

(Mr. Komatina, Secretary-General of the  
Conference and Personal Representative  
of the Secretary-General)

"The prevention of an arms race in outer space, which is also on your agenda, continues to be an objective of major concern. The international community is legitimately interested in preserving outer space for peaceful purposes. Consequently, I trust that the Conference will be able, in its deliberations, to contribute to the achievement of mutual understanding and agreement. The consideration of this subject, like that of nuclear war and nuclear testing, illustrates very clearly the close linkage between bilateral and multilateral disarmament negotiations at the present time. Everything should be done to ensure that the approaches in one strengthen the prospects of progress in the other.

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(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

Much the same occurred in relation to the item "Prevention of an arms race in outer space", the resolution on which, No. 39/59 of 12 December, received the largest numbers of votes in favour, 150, with none against and a single abstention. In this resolution, the General Assembly stated that it was "gravely concerned at the danger posed to all mankind by an arms race in outer space, in particular the impending danger of exacerbating the current state of insecurity by developments that could further undermine international peace and security", and reiterated that "the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of such an arms race in all its aspects.

What I have referred to as the "justified impatience and ill-concealed indignation" reflected in many of the latest General Assembly resolutions, amply illustrated by the paragraphs I have just quoted, seem even more visible in the two documents to which I referred at the beginning of this statement, although without identifying them as I shall now do in chronological order: the statement made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 12 December 1984 before the plenary of the General Assembly when the latter took up consideration of the First Committee's reports concerning disarmament, and the New Delhi Declaration, adopted in the Indian capital a week ago, on 28 January, by the Heads of State or Government of six countries situated on three continents and two sub-continent: Argentina, Greece, India, Sweden, Tanzania and Mexico. In view of the importance which, in my opinion, these two documents possess, it is extremely desirable that they should receive suitable treatment; in this first statement I shall deal exclusively with the former, and shall deal with the latter in my next statement.