

(Mr. Meiszter, Hungary)

Today, I wish to devote my statement to a few aspects connected with item 5 of our agenda -- Prevention of an arms race in outer space. This is an item which my Government considers to be of major importance not only to the major Powers that are actively engaged in space activities but also to the entire community of nations irrespective of size or geographical location, degree of development or political creed. This is an item most extensively debated in all political environments, yet an item which, for various specific reasons, has not been allotted its proper place within this single multilateral forum for disarmament negotiations.

The prevention of an arms race in outer space is no doubt a task which par excellence should be tackled simultaneously in bilateral as well as multilateral frameworks. Consequently, its solution must be looked for and found in parallel fashion on both levels. An eventual "sudden spurt" by any one of the two fora should not cause any alarm in that dual "race", since the temporary advantage of one would only incite the other to redouble its efforts.

Hungary, as is well known, is not a space Power. Our participation in collective programmes for the exploration and utilization of outer space is only made possible through the friendly assistance of an actual outer-space Power. Due to the character of those programmes, and also to our own intentions, our participation in outer space activities is strictly peaceful in its nature. Let me recall that the Hungarian cosmonaut during his flight in space had, as one of his main tasks, to carry out experiments with an instrument of Hungarian design to measure and record man's productive capabilities in space.

I have found it necessary to mention all this in order to emphasize that my remarks are not made with the authority of an outer space expert, but as a result of a sober and practical-minded examination of the events of the last few weeks.

The tragic incident of the space shuttle Challenger has moved us all and given rise to meditation and reflection. We are, of course, fully aware that all research activities incur some risks, incidents may not be excluded, and