

we really be sure that all this stuff is good for mankind and for peace? Closed space could make irrelevant the very idea of Open Skies.

I am convinced that we should urgently develop a system for verifying the activities of states in space. The advocates of continued existence of nuclear weapons like to talk about some crazy leader who might suddenly acquire a nuclear bomb, or missile, and threaten to destroy life on earth. This is a strong argument, but it belongs to the past.

Now that private companies are well able to launch space rockets and objects we can have absolutely no assurance that some company would not launch into space something that would make the world hostage to its ambitions.

It is extremely regrettable that, standing on the highest frontier of man's intellect, we do not have the gumption to observe elementary rules of safety.

Rigorous verification should be established, particularly on earth, to make sure that weapons do not find their way into space. Glasnost, in our view, must begin with research. We should seek to create an environment in which neither a state, nor a company, could launch into space anything unknown, any black boxes.

There is nothing unrealistic about the regimes of openness on land, on the seas, and in space. Many forms of verification and control have already been tested and are being successfully used in everyday practice. There are numerous promising concepts, methods, and proposals.

As regards the idea of Open Seas, we could agree to exchange information on fleet postures. We could send notifications of major naval exercises, movements of large naval formations, naval transfers of troops to areas that are close to the borders of other states, and invite observers to naval exercises and manoeuvres.

As for the regime of Open Space, we propose the establishment of an international space inspectorate as part of an international verification system to bar weapons from space, and the creation of an international space monitoring agency.

If we proceed from the principle of fairness and reciprocity which is as old as the world, we should have no insurmountable obstacles in developing measures and procedures that would truly open the skies, land, the seas and space.

During the recent talks with Secretary Baker in Moscow we reached agreement on mutual visits by experts to certain radars in our two countries. We regard this as an important step in building confidence.