

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

With regard to the demilitarization of outer space, the statement employs equally pressing and vigorous terms:

"The time is equally pressing for talks on space weapons. It seems that, where weapons are concerned, the only way to halt a race is to prevent its starting. Once the race is under way, agreement is far more difficult. And the winner enjoys only a few, insecure moments of victory before the other side catches up, leaving both to look back over yet more wasted human effort and ingenuity. There is no final advantage in the arms race. It is therefore crucial that a ban on weapons in the new theatre, outer space, be concluded at the earliest possible time, before it is once again too late."

The statement on which I have been commenting ends by putting forward a number of opinions, including the following:

"The role of the Secretary-General under the Charter requires him to confront any matter which may threaten international peace and security. It is my belief that nothing poses a greater threat to the international community than the continuing arms race, above all the nuclear arms race..."

"Many words have been spoken in the cause of disarmament. We are all aware of the goals, as outlined in the Final Document of the first special session..."

"Every person on this earth has a stake in disarmament. In the nuclear age, decisions affecting war and peace cannot be left to military strategists or even to Governments. They are indeed the responsibility of every man and woman. And it is therefore the responsibility of all of us in this chamber to break the cycle of mistrust and insecurity and respond to humanity's yearning for peace."