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(Mr. Pardo, Brazil)

Finally, in what concerns our third priority -- that is, the definition or delimitation of outer space -- I should like to say at this stage that my delegation hopes we shall soon be able to arrive at a conclusion based on sound scientific criteria. This may seem, at first glance, rather an academic discussion. Quite to the contrary, the very fact that up to now we have been unable to agree on what outer space precisely means is enough to prove the importance of the definition.

With reference to questions concerning the moon, my delegation will present its views on the draft treaty concerning the moon proposed by the Soviet Union in a separate statement. Let me, however, advance the opinion that it would be much more appropriate to discuss this subject according to the approach which was suggested by the delegations of Argentina and France at the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee; that is, to study the legal régime governing substances coming from the moon and from other celestial bodies. Certainly, not a word is included in the Soviet draft treaty about this problem, which concerns us all, and whose solution would be of universal interest.

Before concluding, I should like, very briefly, to welcome the decision taken by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, on the initiative of the Swedish delegation, to convene a working group on remote sensing of the earth by satellites. My delegation expresses its confidence in the working group's future activities and looks forward to its conclusions. This pioneering field of science can indeed be extremely meaningful to the economic development of countries through a more accurate assessment of natural resources. It is up to us, however, to make sure that activities in this field be programmed in such a way as fully to respect the sovereign rights of States.

Neither could I fail to mention the interest with which the Brazilian Government views the United Nations programme on applications of space technology. We express the hope that the financial solution envisaged by the outer-space Committee will enable the Organization to carry on further with its activities in this field of particular interest to developing countries.

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(Mr. Pardo, Brazil)

Brazil attaches great importance to outer space activities and is fully aware of the practical benefits that can result from actions taken in this field at the United Nations level. In this spirit, we have organized a United Nations panel meeting on the establishment and implementation of research programmes in remote sensing, to be held from 29 November to 10 December this year in Rio Paulo at the Brazilian Institute for Space Research.

We hope that the number of similar initiatives will multiply in the coming years, so that a true sense of co-operation may be established within the international community in matters relating to outer space, thus contributing towards minimizing the growing technological and scientific imbalance prevailing in today's world.