

(Mr. Theodoropoulos, Greece)

Here we had an opportunity to display boldness, to strengthen certain basic concepts of international law, to progress from arbitrariness to compliance with the law. This has not prevailed. It is of little help to say, as was mentioned here the other day, that we shall have a chance to revise the convention in ten years' time and to correct its shortcomings. The disheartening fact remains that we have not been able at this time to go far enough.

I need not go into the detail of our objections; they were summed up in a most pertinent way by the representatives of Sweden, Canada and Japan. May I only add one consideration.

We believe that lamining States might possibly find it easier at a later stage for them to abide by the provisions of a binding international instrument than to take upon themselves in each particular instance in the future the onus of arbitrarily deciding whether or not to comply with this or that award decision. Acceptance of a general and objective norm of law should in the long run be a positive advantage, not a burden.

At this stage the Greek delegation would like to reserve its position vis-à-vis the draft convention for the reasons I have stated. We think, however, that the suggestion just made by the representative of Canada is of great interest and merits our careful attention.

The CHILMAN (interpretation from French): I would propose that the list of speakers wishing to speak in the general debate on the two items now before us should be closed tomorrow, 9 November, at 6 p.m. If I hear no objection it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The CHILMAN (interpretation from French): I wish to draw the attention of members of the Committee to the fact that the three draft resolutions on item 23 of our agenda, "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space". These three drafts appear respectively in documents A/C.1/L.569 and Corr.1, A/C.1/L.570 and A/C.1/L.571.

(The Chairman)

I would also like to inform the Committee that the name of Poland should be added to the co-sponsors of the draft resolution circulated as document A/C.1/L.569/Corr.1.

A draft resolution on item 28 of our agenda, "Preparation of an international treaty concerning the Moon", has just been distributed in document A/C.1/L.572.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHILMAN (interpretation from French): Before adjourning the meeting I should like to make some comments on our programme of work.

At the 1825th meeting the Committee agreed on the order in which it intended to examine the items allocated to it, as appears in document A/C.1/L.574.

On 4 November the Committee concluded the list of speakers scheduled to participate in the general debate on the first item of our agenda, "Implementation of the declaration on the strengthening of international security". It also decided that consideration of the draft resolutions on this question would take place at some later meeting.

With regard to the programme of work for the rest of the session, I should like to suggest the following.

For item 23, "International co-operation on the peaceful uses of outer space", and item 28, "Preparation of an international treaty concerning the Moon", we would reserve four and a half days of work; that is to say, from 4 to 10 November. For the seven items on disarmament, including the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace -- document A/C.1/L.574 -- we would reserve 17 working days: that is to say from Thursday, 11 November, to Friday, 5 December.

As to the questions concerning the agenda, they could be considered from Monday, 6 December, to Wednesday, 15 December. Two working days, 16 and 17 December, would be held in reserve in order to examine any draft resolutions which might call for extensive consultations.

The provisional plan which I have just outlined will be circulated tomorrow as a document.