

(Mr. Dubey, India)

readiness to enter into negotiations to conclude a comprehensive agreement prohibiting what it calls a whole class of space attack weapons and to destroy the existing ones. This country has also, among other things, declared a unilateral moratorium on the launching of ASAT weapons in outer space which will remain in force so long as the United States acts in the same way. At the same time, in response to the United States Strategic Defence Initiative, the USSR has declared that in the face of a threat from space, it will be forced to take action reliably to guarantee its security. "The choice is not ours", to quote the USSR representative, "but we shall have to act to redress the strategic balance".

The members of the Western military alliance have taken differing, and at times ambivalent positions on whether they would support or remain aloof from the research effort connected with the "star wars" plan. Some of these countries have decided for the time being to remain aloof while others have declared that the "research programme is justified, politically necessary and in the interest of the overall Western security." The other day in this Conference, we heard a distinguished representative of a Western military-alliance country dismissing the new ABM system as a long-term problem and expressing his delegation's inability to express judgement on the contribution that it could make to stability. In any event, most of the members of this military alliance seem to be united in opposing any attempt which would foreclose the so-called defensive option. In the meantime, the multinational companies in these countries are busy making preparations and establishing contacts for climbing on the band-wagon and sharing a part of the largesse of the United States research programme irrespective of its implications and consequences for mankind. After all these political considerations are not expected to enter into the calculus of the profit motives of these companies. As Mr. George Ball, the former United States Under-Secretary of State, has said, "Star wars are now being generated not by ideology, but by good free-enterprise greed".

For any third country which is opposed to the extension of the arms race in outer space, it is clearly hypocritical to acquiesce into the research for the "star wars" weapons while pretending that actual weapons development would not come about.

The non-aligned and developing countries cannot afford such an ambivalent position because they would be mortgaging the future of their nations if they did not take an unambiguous position on this issue -- that is, go on emphasizing the importance and urgency of commencing negotiations for concluding an agreement or agreements to prevent the extension of the arms race in outer space. This position has been consistently supported by nearly 150 Member States of the United Nations for the past two years. It, therefore, came as a surprise to us when the other day we heard the distinguished representative of the United States say in this chamber: "Similarly, polemics to the effect that there is a need to establish an arms control régime in space are counter-productive and misleading". The censure contained in this remark is addressed not only to the position of the 150 Member States of the United Nations and hence to the general will of the comity of nations, but also to the American people themselves, a majority of whom, according to a poll taken in January 1985 for the Los Angeles Times, oppose the SDI. We do not see how genuinely-held views of as many as 150 Member States to undertake negotiation of agreement or agreements as an urgent objective in this