

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

the territorial integrity and political independence of States. It seems very hard to imagine how the specific case of outer space -- this common heritage of mankind -- could reasonably be linked with the notion of "territorial integrity and political independence of States". A more feasible alternative is the elaboration of a special agreement to provide immunity for satellites, which would specifically complement and enhance the general provisions of the Charter.

In my statement of 2 April this year, I dwelt in detail upon a valuable idea relevant to all measures providing for the non-introduction of weapons into outer space. I refer to the Soviet proposal of 3 February 1987 to establish an international inspectorate for the purpose of verifying such agreements. The concrete elements of this proposal deserve very careful consideration. The suggested team of international inspectors could serve to monitor the implementation both of an ASAT ban and of a comprehensive prohibition of the deployment of any other type of space weapons. The Ad hoc Committee should, in our opinion, take up the proposal seriously and examine, in practical terms, its specific provisions.

All the Ad hoc Committees are entering now that final stage of their proceedings in which delegations will start considering the respective reports. We hope that these reports will reflect some progress reached during the current session. My delegation believes that such a development could lay the ground for even more productive work in the following session of the Conference, which may well be the last one before the next special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.