

(Mr. Dubey, India)

to naught and this Conference, which is solely responsible for translating the international community's concern with the development of deadly weapons into disarmament measures, remains locked up in a semantic battle as to the meaning and interpretation of the relevant phrases and provisions of the existing agreements.

We are no doubt grateful for the intelligence and patience of our colleague, Ambassador Alfarargi of Egypt, who performed his duties as the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on outer space with great skill and dedication. Despite his best efforts to take its work forward, the discussions in the Ad Hoc Committee lacked unity of purpose and focus. Consequently its report ends up by merely emphasizing the urgency of the subject and reiterating the determination of the Conference to exert all efforts to make progress in the 1986 session. The report reflects, to say the least, a collective involuntary self-deception on the part of the Conference in comprehending the true measure of the threat posed by space weapons to the international community. It is almost like an escape from reality -- a reality which is inexorably taking shape in the speedy gestation of the most dangerous space weapons ever conceived by mankind.

When the Conference resumes its work in 1986, it will not even have two years before the so-called research, as some reports point out, is slated to cross over to "testing and development of integrated systems". One can easily visualize that, in another two years, we shall be confronted with yet another set of refined semantics about what is "test" or what is "experiment" and what is field test in one mode or the other. All kinds of resources and ingenuity will be applied to make the second stage also look as innocuous as the first stage is made out to be, until the space-weapons systems are in place.

The non-aligned and neutral States have consistently taken the position that the development of space weapons and of an arms race in outer space must be prevented at all costs. They have called for undertaking negotiations within the forum of the Conference on Disarmament for reaching an agreement or agreements for this purpose.

This position is based on their firm belief that the planned space-weapon systems, some of which are already at an advanced stage of development, will take the nuclear arms race to a higher and qualitatively different level of escalation, may very well result in total armament and will be a positive disincentive to the current arms limitation and disarmament effort. A similar view was expressed by the distinguished representative of China, Ambassador Qian Jiadong, in his statement in the Conference on Disarmament on 15 August, when he said: "The 'star wars' plan was different in nature from adding a few nuclear warheads and changing a few types of missiles".

On the other hand, one of the super-Powers, the United States of America, has gone to great lengths in expostulating how the development of defensive weapons or the Strategic Defence Initiative was necessary for doing away with the nuclear menace for all time to come. It has, in the same breath, also emphasized how the development of these weapons is necessitated because of the alleged research efforts by the other super-Power, i.e., the USSR, to develop such weapons in a clandestine manner.

The USSR, for its part, has stated that it is not developing a large-scale ABM system or the basis for such a system. Moreover, that State has affirmed its