

(Mr. Fein, Netherlands)

During the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly the Netherlands delegation actively worked for the adoption of a draft resolution on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The General Assembly decided to entrust this important matter to the Committee on Disarmament. We would suggest that the Committee should adopt a two-phase approach to this complicated and rather sensitive problem. The first phase, during the Committee's spring session, would consist of a mapping effort aimed at establishing an inventory of all the problems which might crop up. To that end, next to giving statements in plenary and submitting working documents, the CD delegations might be well advised to hold a series of informal meetings with experts. After that, in the second phase, which might coincide with the CD summer session, further appropriate action could follow, e.g. the establishment of an ad hoc working group.

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(Mr. Issraclyan, USSR)

This year mankind will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the start of the exploration of outer space -- one of the greatest achievements of science and technology in our century. Unfortunately it has to be noted that outer space is becoming not only a sphere for the peaceful efforts of States in exploring and utilizing it but also the arena of an ever increasing military confrontation.

Since the very beginning of the space era the Soviet Union has consistently urged and it continues to urge that outer space should remain for ever clear and free from any weapons, that it should not become a new arena for the arms race and a source of aggravation of the relations among States. In the opinion of our country the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space would promote the achievement of these goals. We suggest the starting in the Committee on Disarmament of negotiations on this issue, as is recommended in resolution 36/99 of the United Nations General Assembly. The draft of such a treaty submitted by the Soviet Union at the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly could serve as a basis for the negotiations.

We would not object if the mandate of the working group were to include also the recommendations in General Assembly resolution 36/97 C concerning the negotiation of an agreement on the prohibition of anti-satellite systems. At the same time it must be clear that the main task facing the Committee is to solve the whole problem of the cessation of the arms race in outer space and therefore the question of anti-satellite systems must be examined in the context of other measures directed towards the achievement of this goal.