

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

of a draft treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from outer space against the Earth, submitted by the Soviet Union. This treaty not only identifies all relevant problems but also offers concrete solutions. It fully corresponds to the complexity of the subject. The draft clearly and unambiguously provides that no weapon of any kind whatsoever shall be put into outer space. The main question is not whether to work out one or several agreements. What we need is a comprehensive solution. The draft treaty submitted, which takes into account constructive considerations of other States, offers the Conference a good basis for negotiations, and in this negotiating process, it is up to everybody to propose amendments or supplements. To speak in clear terms: My delegation does not at all want to come to a situation similar to that which has been created by the opponents of a comprehensive test ban.

It only can serve a useful purpose to clearly spell out how things are going. Official statements of the United States Administration reveal its great efforts and the immense material means it is investing in the development, testing and production of different types of space weapons. In contrast, considerations of preventing an extension of the arms race to outer space and concluding international agreements are evidently for appearances' sake only. In substance those agreements and negotiations are rejected. Consequently, this Conference should invite the United States to reconsider its position and take into account what the great majority of States demand in the interests of international security and disarmament.

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(Mrs. Theorin, Sweden)

The latest United Nations General Assembly assigned to us the task, as a matter of priority, to address the question of the prevention of the arms race in outer space. The rapid technological development gives a particular sense of urgency to our work on this issue in the Conference on Disarmament. Our efforts to halt the arms race in outer space must not wait. Our task will be infinitely more difficult tomorrow if we fail to set our work in train today, at a time when enormous financial and scientific resources are already being used to fuel a threatening, destabilizing and expensive arms race in outer space.

This race touches upon fundamental aspects of international security. The major military Powers seem haunted by the temptation to seek security through an illusory invulnerability achieved by supremacy in space warfare. The consequence will however not be increased security. Instead the result will be increased insecurity.

Both the Soviet Union and the United States have carried out tests of antisatellite systems. There is a close link between development of ASAT weapons and ABM systems. The construction of dual-capacity weapons, which can be used against both satellites and ballistic missiles, is indeed feasible. Development and testing of ASAT weapons could also be used for the circumvention of the ABM Treaty.

The Conference on Disarmament should now respond to the task entrusted upon it by the General Assembly. We should prepare for urgent negotiations on an international treaty banning all space weapons, including weapons directed against targets in space. An ad hoc committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space should urgently be set up. Time is pressing.