

(Ms. Theorin, Sweden)

This year has been proclaimed as the International Year of Peace. This proclamation should be a serious challenge to peoples and Governments to make all possible efforts for peace and disarmament.

There could not be a better occasion than this International Year of Peace,

To start negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty,

To begin the reduction of nuclear arsenals,

To prevent an arms race in outer space,

To finalize the chemical weapons Convention,

To bring the Stockholm Conference to a successful conclusion.

(Mr. Lechuga, Cuba)

There is blithe talk of fantastic investments to design space weapons when the world is deep in one of the most tragic economic crises for many a year, when the external debt of numerous countries is a noose that is strangling their opportunities to better themselves for many years to come, an external debt that even now cannot be paid off because, in the present situation, the economic capacity to do so is missing. And it is in precisely these circumstances that, with unparalleled wastefulness, funds are being allocated for such truly luxury projects, apart from what they signify in terms of aggravating international tensions, destabilizing the existing precarious balance and, consequently, making the achievement of peace more remote.