

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

It is in this light that we evaluate the merits of the draft treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space which was introduced by the Soviet Union at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly and circulated in this Committee as document CD/274. Article 3 of the draft stipulates: "Each State Party undertakes not to destroy, damage, disturb the normal functioning or change the flight trajectory of space objects of other States Parties, if such objects were placed in orbit in strict accordance with article 1, paragraph 1, of this treaty".

Does this approach not cover the meaning of both relevant resolutions adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly? Is not it the right moment to start elaborating mutually acceptable measures regulating the conduct of States with a view to the latest developments and thus to prevent a new extremely dangerous and costly stage of the arms race in outer space? Or do we prefer to become helpless witnesses of the transformation of the Hollywood scenarios of "Star Wars" into a terrifying reality of our own civilization?

Our position on the creation of a subsidiary body on this item is well known. We note with satisfaction that practically all members of the Committee, with the notable exception of the leading western State, are in favour of purposeful discussions and negotiations on these issues. The draft mandate submitted by the delegation of Mongolia is a basis offering wide possibilities for various approaches to the matter. We believe that, bearing in mind the considerations presented by the delegations of Italy, Mexico, Sri Lanka and others in the course of the informal meetings, we should continue the consultations on a possible mandate for an ad hoc working group to be created before the end of the current session. This would mean that as early as next February we could proceed in a concrete manner with our discussion and negotiations, supported by national experts, as has been suggested by some delegations.