

The Soviet Union is a firm opponent of competition in any arms race, including the space arms race. The efforts at present being undertaken by the USSR to prevent the militarization of outer space represent the continuation of a consistent policy specifically aimed at ensuring the utilization of outer space for the good of mankind. When blazing the first trails in space, as far back as in 1958 the USSR submitted a proposal in the United Nations providing for the prohibition of the utilization of outer space for military purposes.

Although it proved impossible at that time to find a radical solution to the problem of the non-militarization of space, important agreements were concluded in the 1960s and 1970s which substantially limited the possibilities of its military use. We refer to the multilateral treaties on the banning of nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water (1963), the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies (1967), the Soviet-United States Treaty on the Limitation of ABM Systems (1972) and a number of other agreements.

These instruments created favourable conditions for the first steps towards the establishment of mutually advantageous co-operation among States in outer space. Today, too, if the entry of weapons into outer space was effectively blocked, States would have an opportunity to unite their efforts and resources so that the results of the space activities of all States might serve not destructive but creative ends and contribute to the development of all peoples of our planet.

The USSR is in favour of such co-operation. It turns to all countries and peoples with a proposal to do everything in order to avert an arms race in space and to work together on its peaceful exploration and utilization for the good of all mankind.

One. The non-militarization of outer space, whereby States would refrain from the development (including scientific research work), testing and deployment of offensive space weapons and unite their efforts in peaceful space activities, would assist the expansion of mutual understanding and co-operation between them and promote the efficient use of mankind's material and intellectual resources. This would give fresh impetus to the development of science and technology and open up truly limitless prospects for the use of developments in space to assist the economic and social progress of peoples and the solution of the global problems facing mankind, including such urgent problems as eliminating famine and disease and overcoming the economic backwardness of developing countries by, among other things, providing them with assistance.

Global peaceful co-operation in space research would be organized and would develop on a rising curve - from the exchange of scientific and technological information and simple forms of co-operation to the pooling of States' existing possibilities for solving large-scale problems of space exploration.

Mankind would thus also be able to attain such long-term goals as the industrialization of near space in the sense of the integration of space complexes designed for various purposes into the terrestrial economies of States and the operation of orbital factories and plants for the manufacture of new materials and industrial products in the high vacuum of zero-gravity. The inexhaustible reserves of outer space, including the resources of celestial bodies and solar energy, would be placed at the service of man.