

(Mr. Nakazawa, Japan)

With the completion of the draft Liability Convention, the future work of the Legal Sub-Committee was also an object of intensive discussion both in the Legal Sub-Committee and in the recent session of the parent Committee.

My delegation can generally support in this connection the recommendation of the outer-space Committee contained in paragraph 38 of the Report, that priorities should be given to matters relating to the registration of objects launched into space for the exploration or use of outer space, and to questions relating to the moon. My delegation, for one, attaches particular importance, as it made clear at the September session of the outer-space Committee, to giving priority to matters relating to the registration of objects for the exploration or use of outer space. After the conclusion of a liability convention, we feel it will only be logical for us to take up urgently this matter and try to make secure, through prior registration of objects, the identification of parties who may be liable in case of occurrence of damage.

I now turn to the other part of the Report of the Committee dealing with the Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. My delegation considers that the most significant work done by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee during the past year is the establishment and convening of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, and it welcomes the decision of the Sub-Committee to that effect, which was welcomed later in its turn by the parent Committee.

It seems to my delegation that this field of remote sensing of the earth by satellites is an area in which our activities are still in the formative stage and that much remains to be done. My delegation, therefore, favours a cautious and reasonable approach to the matter and considers that the Working Group at the outset should begin its work with limited objectives and gradually expand its activities in the future when accurate data will become more available.

The draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.571, of which Japan, together with a number of other countries, is a co-sponsor representative, in the view of my delegation, this reasonable approach. It would in substance provide the means of procuring necessary information from various quarters,

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namely, from Member States, from United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as other relevant international organizations and from the Secretary-General, so that the Working Group could begin its work effectively. The draft resolution also requests the outer-space Committee to bring about the early initiation of the Working Group's substantive work.

I should like to point out that this field of remote sensing of the earth by satellites is very wide and that there are various bodies both within and outside the United Nations whose work is relevant in one way or another to this field. Careful attention should, therefore, be paid to the problem of co-ordination of the work of such bodies.

We wish to pledge our full co-operation to the Working Group when it addresses itself to its most challenging tasks next year. As a member of the outer-space Committee, we anticipate playing an active part in the work to be carried out by this Working Group.

It is gratifying to note that considerable progress has been achieved in the field of international co-operation in education and training in the peaceful uses of outer space. A number of countries announced their offers of new forms of international co-operation in this regard. In this field, Japan indicated at the last session of the outer-space Committee its intention to issue an invitation to a panel on satellite broadcasting for education which is likely to be held in 1977. This intention is referred to in paragraph 22 of the Report. We also announced, on a preliminary basis, the possibility of our offering fellowships for space application studies to the developing countries. As we said in the outer-space Committee, we hope we will be able to make a more concrete proposal on this point at the next session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee. Such efforts show the earnest desire of Japan to contribute to the promotion of closer international co-operation in education and training in the peaceful uses of outer space.

My delegation believes that the United Nations, as a centre for co-ordination of international co-operation, has a large role to play particularly in meeting the needs of developing countries in this field. We would like to express our support, therefore, for a programme of action for space