

(Mr. Meizster, Hungary)

At the present time item 5 on the agenda of the Conference, "prevention of an arms race in outer space", is becoming increasingly urgent. The United States is pressing on with the creation and production of space strike weapons, hoping, with the help of the so-called "Star Wars" programme, to achieve strategic superiority. The socialist countries' response to this policy is their programme of "Star Peace".

We resolutely call for the Disarmament Conference, which has an Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, to start specific negotiations on this subject. The proposals made by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries on banning space strike weapons and, as a first step, drafting and concluding an international agreement on ensuring the immunity of artificial Earth satellites and on banning the development, testing and deployment of anti-satellite systems, as well as eliminating those systems that already exist, create a solid basis for a satisfactory solution of this problem too.

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(Mr. Chirila, Romania)

As to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, we consider that the work this year of the Ad Hoc Committee and of the Conference in general have revealed yet again, and in a most convincing way, the political, legal, security, and also practical, reasons for reconfirming the urgent need to assign the Ad Hoc Committee in the future with a specific mandate for effective negotiations to elaborate one or more international legal instruments designed to prevent an arms race in space, in terms of all those aspects.

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(The President)

I will not take your time to outline in any detail what we may have achieved in this session of the Conference, as you are well aware of what has been accomplished -- our hopes, our expectations, our failures, our successes.

Assessments of the results differ in any event, if they fell short of our hopes, and even our expectations, none the less there is a widespread view that there were some positive and substantive developments which can be noted. There was also less antagonism, the atmosphere was healthier, and, as a consequence perhaps, there was more business-like work, more in-depth discussions, and greater clarification of basic arms control issues, even on such questions as outer space and a nuclear test ban. There are positive signs even on these last two issues, although not, I am sure, as much as we would all wish.