assure the interest and the broad participation necessary to give the conference results wide circulation in the developing countries. Our reservation as to the usefulness of a conference vanished when practical benefits and co-operation emerged as its themes.

17. There have been inordinate delays and political problems involved in the conference planning, but this is a problem we are prepared to accept, up to a point, in order to achieve something genuinely valuable. And I wish to emphasize that the United States believes that it can make a significant contribution to this conference.

18. Although the space conference will not take place until August 1968, the development of space technology has not been slowed. Indeed, it accelerates. Each new launching strengthens man's knowledge and capabilities. We are pleased by the large number of nations participating in the development of space technology and equipping themselves to utilize its benefits. We welcome wider and more effective participation.

Mr. Solomon (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-President, took the Chair.

19. We are building on a recent but firmly established base of experience in discussing the practical benefits of space. Probably the most advanced progress has been achieved in the field of satellite communications. The experimentation of many nations contributed to the testing of these satellites. A global communications system now exists. Four operational satellites give us a communications link which spans both the Atlantic and the Pacific.

20. But communications satellites are still in their infancy. We are working to assure the development of the technology needed for better communication. The space conference will provide a useful opportunity for reporting on the state of the art and on future prospects.

21. Weather satellites have also moved from experimental to operational assignments. Research continues on special sensors and cameras, even while

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, annex No. 10, document A/5785, para. 13, G.

working satellites are in orbit. In 1966, the United States launched one research and three operational weather satellites. Two more satellites were orbited in 1967 to collect and relay meteorological data to earth.

22. The United States has invited weather observers throughout the world to equip themselves with the automatic picture transmission sets we developed to receive the pictures of cloud cover transmitted by these satellites. More than thirty countries, including Canada, Chile, Hungary, Poland, Kenya, Pakistan, India, Australia and Japan, have acquired or constructed these inexpensive and easily assembled sets.

23. At its conference last month, the World Meteorological Organization approved the first phase of the world weather watch, in which meteorological satellites and automatic picture transmission sets will be used in a world-wide weather-forecasting network. We expect that these receiving sets will become standard equipment in all countries within the next few years.

24. Automatic picture transmission sets can also be used to receive weather information transmitted from one country to another via satellite. Stations on the Pacific shores of Asia, Australia, and North America now participate in a weather communications experiment using the first of a series of five applications technology satellites launched by the United States. Processed weather data—including charts, tabulations, and satellite photographs—pass from a central broadcasting point to all receiving stations located within the satellite's area of coverage.

25. The better weather forecasts made possible by space technology have an immense value to all nations, developed or developing. Advance warning of natural disasters is one important example. And because of the importance of agriculture to their economies, this new technology should be of particular value to the developing countries.

26. The value of satellites for more precise mapping of the features of the earth has already been demonstrated. GLOS-I, the United States satellite orbited in November 1965, serves more than twenty stations located around the world. PAGEOS, launched almost a year ago, is being used to develop a unified global geodetic control reference system. Twenty-one countries participate in this study.

27. The increasing volume of air and marine traffic and the prospective development of supersonic aircraft has added new pressure on our present means of navigation and of communication between ships, planes, and ground control stations.

28. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is forming a working group to undertake a special study of the need, feasibility, and implementation of a navigation-services satellite system. Studies of this question within our own Government lead us to believe we can contribute significantly to the work of this group.

29. The United States is also working to determine if instruments on space craft can survey the natural resources of our earth more cheaply and more easily

than surveys on the ground or by aircraft. Using aircraft, we are experimenting with equipment and techniques over selected sites in the United States. While this work is still in its early stages, we expect that satellites will eventually be used for such practical applications as finding and measuring geological resources, locating fishing grounds, surveying fresh water supplies, and controlling sedimentation and pollution of harbours and rivers. These resource-survey techniques suggest important contributions to man's ability to cope with his environment and to use the bounty of the earth for all mankind. The continuing development of space programmes and of operational systems to put technology to practical use has led to growing interest in the education and training needed to share in the benefits of this technology.

30. The United States has often reported to the United Nations on the extensive opportunities for practical education and training offered to scientists and technicians from other lands by our National Aeronautics and Space Administration. As part of joint international projects, almost 400 scientists and technicians from nineteen countries and from the European Space Research Organisation have been trained at NASA centres in payload engineering, radar, meteorology and launch-range operations. In our view, this is the best sort of training. It is related to specific projects and gives the nationals of co-operating countries an opportunity to "learn by doing" in support of objectives defined by their own countries. But there is also a place for more general training, and last year alone 115 scientists from twenty-eight countries carried out post-doctoral research programmes at NASA centres. In addition, fifty-three NASA international fellows from abroad studied at American universities during 1966 under the co-sponsorship of their national space agencies.

31. We also conduct extensive programmes in space education within our own country. We believe it is important for teachers, students and the public to understand space science and its related technologies. These programmes include teacher-education institutes, adult education and a programme of instructional materials for elementary and secondary school courses in space-related subjects.

32. We look forward to the United Nations space conference as an opportunity to share our experience in space education with others. The practical benefits of space depend upon education. It is not necessary for all nations to invest in the extremely expensive technology required to develop satellites for weather observation, navigation, communications, resource surveys or other purposes. Nor is it necessary for each nation to expend its own resources on the launch facilities to put those satellites into orbit. And in many cases the equipment needed by each nation to receive satellite information, such as our automatic picture transmission set to receive weather data, will cost very little and can be easily obtained.

33. But world-wide use of space technology will also require people in every country with the specialized training to determine what information their countries need—and then to put this information to use. For example, after we receive picture of cloud cover from

a satellite, a meteorologist must translate the picture into a forecast. Technicians must determine the effects of the weather outlook on water supplies, on construction projects, perhaps on the timing of the local harvest. The men and women who do this work need not be experts in electronics or inertial guidance. But they will need practical training and background in their fields. We hope that the space conference will define the opportunities which are ahead—and help the people of our earth to realize those opportunities.

34. The second theme of the United Nations space and conference is international co-operation in the exploration of space. We in the United States take special pride in what we have done to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of space. Well over half of the Members of this Assembly have joined with us in some form of mutually rewarding co-operation. Joint projects have ranged from ground-based studies with NASA satellites to actual programmes of space flight.

35. I have already mentioned several projects in which other countries have joined with us in the practical uses of satellites. In addition, we have co-operated with a number of countries in joint projects of space exploration.

36. Just last month Italy, using a booster contributed by the United States, launched the San Marco research satellite into orbit from a platform at sea off the coast of Kenya. On 5 May, NASA launched the third in a series of United Kingdom satellites. This brings to eight the number of satellites launched successfully in co-operative international projects. Within the next ten days, we expect to launch the first of a series of satellites for the European Space Research Organization.

37. Co-operation in space research, moreover, is not limited to countries with the resources to engage in relatively expensive satellite projects. Nineteen countries have co-operated with us in launching almost 300 sounding rockets, largely for such practical purposes as the study of local ionospheric and meteorological conditions. One of the most exciting and significant developments in this field is the Inter-American Experimental Meteorological Rocket Network. This network, which at present includes Argentina, Brazil, and the United States, began active operations in 1966 with fifty-three meteorological rocket launchings.

38. The United States also regularly invites members of the international scientific community to prepare scientific experiments for installation on United States satellites. Eighteen foreign experiments have thus far been selected for orbital flights, and another thirteen are under consideration. In addition, we have accepted proposals from twenty-seven foreign scientists for more than thirty experiments on the lunar materials which will be brought back by returning astronauts.

39. I have attempted to give our views on the importance of the United Nations space conference. My remarks should make clear why we have joined in co-sponsoring the pending resolution, which will set a firm date for this conference. We believe that genuine international co-operation opens the way to a full realization of the potential of space exploration. It

enables all who are willing to play an active role—whether large or small—to share in the adventure of confronting the rigorous challenge of this new environment. The rewards lie not only in the search for knowledge and the satisfaction of achievement, but also in practical benefits for all countries here on earth, including the developing countries as well as those already developed.

40. We in the United States have had experience with both co-operation and the practical benefits of space technology. We welcome the opportunity to discuss what we have learned. The new technology is here. Further benefits are already in prospect. There are no technical obstacles to co-operation. Delay in holding the conference could only defer full investigation of those prospects by the countries of the world for whose benefit the conference was called.

41. We would have preferred that this conference be held on the originally scheduled date of September 1967. When it became too late to make adequate preparations for this date, we suggested May 1968. This too has not worked out, and we have agreed on August 1968, which appears to be the best date for some other Members. Even now, the time for preparation of abstracts is short. The scientific community must know with certainty what the target date is, and we must know that that date will not shift.

42. The United States will contribute to the United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space on the scale that other States have a right to expect from our major space programme. In return, we ask for an understanding which seems to us eminently fair: that other Members will remain firmly committed and that the conference will stay on schedule regardless of other contingencies. We are prepared to begin work at once. The subject matter is urgent.

43. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria): The General Assembly, at its twenty-first session, adopted a number of constructive recommendations aimed at bringing about more intensive international co-operation in the field of outer space. The most important element of the relevant resolutions lies, in the opinion of my delegation, in the recognition of the fact that the activities of outer space research and of its practical applications are essentially of global concern and that they require to an ever increasing degree the co-operation of all nations. This belief found its expression in the unanimous recommendation to hold a United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

44. My delegation has in the past repeatedly stressed the necessity and advantages of broad international co-operation in the field of outer space. We have on many occasions expressed our conviction that it would be in the interest of all countries, and of the non-space Powers in particular, for knowledge and understanding of the achievements of space science and technology to be more widely disseminated and for the applications of space technology to be actively promoted.

45. My Government is therefore convinced that the decision taken by the twenty-first session of the General Assembly to hold a United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

represents a decisive step towards fuller and more extensive co-operation in the field of outer space.

46. That Conference as conceived in resolution 2221 (XXI) has indeed an important task to fulfil. It is to examine the practical benefits of space programmes on the basis of scientific and technical achievements and the opportunities available to non-space Powers for international co-operation in space activities, thus ensuring that outer space research and space technology do not become monopolies of the scientifically and technically advanced countries.

47. The purpose of the Conference is to further co-operation in the application of space technology in such fields as biology, medicine, communications, meteorology and navigation, and it should give an impetus to the establishment of programmes for the education and training of specialists in order to assist the non-space Powers, and in particular the developing countries, in the peaceful uses of outer space.

48. These objectives are of particular importance with regard to the great prospects which are opening up before mankind in the fields of communications, meteorology and navigation. There can be no doubt that the use of satellites for these purposes would greatly improve intercontinental and transoceanic communications by telephone and television and offer hitherto unknown possibilities for data and facsimile transmission. It would provide the developing countries with new opportunities to broaden the standard of education and training, and thus their standard of living. An improved weather forecast system would be of interest not only to the highly industrialized countries having growing problems in the management of water resources, but in particular to all those countries with a predominantly agricultural economy. It has also become obvious that the growing transport and traffic by sea and air requires improved navigational methods which would ultimately be in the interest of every one of us.

49. Apart from these practical goals designed to make all countries benefit from the spin-off of outer space research and technology, a number of other reasons exist why the holding of this Conference is timely and appropriate.

50. Smaller countries which do not have the human and material resources for developing an independent space programme have made, and are still making, important scientific contributions in the field of outer space. Those countries, if given an adequate opportunity, could not only help to advance the theoretical understanding of the universe and the technological conquest of outer space, but could, within the framework of organized international co-operation, play a role commensurate with their interests and capacities.

51. The applications of outer space research, in particular in the fields of communications, meteorology and navigation, can be used to the full extent only if deployed on a world-wide scale. A broad understanding of those opportunities will undoubtedly prepare the ground for the elaboration and adoption of international programmes in those fields.

52. Finally, and this is a factor which should not be underestimated, broad international co-operation in outer space research and its manifold practical appli-

cations could help to overcome the still existing mistrust with regard to the potential applications of outer space technology and could thus strengthen our common endeavour to reserve outer space for peaceful purposes only.

53. The Austrian Government is therefore convinced that the decision to hold a United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will not only be to the benefit of the non-space Powers, and in particular the developing countries, but ultimately also to the advantage of the space Powers. We consider that decision as a step in the right direction, and Austria is proud to act as the host country to this important conference.

54. In this connexion, I should like to thank all delegations for their support in convening this conference in the Austrian capital, and I should like to assure the Members of this Organization that my Government will not only assume the obligations set out in resolution 2116 (XX), but in addition will spare no effort in order to contribute to the success of the Conference.

55. The representative of India, in introducing the draft resolution contained in document A/L.518 and Add.1-2, in which a new and definite date is suggested for the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, stressed the importance which the non-space Powers, and in particular the developing countries, attach to this Conference. I should like to pay a tribute to the delegation of India, which has already been entrusted with an important role in the preparation of the Conference, as well as to the delegation of the United Arab Republic, for their initiative and constructive efforts in this respect. I also wish to thank the space Powers—which during the past months have again achieved remarkable results in the exploration of outer space, but which also suffered the tragic loss of brave astronauts, whose death was deeply mourned by the whole international community—for their spirit of co-operation which enabled us to submit to this Assembly the concrete proposal for the Conference contained in document A/L.518 and Add.1-2. As a sponsor of that draft resolution, my delegation trusts that it will find the unanimous support of this Assembly.

56. Mr. FEDERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): The Soviet Union was one of the countries which actively supported and upheld the idea, put forward by the representatives of several countries in the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, of holding, under the auspices of the United Nations, a large-scale international conference on the exploration and use of outer space.

57. In February of this year, at the meeting of the panel of experts for the preparation of that Conference, the Soviet experts and those of some other countries put forward a number of considerations in the light of which it would be advisable to postpone the Conference, originally scheduled for September 1967, by approximately one year. The Committee on Outer Space decided that the exact date of the Conference would be agreed upon in consultation with Member States and the Austrian Government, which had kindly agreed to the holding of the Conference at Vienna, taking into

consideration the interest of the developing countries in other international conferences during 1968.

58. As a result of the consultations, in the course of which the various considerations put forward by experts and the views expressed by the members of the United Nations Committee on Outer Space were taken into account, it was decided that the Conference on Outer Space should be held from 14 to 27 August 1968.

59. We hope that the General Assembly, in considering the question of the international Conference on Outer Space, will take all the circumstances into account, particularly the interests of scientific and technical progress in the field of exploration and exploitation of outer space for the benefit of all peoples. The position of the Soviet Union on this matter is based on the conviction that the first international Conference on Outer Space will be of great importance. Soviet scholars and scientific organizations therefore hope that the Conference will be very carefully prepared and will be of the utmost value to all the participants.

60. We feel sure that the United Nations Conference on Outer Space will lead to further progress in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and will be of great scientific and practical benefit to all its participants. We take the view, as we did when we spoke in favour of holding the Conference, that the latter will constitute a step forward in the expansion of the programme of outer space research throughout the world and will contribute to the further development of international co-operation.

61. In our view, the Conference will enable scientists of many countries to take stock of an important stage of outer space research, to exchange experiences gained in the field of outer space science and technology from the beginning of the space age, and to consider the prospects for future work in that field.

62. The Conference will be of undeniable importance for the developing countries, which can gain both scientific knowledge and practical benefit from it and thus accelerate their economic, scientific and technical development on the basis of scientific and technical advances in the field of space research.

63. We believe that the Conference will make possible an objective analysis and evaluation of the opportunities for associating the developing countries to a greater extent with existing space research programmes and for enabling those countries to take advantage of space technology for meteorological, communications, navigational and other practical purposes.

64. The Soviet Union regards its successes in the study of outer space not as something accomplished by the Soviet people alone but as the achievement of all mankind, and it is prepared to share the scientific knowledge so obtained with the scientists and experts of other countries, especially those of the developing States, which are rightly showing interest in the possibilities of the practical application of scientific and technical achievements in space to their own countries' requirements in economic and cultural development.

65. Adoption by the General Assembly of the recommendation made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/6639, annex) that a new date

should be fixed for the conference on outer space will give the scientists and experts of all the participating countries the time needed to make the required preparations, bearing in mind the tasks which are to be dealt with in that important scientific and technical form.

66. The scientific organizations of the Soviet Union, in their desire to further the progress of science in space research, will, of course, take the necessary steps to ensure the success of the United Nations Conference on Outer Space.

67. In conclusion, may I convey to the distinguished representative of India our appreciation of the condolences which he expressed in this forum in connexion with the death of the Soviet cosmonaut Komarov, the pilot of the space craft *Soyuz*.

68. Mr. SCHUURMANS (Belgium) (translated from French): The astounding feats of the astronauts who are endeavouring to conquer outer space and the planets must inevitably bring to mind the valour and daring of those explorers of four centuries ago whose exploits were immortalized by José-Maria de Heredia in one of his most famous sonnets.

69. Like their illustrious predecessors, the mariners of outer space intend to push back ever further the boundaries of the universe accessible to man. But this ambitious enterprise, too, has unfortunately claimed some lives. Four names are already inscribed on the roll of martyrs of this new science; they come from the two nations which have thus far made decisive contributions to its progress.

70. The heroic deaths of these men plunge us all into a common grief, for beyond their national allegiance they belong to the entire human race, to which a treaty recently concluded in this very hall [resolution 2222 (XXI), Annex] has assigned outer space, as a pledge of its peaceful development for the good of all the peoples of the earth.

71. In expressing from this rostrum our deep emotion at their tragic death, we can also say that there is no better tribute that we could pay to their memory than to undertake to continue the task to which they dedicated themselves and for which they willingly laid down their young lives.

72. Thus far, our attention has been focused on the achievements in space which we have been privileged to witness, and on the no less magnificent plans which are to be carried out in the years to come.

73. The placing in orbit of earth satellites has become almost a routine operation; sending a man into outer space is no longer considered a sensational event; the manoeuvre known as the "space rendezvous" has been carried out a number of times; and after veritable flying laboratories have been landed on the moon, there is no doubt in anyone's mind that before long the first human beings will walk on that planet.

74. In the meantime, other aspects have been neglected and almost overlooked. I refer to the concrete results and practical advantages of the experiments, without which these costly undertakings, whose number increases daily, would have no point or justification.

75. In an article which appeared in the March 1966 issue of the magazine *Industrie* entitled "Belgium and

Space Research", a compatriot of mine, Mr. Joseph Heymans, Director of Belgospace, drew attention to this. Speaking of earth satellites, he wrote:

"Why have 500 of them been launched, why are several now being launched every week? It is because, as has happened with the motor car, the airplane and television, once a new instrument has been invented and perfected we find it increasingly useful."

76. Everyone will agree that the exploitation of outer space should not remain the monopoly of those great Powers which thus far alone possess the resources essential for such gigantic programmes.

77. The United Nations itself has been concerned to discover the means whereby the whole of mankind can benefit from the uses to which these prodigious experiments may be put: indeed, that was the theme chosen for the "Conference which the United Nations had decided, by a unanimous vote of the General Assembly [resolution 2221 (XXI)], to hold in September 1967 and which the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has now recommended to be postponed for a year or so.

78. When the matter was discussed in the Committee, the Belgian delegation expressed its great regret at that procedure. Today, we are happy that an agreement seems to have been reached to set 14 August 1968 as the opening date of this important international meeting. We believe that we now have the assurance that this new date will be adhered to.

79. The Belgian delegation would be pleased if this additional delay were put to good use in making careful preparations for the Conference and in particular in seeing to it that the recommendations regarding its terms of reference, its objectives, its provisional agenda and its organization are scrupulously carried out.

80. It is in this spirit and for these reasons that we support the draft resolution now before the Assembly [A/L.518 and Add.1 and 2].

81. Mr. McKEOWN (Australia): Over the past year or two the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, through its working group of the whole, has been actively engaged in preparing an outline for an international conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Notwithstanding some difficulties which have been encountered, not least in adhering to a final date for the holding of the conference, my delegation is pleased that these efforts have borne fruit and that we are preparing for a conference which should make a constructive contribution to international understanding of the prospects and possibilities offered to many countries by the discoveries of the last decade of space research. It is in this spirit of support for an initiative which offers to bring benefits to many countries that the Australian delegation has been happy to join as a sponsor of the draft resolution in document A/L.518 and Add.1-2.

82. We are all aware that the United Nations conference programme over the next year or two is a very full one and delegations are entitled to ask what useful purpose will be served by yet another international conference, particularly one devoted to a field in which a comparatively small number of countries is

able to play a really leading role. Indeed, it was questions of this sort which occupied the attention of my delegation when the proposal for the conference was first considered in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. However, as the planning for the conference proceeded and as the working group of the Committee, in which we were happy to participate, was able to formulate proposals covering the objectives to be attained by the conference, we have been persuaded that such a conference would indeed make a contribution to international understanding of the actual and potential benefits to many countries resulting from the space age. It was to this aspect that the report of the working group on the international space conference directed itself, when it recommended that the objectives of the conference should be:

(1) An examination of the practical benefits to be derived from space research and exploration on the basis of technical and scientific achievements and the extent to which non-space Powers, especially the developing countries, may enjoy these benefits, particularly in terms of education and development;

(2) An examination of the opportunities available to non-space Powers for international co-operation and space activities, taking into account the extent to which the United Nations may play a role.

83. My delegation believes that it is precisely this emphasis on the extent to which the middle and the smaller countries, those that are not major space Powers and indeed may have no space programmes of their own, that should be the keynote of the proposed conference. With so many scientific specializations in space science and with the help of the voluminous literature on the subject, we do not believe that a large-scale conference devoted to publicizing the exploits of the space age is what is now required. Indeed, if the public opinion in all countries has been focused on any single subject over the last decade, it has been on the achievements and, in the last few months, regrettably also on the hazards of the exploration of space.

84. Yet we do not need a United Nations conference to tell us about the achievements of the space age. What is perhaps not quite so well publicized is the extent to which space technology has applications in so many directions of practical concern not only to the major space Powers but also to the smaller countries. The enormous progress made in the technology of communications satellites and the participation of the majority of the countries represented in this General Assembly in the benefits of this revolution in communications is but one example of that progress.

85. As a country which cannot itself hope to mount a large independent space programme, Australia is fully alive to the need for smaller countries to seek, through international co-operative arrangements, to play a role in this rapidly expanding field of technology. Australia has sought through a variety of bilateral and multilateral programmes to share in these developments. Applications of existing knowledge are already proving of potential benefit to countries in fields as diverse as whether forecasting and communications. In the future, one may venture to predict that no country, whatever its stage of development, will

be able to ignore or will wish to ignore the benefits which advances pioneered by space technology will be able to bring to their peoples. A conference on outer space which would bring together eminent people from many countries and from many disciplines associated with space technology may well help to advance this process.

86. My delegation regrets that it was not possible for all delegations to adhere to the original date in 1967 for the holding of the conference on outer space. For our part, we would have been as happy to accept the original date as we are now happy to accept a postponement to a date in 1968 which should ensure that all countries will have an adequate opportunity to prepare for the conference.

87. We welcome the fact that the draft resolution in document A/L.518 and Add.1-2 reaffirms the terms of reference and objectives of the conference which were already laid down in resolution 2221 (XXI). We are pleased that the Austrian Government has been able to make facilities available in Vienna for the new date. We hope that, following our adoption of the new date for the conference, the panel of experts will renew its work with renewed vigour. In pursuing its work, we hope that the panel may now be assured that the date we have set for the conference will be firmly adhered to. We are confident that, with the good will of all, we shall have a successful conference which will further the objectives of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in acting as a focus for international co-operation in a field which symbolizes the spirit of our age.

88. Mr. COX (Canada): In participating in the deliberations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its working group of the whole, it has been Canada's belief that the United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space will fill a certain void. The accomplishments of the major space Powers have inspired all Member States, but these extraterrestrial achievements have often seemed somewhat remote from the practical problems and struggles of the developing world. By emphasizing the practical benefits of space programmes in meeting the immediate needs of the developing countries, the conference should serve to remove this sense of remoteness and to make abundantly clear to non-space Powers the opportunities available in applying the technological advances of space research to the pressing problems of development. In the anticipation that the postponement of the conference until August of 1968 will enable these objectives to be realized more effectively, Canada is pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution [A/L.518 and Add.1-2] which has just been introduced by the representative of India.

89. In the perspective of past technological breakthroughs, it is obvious that the practical applications of space research will contribute to the transformation of our earthbound lives in the years to come. The wide spectrum of fields covered in the agenda of the conference, approved unanimously in resolution 2221 (XXI), provides an indication of the future impact of space research in solving practical problems.

90. Addressing the Canadian Association of Broadcasters on 19 April of this year, the Prime Minister of Canada dealt with one application of space research

which is included in the agenda of the conference, namely, the recent development of communications satellites. Mr. Pearson said:

"It is my Government's belief that the economic, cultural, social, scientific and historical impact of the introduction of communication by satellite will be as important in our next century as the development of railways, air travel, broadcasting and telephone communication has been over the last one hundred years. The telegraph cable, the radio, the telephone cable and the microwave relay each enormously extended the range of men's views and thought. The cost of sending a message using these technicalities, however, always varies more or less proportionately with the distance travelled. In communications through the use of satellites, the cost is likely to be almost independent of distance."

91. From Mr. Pearson's remarks, it is clear that the practical application of space research in the area of communications satellites has potential benefits for all Member States; and, viewed in a broader context, it is not too presumptuous to hope that it may provide the diplomat with a more responsive instrument. This is one more important field to be discussed at the conference to which my Government attaches importance.

92. The success of the conference will depend to a large extent on the efforts of the scientists of participating States who will be called upon to prepare meaningful abstracts and papers. I pledge the support of my Government to the Secretary-General, to the panel of experts charged with the preparation of the conference, and to the host State of Austria in co-operating to produce a conference which will entirely fulfil the expectations of Member States.

93. Mr. VINCI (Italy): I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to make a few brief remarks concerning the United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.

94. Since the conference is an important United Nations enterprise, my delegation, together with many other delegations which took part in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, feels that it should be placed firmly on the solid basis on which all the activities of the Organization must be grounded; that is, on a deep spirit of co-operation and with the common purpose of attaining practical results.

95. We do not lack experience in this regard in the organization of scientific conferences. I am convinced that among other examples, the recent United Nations Conference on the Applications of Science and Technology could set a good pattern for a Vienna conference on outer space. The Committee has already shown a very promising orientation in this direction, and I wish, therefore, to express the appreciation of my delegation for the work done and the recommendations put forward by the Committee to the effect that the main objectives of the conference should be: (a) the study of practical benefits to be derived from space exploration and of the extent to which non-space Powers, particularly the developing countries, may receive these benefits; (b) the study of the opportunities available to non-space Powers for international co-operation in space activities.

96. Let me stress that, in our opinion, the conference should endeavour to produce results useful both for the countries already carrying out programmes of research in outer space and for the developing countries with little or no experience in the field. On the basis of these guidelines and aiming fundamentally at an effective development of international co-operation and mutual exchange of information, the complex work of organization and the expenses the United Nations will incur for the conference will be, in our view, fully justified.

97. I wish to assure all my fellow representatives that my country has followed and will continue to follow with keen interest and a spirit of co-operation the organization by the United Nations of the Vienna conference. Italy has begun in recent years to develop a certain amount of activity, both national and international, in outer space. The Italian National Council of Scientific Research is at present conducting numerous experiments, chiefly in astrophysics, and the Italian Government is devoting increasing amounts to the financing of programmes for launching and operating satellites and for expanding the Italian space research centres and the Italian space telecommunication stations. A comprehensive report on the Italian space activities and achievements has recently been transmitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations.

98. With your permission, I should like to single out, among those achievements, the San Marco launching of a satellite by an Italian crew, from a platform at sea off the coast of Kenya. That, I believe, is a good example of international co-operation in this new field of human venture and fully consistent with the provisions of the space treaty. It was in fact a first experiment in the launching of satellites carried out in the framework of the activities of an international body—the European Space Vehicle Launcher Development Organisation [ELDO]. It was, from the technical point of view, an interesting experiment on account of its novelty, as the satellites were launched from an artificial platform built on the sea, and it was a very promising example of co-operation with a developing country, inasmuch as the scientific laboratories placed on the platform could avail themselves of the services and facilities of the Mombasa relay station. I believe that this is the best evidence we can give of the spirit and purpose guiding us in our outer space operations. Let me add that my country is also taking part in the carrying out of space programmes established by international agencies such as ELDO, the European Space Research Organisation, the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium and the Conférence européenne télécommunications par satellites. I hope that these short references will indicate that Italy is greatly interested in the practical work of the United Nations Conference and is willing to contribute fully to its success.

99. Allow me to conclude with a comment on the date suggested for the Conference. My delegation, which has from the beginning been in favour of a longer term, believes that the time now afforded will meet the main requirements. In fact the nature and purposes of the conference and the complexity of the subjects that will be dealt with require very careful preparation of the conference and a clear and effective definition of its

programme. The time that the Assembly will give the Secretariat will, I think, not fall short of the need. We are confident that, with the effective co-operation of Austria, the host country, the services responsible for the organization of the conference will now be better enabled to cope with all the problems it entails. The experience of other international agencies in this field is precious and significant; we know that some of the most important international scientific associations customarily plan their conferences and establish the programmes relating to them years in advance. Let us hope that the fourteen months ahead of us will prove very fruitful for the preparation of the conference.

100. For the reasons I have mentioned, my delegation is very happy to associate itself with the other sponsors of draft resolution A/L.518 and Add.1-2 relating to the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which has been unanimously recommended by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are grateful to the representative of India for introducing this draft resolution, and we hope that the response of the General Assembly will be equally unanimous.

101. The PRESIDENT: That concludes the list of speakers on the draft resolution. The Assembly will now proceed to take a decision. In the absence of a request for a vote, may I take it that the Assembly adopts the draft resolution contained in document A/L.518 and Add.1-2?

The draft resolution was adopted without objection.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Credentials of representatives to the fifth special session of the General Assembly (concluded):*

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

102. The PRESIDENT: A revised text of the report of the Credentials Committee, containing a rewording of paragraphs 15 and 20, has just been circulated [A/6655/Rev.1]. I request Mr. Waldheim of Austria, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, to present the report of that Committee to the Assembly.

103. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria): The report of the Credentials Committee to the fifth special session of the General Assembly, contained in the document to which you have just referred, Mr. President, contains a number of elements on which I should like to make some brief comments.

104. The delegations to this Assembly will have noted that the credentials submitted by a number of delegations are not in conformity with rule 27 of the rules of procedure. The credentials of some representatives, although emanating from the proper authorities, were submitted in the form of cablegrams and thus did not conform with the established practice, according to which they should be drawn up in the form of written documents bearing the signatures of the issuing authorities.

105. In the report of the Credentials Committee it is further stated that, in a number of instances, the names of representatives were communicated to the Secretary-General in notes verbales or letters ema-

*Resumed from the 1502nd meeting.

nating from the permanent representatives or the permanent missions to the United Nations, but no credentials for those representatives had yet been submitted to the Secretary-General.

106. In the circumstances the Credentials Committee decided, as an exceptional measure, pending the receipt of the proper credentials, to accept instead the communications received by the Secretary-General and to request the latter to inform the Credentials Committee of the twenty-second session of the General Assembly of the status of those credentials. The Credentials Committee has, in addition, stressed the necessity for all Member States to comply with the requirements of rule 27 of the rules of procedure, which provides *inter alia* that credentials of representatives shall be submitted to the Secretary-General if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the session.

107. The delegations will have further noted that some members of the Credentials Committee expressed reservations as to the validity of certain credentials. These reservations have been recorded in the report of the Credentials Committee. In this connexion, I wish to inform the Assembly—and this has already been done by the President—that the revised text of the report has just been distributed. The revision relates to some drafting changes which in no way alter the substance of the report or the recommendations of the Credentials Committee.

108. Finally, the Committee adopted the resolution contained in document A/6655/Rev.1, para. 23. As a result of this resolution, the fifth special session of the General Assembly has before it the recommendation to approve the report of the Credentials Committee.

109. Mr. PLAKA (Albania) (translated from French): The Credentials Committee, which has just submitted its report [A/6655/Rev.1] to the present session of the General Assembly for approval, has once again accepted the credentials of the Chiang Kai-shek clique, which represents no one, thus leaving this band of renegades in occupancy of the seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. The Albanian delegation strongly protests against this illegal decision, which is a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and of the General Assembly's rules of procedure, and which is but one more of the pernicious acts of the United States imperialists that do serious harm to the prestige and authority of the United Nations.

110. The Chinese people, by their triumphant revolution eighteen years ago, proclaimed the People's Republic of China, which is one and indivisible. The fact that the Chinese province of Taiwan is at present under the military occupation of the United States of America in no way changes its legal status as undeniably an integral part of the People's Republic of China and does not justify the absurd attempt to have 700 million Chinese represented here by a clique of traitors who have been driven from the country and have sold out to the United States imperialists. The Government of the People's Republic of China is the only lawful Government of China and is alone entitled to represent the Chinese people in international relations, in the United Nations and in all international organizations. The puppet clique of Chiang Kai-shek

has therefore no place in the United Nations and must be expelled.

111. People's China, which has made remarkable progress in both internal and external affairs, is resolutely defending the sacred struggle of the world's peoples for national and social liberation and is waging an unrelenting fight against colonialism and imperialism, headed by United States imperialism. It is a great Power, without which no important international problem can be solved. The denial of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations—a direct consequence of the manipulation of the United Nations by the United States—is harmful only to the Organization, its prestige and its ability to discharge its duties in promoting international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We have emphasized here on many occasions, that as long as the United States continues to exercise its nefarious influence on the United Nations, the latter will be unable to make any contribution to the settlement of important international problems relating to peace and the liberation of oppressed peoples and will therefore continue to decline until it is no more.

112. For the reasons I have just given, and also for those we stated at the last session, my delegation will abstain in the vote on the recommendation of the Credentials Committee [A/6655/Rev.1, para. 23].

113. Mr. TOMOROWICZ (Poland): The position of my delegation regarding the report of the Credentials Committee is as follows. First, in our opinion, the so-called credentials of the usurpers who claim to represent China in this Assembly can by no means be recognized as valid, despite the suggestion in the report. The prolonged absence of People's China from our midst not only prevents a settlement of urgent international problems, but also impairs the interests and the effectiveness of the United Nations.

114. Secondly, since the racist Government of the South African Republic represents only a small minority of its population and maintains the reins of colonial oppression based on an inhuman policy of *apartheid*, the documents presented by the representatives of that country also cannot be recognized.

115. For those reasons, the Polish delegation is unable to support the report of the Credentials Committee [A/6655/Rev.1] and will abstain.

116. Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) (translated from French): My delegation is a member of the Credentials Committee for the fifth special session of the General Assembly. In that capacity it has vigorously stated the well-known position of the Republic of Guinea regarding the two delegations which we consider to be illegally present here: the delegations of Taiwan and of South Africa.

117. The first of these does not and cannot represent the great Chinese people, but rather a régime that has taken refuge in an island under the protection of the United States fleet and cannot possibly claim to have set up any sort of Chinese Government. Consequently, we have entered express reservations regarding its credentials, and we consider that this delegation is illegal.

118. As to the representatives of the colonial minority racist apartheid régime in Pretoria, we have likewise repeated that this delegation represents a minority of oppressors and certainly not the country which we know as South Africa. We have entered express reservations with regard to this delegation also.

119. I have therefore come to this rostrum in order to reiterate our reservations in the strongest possible terms. We trust that the true representatives of the countries now represented by usurpers will soon be joining us.

120. Mr. KUTAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): The USSR delegation wishes to make the following comments with regard to the recommendations submitted by the Credentials Committee to the General Assembly.

121. My delegation, like the delegations of many other Member States, does not regard as valid the credentials of Chiang Kai-shek's men who have arrogated to themselves the title of representatives of China in the United Nations. The credentials they have submitted do not meet the requirements of rule 27 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure.

122. The Soviet Union's position on this matter, a position based on principle, has been stated repeatedly in the United Nations and all Member States are familiar with it.

123. We adhere to the principle that only the Government of the People's Republic of China can represent China in the United Nations.

124. For this reason, the USSR delegation submitted a draft resolution in the Credentials Committee to the effect that the credentials of persons who style themselves representatives of the Republic of China should be deemed invalid.

125. As to the credentials of the representatives of the Pretoria régime, my delegation fully associates itself with the reservations made by the representatives of African States in the Credentials Committee and at the present meeting of the General Assembly.

126. Members of the United Nations are well aware that the overwhelming majority of the population of the Republic of South Africa—the true masters of the country—continue to suffer colonial oppression, racial discrimination and naked terror at the hands of the Pretoria authorities.

127. The shameful policy of apartheid, which denies to the indigenous population all human rights and freedoms, has been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations, which has rightly called for an immediate end to it.

128. However, these appeals have gone unheeded. Worse still, the South African racists have been extending their system of colonial oppression to other peoples, in particular the long-suffering people of South West Africa, which they continue to oppress in disregard of United Nations resolutions.

129. As we all know, the refusal of the Pretoria régime to comply with United Nations resolutions was the reason for the convening of this special session of the General Assembly.

130. My delegation shares the view expressed by many States that the Pretoria régime, which tramples underfoot the fundamental rights of many millions of the country's population, cannot be said to represent that population.

131. Since the considerations it put forward were not taken into account by the Credentials Committee and were not reflected in its decisions, my delegation is unable to support the Committee's recommendation and will abstain in the vote.

132. Mr. ANWARZAI (Afghanistan): The Government of Afghanistan has always maintained that the only lawful representative of China is the Government of the People's Republic of China and that, consequently, it is the only legitimate party entitled to occupy the seat of China at the United Nations. Accordingly, any credentials which come from sources other than the Government of the People's Republic of China cannot be recognized by my delegation as being valid. It is with this reservation that my delegation will vote for the report of the Credentials Committee [A/6655/Rev.1].

133. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon): Regarding the report of the Credentials Committee, my delegation, on behalf of the Arab States, members of the Arab League, and pursuant to a decision taken by the Arab League on the subject, wishes to put on record their reservations, as well as its own, and to state that we do not recognize the State of Israel, a racist State built on the blood of and on threats to a gallant people, the Palestine people.

134. Mr. DIACONESCU (Romania) (translated from French): Romania's position on the question of the representation of China in the United Nations has been stated on more than one occasion in this Assembly. Like a number of other countries, Romania has proved time and again that the only Government which is entitled to represent China in the United Nations is the Government of the People's Republic of China. In view of the fact that the credentials of Chiang Kai-shek's representatives were not issued by the lawful Government which represents the Chinese people, they are not in accordance with the provisions of rule 27 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure and should consequently be regarded as null and void. The Romanian delegation denies that the credentials presented to the Secretary-General by an authority which arbitrarily and illegally claims to represent China in the United Nations have any validity.

135. My delegation fully shares the reservations expressed by a number of delegations regarding the credentials presented by the Pretoria régime.

136. For these reasons my delegation will abstain in the vote on the Credentials Committee's report [A/6655/Rev.1] as a whole.

137. Mr. YUNUS (Pakistan): With reference to the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee [A/6655/Rev.1, para. 23], the delegation of Pakistan wishes to place on record three reservations.

138. First, we do not recognize the credentials presented by those who style themselves as the representatives of China in the United Nations. We maintain that the Government of the People's Republic of China

is the only authority entitled to represent the Chinese people in the United Nations and elsewhere in the world.

139. Secondly, we do not recognize the credentials presented by the delegation of South Africa, representing as it does a racist minority régime which has imposed its rule by force on the majority of the people in South Africa. Moreover, that régime consistently violates United Nations resolutions and continues to foster its inhuman policies in the face of universal opposition.

140. Thirdly, Pakistan does not recognize the credentials presented by the representatives of the so-called State of Israel.

141. U MAUNG MAUNG GALE (Burma): For reasons which have been explained on a number of occasions, the delegation of Burma would like to reserve its position in so far as the credentials for the representation of China are concerned. With this reservation, my delegation will vote for the report of the Credentials Committee [A/6655/Rev.1] which is before us.

142. Mr. LIU (China): If the representative of Albania alone had spoken as he did I would have remained silent, for he is only the mouthpiece of Mao Tse-tung. But I was somewhat surprised that other delegations found it necessary to reiterate at this closing of our session the positions which are already widely known in respect of the so-called question of China's representation.

143. I would not for a moment impose on this Assembly any lengthy reply to some of the statements that have been made. I do want to point out that only five months have passed since the Assembly pronounced itself on this question in a clear and unequivocal manner.

144. In the months that followed, if any lesson is to be drawn from the turmoil and chaos that have been taking place throughout the length and breadth of the Chinese mainland, it is that the Chinese Communist régime is totally unfit to speak for the Chinese people in the international community. The only Government that can truly articulate the wishes and aspirations of the Chinese people is the Government of the Republic of China, which my delegation has the honour to represent.

145. The PRESIDENT: Since there are no other representatives who wish to explain their vote before the voting, the Assembly will now vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee. [A/6655/Rev.1, para. 23].

The draft resolution was adopted by 89 votes to none, with 17 abstentions.

146. The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those representatives who have asked to speak in explanation of their vote after the voting.

147. Mr. SHAH (Nepal): Despite the affirmative vote of my delegation on the report of the Credentials Committee, I wish to make it clear that my delegation has a very serious reservation with regard to the credentials of the so-called representatives of China. It is the view of my delegation that those representatives, accredited as they are by a group of self-exiled anti-

national elements which manage to maintain an appearance of a so-called government at the instigation and with the support of a foreign Power, cannot, in law and in fact, represent the people of China.

148. The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China alone represents the Chinese people, and that Government alone is entitled to represent those 800 million people in the United Nations and elsewhere.

149. Therefore, I should like the record to show that our vote in favour of this report does not affect the position of my delegation as set forth above on the question of the proper representation of China in the United Nations.

150. By refusing to restore the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China, the General Assembly has long been taking the shadow for the substance. By consistently goading the Assembly into this delusion, certain major and interested Powers have been perpetuating a great disservice to the cause of peace. That is a great misfortune, and I think that this misfortune assumes a greater proportion in the present-day world situation.

151. Mr. MISHRA (India): I wish to say a few words to explain our vote, which we recorded a few minutes ago. Our vote in favour of the adoption of the report of the Credentials Committee does not derogate from our well-known position regarding the right of the People's Republic of China to be represented in the United Nations.

152. Mr. BOTHA (South Africa): In explaining my delegation's vote, I do not intend to reply to the statements regarding my Government which were made this afternoon, except to reject them in their entirety. The South African delegation has previously recorded its arguments on the validity of its credentials, and it is not necessary to repeat them today.

153. The South African delegation voted for the adoption of the report of the Credentials Committee. This does not, of course, imply concurrence with the views expressed by individual members of that Committee as contained in the report.

154. Mr. AZZOUT (Algeria) (translated from French): The delegation of Algeria would like to express some reservations with regard to the recommendations which have just been introduced by the Chairman of the Credentials Committee.

155. First of all, in no case does the Algerian delegation recognize the right of the representative of Taiwan to represent the lawful Government of the great People's Republic of China, and considers that its seat in the United Nations, and in all other international organizations, continues to be illegally occupied.

156. Furthermore, no matter what the representative of South Africa may say, neither can the fascist Pretoria régime possibly represent the people of South Africa, who continue to groan under the yoke laid on them by their racist exploiters, supported by international imperialism.

157. Our attitude with regard to the artificially maintained pseudo-State known as Israel is well known in

this Assembly and has been brilliantly set forth on our behalf by the representative of Lebanon.

158. Mr. EPERVIER (France) (translated from French): With reference to the examination of the Credentials Committee's report, the French delegation wishes to remind the Assembly that, while it did not object to the adoption of the report, it continues nevertheless to believe that only the People's Republic of China is entitled to occupy the seat of China in the United Nations.

Mr. Pazhwak (Afghanistan) resumed the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Question of South West Africa (continued)

159. The PRESIDENT: There is one matter which requires a decision of the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 2248 (S-V) adopted by the Assembly at its 1518th plenary meeting, on the question of South West Africa. Section II, paragraph 1 of the resolution provides that a United Nations Council for South West Africa, consisting of eleven Member States, should be elected during this session. A request for more time has been made by those Members who are still engaged in consultations on the question of the membership of the United Nations Council for South West Africa. I was informed of this request during my absence this afternoon from the Assembly Hall, and I have consulted with the representatives of various groups from the entire membership. As a result of these consultations, I shall give the Assembly my impression of the understanding which the membership has reached on this question.

160. Section II, paragraph 3, of the resolution adopted by the Assembly provides that

"the Council shall entrust such executive and administrative tasks as it deems necessary to a United Nations Commissioner for South West Africa... who shall be appointed during this session by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Secretary-General".

161. In view of the situation in the Middle East which has made it necessary for the Secretary-General to leave for Cairo at short notice, the Secretary-General has informed me that he has not been able to undertake all the consultations he deems necessary prior to nominating the United Nations Commissioner for South West Africa. He has requested that he be given until Tuesday, 6 June, to submit the nomination to the Assembly. In those circumstances, and in modification of the decision taken by the Assembly at its 1517th plenary meeting regarding the closing of this session, I propose that, after completing its work today, the Assembly adjourn until the afternoon of Tuesday, 6 June, when it will take up the election of members of the United Nations Council for South West Africa and the appointment of the United Nations Commissioner for South West Africa.

162. As I have already indicated, that is my impression of the understanding which generally prevails among the membership of the Assembly. If I am correct, and if there is no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to the proposal.

It was so decided.

163. The PRESIDENT: It is clearly understood that the matters to which I have referred are the only matters pending at this special session, and that the plenary meeting to be held on 6 June will be devoted exclusively to them.

164. I hope that the Secretary-General and the various groups involved will succeed by that time in their efforts to bring to a fruitful result the tasks entrusted to them by the General Assembly resolution.

Adjournment of the session

165. The PRESIDENT: We have now completed for the time being the business of this special session of the General Assembly. This is therefore the appropriate moment for me to express in a very few words my deep sense of gratitude both for the honour and confidence bestowed on me by the entire membership and for the unfailing co-operation and understanding extended to me throughout this session by every one of our Members.

166. Our agenda, although a short one, has comprised issues of the greatest complexity and urgency. Indeed, it is in the nature of a special session to be seized of problems of such wide concern that the membership decides it necessary to convene in order to consider them outside the pattern of the Assembly's regular annual sessions.

167. I believe it would be true to say that the complexity of the issues we have considered over the past month has been matched only by the striking degree of co-operation and the frankness of the exchange of views which marked the negotiations during this session. The measure of agreement which has resulted from these formal and informal negotiations is the fruit of extremely intensive and painstaking thought and discussion. It is very clear, irrespective of the particular positions, that the General Assembly has taken a most important decision on the question of South West Africa, a decision which carries forward in a deliberate and logical step the decision reached by the General Assembly at its twenty-first regular session. I hope that the United Nations Council for South West Africa, which this Assembly has established in order to administer South West Africa until independence, will fulfil its task—when it is able, through the co-operation of all Members, to start its work—in the interests solely of the peoples of South West Africa. Certainly, there is an obligation placed upon all Members, irrespective of the particular position they may themselves have taken previously, to implement United Nations resolutions. In this connexion, it is appropriate to recall here the very profound and binding nature of the commitment of this General Assembly as a whole to the granting of independence to colonial peoples and territories.

168. The item on our agenda entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects" has also been the subject of very intensive negotiation in a spirit of realism and understanding. That has made it possible for the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations to present the General Assembly with a constructive report which reflects the achievement of a certain measure

of progress and holds promise of further advance on this major issue.

169. It is satisfying to be able to report that, also on the third item on our agenda, the question of the postponement to 1968 of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, a consensus has been reached and a date acceptable to all Members has been established.

170. I trust Members will bear with me if I recall at this juncture my statement at the beginning of the twenty-first regular session of the General Assembly that we cannot expect immediate overnight solutions to long-standing problems. Yet history proves that while there are some major problems which time alone can solve, there are others which should not be allowed to linger untended for lack of decisiveness or a sense of urgency. I hope it may be said of this session that it has sought and found a constructive balance between a sense of urgency and of history which will enable the Assembly at its next regular session to make further and rapid progress in resolving the issues we have considered here.

171. I am sure that each one of us recognizes that this session adjourns at a time when the international situation remains as critical as ever and peace is gravely imperilled. The situation in Viet-Nam has not changed in the past weeks, and we see no sign of improved chances of peace. To this must be added the very general concern felt by all regarding conditions in the Middle East. As a world body, the United

Nations cannot remain aloof from matters of peace and war. This is particularly true of situations in which the United Nations has been very closely involved and for which it has a direct responsibility.

172. I feel sure that I am expressing the views of all Members in wishing full success to the peace-keeping efforts of the United Nations as a body and of the Secretary-General personally. I am certain that this General Assembly in its entirety shares the hope that there will be no further worsening of the situations threatening peace around the world and that the many efforts being made to achieve peaceful solutions will prove successful.

173. On the part of all speakers in our debates here, there has been a very notable and, if I may say so, a very wise and far-sighted restraint in the comments made on the dangers to peace which are in the forefront of all our minds. At a time when calm and responsible efforts are being made in the hope of lessening the atmosphere of high tension, it is indeed wise for everyone within the General Assembly, as well as elsewhere, to refrain from any word or action which could possibly aggravate the present situation and thereby diminish the prospects of a peaceful solution.

174. In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, I declare that the fifth special session is adjourned until the afternoon of Tuesday, 6 June.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.