

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

"The Ministers supported serious negotiations on all issues under discussion at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament with a view to reaching concrete arrangements in that forum."

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The Bulgarian delegation endorses the view that this Conference is called on to exert active efforts for the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The solution of this problem is of key importance for the prevention of nuclear war and curbing the arms race.

Our delegation considers it necessary for the Conference to take a decision to set up an ad hoc committee on the question of prevention of an arms race in outer space. The basis of this ad hoc committee ought to be laid down by the provisions contained in resolution 39/59 of the United Nations General Assembly, introduced on the initiative of the socialist and non-aligned countries, and adopted almost unanimously. In our view, the Conference has no moral right to ignore the political will of 150 Member States of the United Nations.

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(Mr. Imai, Japan)

I should now like to comment on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

We welcome the announced commencement of talks between the United States and the Soviet Union which are to cover space arms as well. At the same time, as I have tried to emphasize in the earlier part of this intervention, we feel it will be extremely meaningful and useful to take up this matter at this Conference as a subject of multilateral concern and prepare for possible arrangements to take preventive measures in view of the rapid advances in space-related technology. We consider that it is one of our urgent tasks to establish an ad hoc committee for careful examination of this question.

In considering the prevention of an arms race in outer space, we should start with an accurate understanding of what kind of military activities are conducted there at present and can be foreseen in the future, what implication these have for the maintenance of national and international security and what problems are posed by the need for verification. Since space activities involve the latest achievements in science and technology, it will be impossible to keep such discussions completely in a non-technical arena.

As my country is making efforts to develop technologies for peaceful uses of outer space, we have a great interest in this subject and we intend to make endeavours so as to contribute to the work of this Conference in this regard.