

(Mr. Vorontsov, USSR)

negotiations on certain aspects of this problem. For instance, in our view, the Conference could engage in the businesslike consideration of the question of the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the Earth. After all, from outer space it is possible to select as a "laser target" not only Soviet cities, but any town in any "disobedient" country. The Conference could also consider the possibility of creating a system of international verification guaranteeing unswerving compliance with an agreement of the kind in question and, in particular, study the idea of an international inspectorate. Such an inspectorate, for instance, would have the right of access for the purpose of carrying out on-site inspections to all facilities designed for the launching and deployment in outer space of space devices and to the corresponding launch vehicles.

Bearing in mind as the ultimate goal the banning of the deployment of armaments in outer space, the Conference could begin the elaboration of partial, but important measures leading to this goal. In particular, the Conference could consider the possibility of drawing up an international agreement guaranteeing immunity for artificial Earth satellites which do not carry weapons of any sort on board. In this connection, it would also be desirable to study the possibilities of eliminating existing anti-satellite systems. For our part, we suggest banning weapon systems of the "space-to-space", "space-to-Earth" and "Earth-to-space" kinds. We should like to stress that the USSR, manifesting good will, continues to refrain from placing anti-satellite systems in outer space.