

the responsibility of the United Nations, if only because activities in space are outside national boundaries and therefore raise legal and regulatory problems that can be settled amicably only in an international organization. It seems to my Delegation that the unique contribution to be made by the United Nations lies in these areas.

However, to suggest that there are certain regulatory functions which are appropriate to the United Nations is not by any means to suggest that the United Nations itself should have the overriding responsibility. It is clear that some of the Specialized Agencies in their respective fields have a role to play. In their relationships to one another in the outer space field it is desirable to avoid the competition which has posed difficulties for the United Nations in other fields. There is a danger otherwise that much useful energy may be expended to little profit and we consider that the right basis for co-ordination must be established at an early stage. This is one of the questions which should be looked into at an appropriate stage in the discussions of the new committee.

In approaching its task, the committee will have the benefit of the very useful preliminary work which was done by the ad hoc committee, as outlined in its report in Document A/4141. This report, which will be available to members of the new committee, provides a very useful, objective, and, we believe, comprehensive account of what the United Nations and related organizations and other international bodies have already accomplished in international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. It also contains in the sections dealing with the work of its technical and legal sub-committee a broad indication of the problems of a scientific, technical, regulatory and legal nature which face mankind as it penetrates outer space, with some suggestions for possible approaches to the solution of these problems.

My Delegation considers that this report, which was adopted unanimously, is a very useful document, and we fully endorse the observations and tentative conclusions contained in it. We think that all concerned with its preparation are to be commended. They include the scientists and legal advisers to delegations, members of the Secretariat and above all the committee's distinguished chairman, Ambassador Matsudaira of Japan, as well as the other officers, Professor Ambrosini of Italy, who was chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, Doctor Rose of my own country, who was chairman of the Technical Sub-Committee, and Ambassador Nisot of Belgium, the committee's rapporteur.

... The pace of developments in the exploration of outer space has been so rapid that conclusions arrived at even as recently as six months ago, however tentatively they may have been expressed, may no longer be completely valid. Indeed this possibility finds recognition in one of the