

general conclusions set out on page 60 of Document A/4141 where it is stated, ... "Progress, plans and needs in connection with the peaceful uses of outer space should be reviewed again by the United Nations in about one year".

If such an early review is required on the organizational side with respect to the scientific and technological aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space it is even more necessary, in the view of my Delegation, in respect of legal problems. In the course of any review of the legal problems we consider that early consideration should be given to the whole range of problems relating to sovereignty in outer space. We are in complete agreement with the view expressed in paragraph 7 on page 63 of Document A/4141 that a comprehensive codification of space law is not practicable or desirable at the present stage of knowledge and development. However, we are also in agreement with the recognition given by the ad hoc committee to the need both to take timely constructive action and to make the law of space responsive to the facts of space.

In view of the physical penetration by man of the space beyond the earth's atmosphere and even beyond the earth's field of gravitation, my Delegation considers that one of the questions which the new committee should consider as a matter of priority is the formulation of a rule, and the means to gain universal acceptance of that rule, that no part of space or of any celestial body may be appropriated by or be subjected to the jurisdiction of any state. Perhaps this result could be achieved by the adoption, by the General Assembly on the advice of its Outer Space Committee, of a suitably-phrased declaration establishing this principle. Failure to take some such measure now to prevent the acquisition of legal rights in outer space may very well prejudice the ability of the community of nations later to devise equitable and wide rules to reflect the common interest and rights of all mankind in the utilization of space.

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