

Accord Reached

9, 1966

Phone 223-6000 Circulation 223-6100
Classified 223-6200

TEN CENTS

on Space Pact

U.S., Russia, Others in U.N. Agree to a Ban on Weapons

Johnson Statement Hails Development As Historical Step

By Chalmers M. Roberts
Washington Post Staff Writer

A treaty to assure that outer space will be used solely for peaceful purposes has been agreed upon by the United States, the Soviet Union and other members of the United Nations.

This was announced yesterday by President Johnson at his Texas White House. Mr. Johnson called it "the most important arms control development since the limited test ban treaty of 1963" and an agreement of "historical significance for the new age of space exploration."

More Explicit Version

The treaty, as the President noted, is a more explicit version of the 1963 U.N. "no bombs in orbit" resolution. It will be submitted to the Senate for ratification soon after the new Congress convenes in

January.

The treaty has been under negotiation in the 28-nation U.N. Outer Space Committee but the talks have been principally between the United States and the Soviet Union. These New York discussions have been conducted by American Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg and Soviet Deputy U.N. representative Platon D. Morozov.

Achievement of the agreement despite the damaging effect of the Vietnam war on Soviet-American relations is being widely viewed as indicative of a desire by the two superpowers to limit the effects of the war on their relationship.

Normally a bilateral or multilateral treaty is announced by all nations involved simultaneously. But yesterday it was the President who broke the long-expected and long-awaited news. His statement, read by Presidential assistant George Christian, said Mr. Johnson was "glad to confirm on the basis of Ambassador Goldberg's re-

See SPACE, A8, Col. 1

port to me this morning" that the agreement had finally been reached after a final private meeting between Goldberg and Morozov.

Christian read the prepared statement only after a newsmen said there were rumors that the draft of the treaty was being circulated.

In Moscow, the Soviet news agency Tass reported the agreement by quoting the President's announcement. In Paris, French officials welcomed the treaty as a sign of East-West rapprochement. British sources also warmly welcomed the document.

Mr. Johnson has been especially anxious to win agreement on the treaty. He said yesterday that progress "commenced on May 7 of this year" when he had requested Goldberg "to initiate consultations" which resulted in "business-like negotiations" first in the U.N. committee in Geneva and later in New York.

No Sign of Opposition

There has been no sign of any Senate opposition to the treaty; hence ratification is unlikely to produce the lengthy hearings and bitter opposition which President Kennedy faced on the test ban treaty. Mr. Johnson also is hopeful of success in current negotiations for a treaty with the Soviets to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

The outer space treaty does not affect the use of intercontinental ballistic missiles which fly through space since they are surface-to-surface weapons. Nor will it affect the U.S. Air Force's manned orbiting laboratory (MOL). The Pentagon has taken the position that orbiting weapons in space would be far less effective as a military deterrent than are ICBMs; the Russians apparently have reached the same conclusion.

Also not affected will be reconnaissance satellites which both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. use to photograph each other's territory and other parts of the world.

Its Chief Effect

The chief effect of the new treaty is likely to be psychological; that is, to at least limit the area of potential nuclear warfare to the earth and to demonstrate Soviet-Ameri-

can willingness to cooperate despite Vietnam.

Soviet-American agreement was reached several weeks ago after the Russians modified an earlier demand for a "most favored nation" clause giving equal access to tracking station facilities in third countries, Robert H. Estabrook of The Washington Post reported from the U.N. But a last-minute French objection held up the announcement until Paris withdrew its demands on the urging of other nations.

Attitude Unclear

The attitude of Albania, China's ally in the U.N. and a member of the U.N. committee, was unclear. France and China refused to sign the test ban treaty but France is expected to sign this one. Estabrook reported that Manfred Lachs of Poland played an instrumental role in the evolution of the treaty.

The text of the new treaty picks up many paragraphs from the 1963 U.N. resolution and it follows the test ban precedent by making Washington, Moscow and London the places where other nations may sign. Signatory nations can propose amendments but neither the U.S. nor the U.S.S.R. would be bound by them unless each specifically agreed.

Any nation may withdraw by giving notice one year after the treaty enters into force. Such a withdrawal would come a year later. The treaty enters into force after five ratifications including those by the U.S., the Soviet Union and Britain.

It is expected that the U.N. General Assembly, perhaps next week, will endorse the treaty. France is said to be willing to co-sponsor a resolution of endorsement.

Key Treaty Provisions

Here are key provisions of the draft treaty on the peaceful use of outer space.

- No nation shall "place in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction" or install such weapons on the moon or other celestial bodies.
- Military bases and fortifications, testing of weapons and conducting military maneuvers are forbidden on celestial bodies. But military personnel may be used for peaceful pursuits.
- "There shall be freedom of exploration and use of outer space" for all nations and none may claim sovereignty. To verify peaceful uses, there shall be open access to moon stations subject to "reasonable advance notice" to ensure safety precautions.
- Every nation has "an unconditional obligation to help and to return astronauts" if they land elsewhere than planned. Launching states are liable for damages caused by their space vehicles.
- Arrangements for tracking stations will be reached bilaterally between nations with such requests "considered on the basis of equality."
- The exploration and use of outer space "shall be for the benefit of all mankind." Man's activities in space are subject to international law. The moon and other celestial bodies "shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes."
- All states should avoid harmful contamination of celestial bodies or adverse changes in the earth's environment due to space activities.

Text of Treaty against weapons in outer space. Page A10