

(Mr. Yamada, Japan)

Today, I would like to address the question of outer space. While Japan has been improving space technology for peaceful purposes, it has always maintained the view that we should examine thoroughly the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We share the common wish that outer space, the last frontier for mankind, should not become the means or arena of armed conflicts. This wish is expressed in the United Nations General Assembly's resolution 1884 (XVIII), in which the Assembly "solemnly calls upon all States to refrain from placing in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, installing such weapons on celestial bodies, or stationing such weapons in outer space in any other manner".

To date, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have possessed by far the largest share of the technical ability to make practical use of outer space, for example, in communicating via electro-magnetic waves transmitted outside the atmosphere and in transporting various hardware or at times men into outer space. In this context, my delegation welcomes the fact that the Soviet Union and the United States have been engaged since 1985 here in Geneva in comprehensive bilateral arms control negotiations, including negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Furthermore, my delegation especially appreciates the resolution, with the establishment of the Ad hoc Committee at the spring session of the Conference on Disarmament in 1985, of the problem, which had been pending since 1982, of a subsidiary body on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. In the Ad hoc Committee last year we examined a wide range of substantial issues and, above all, exchanged concrete views on the legal issues, including the question of definitions.

I would like to make a few remarks on the relationship between the United States-Soviet nuclear and space talks and the discussions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation holds the general view that there is an organic interrelationship between the United States-Soviet bilateral negotiations and the multilateral arms control and disarmament negotiations. Given also the fact that the United States and the Soviet Union play a predominant part in current space activities, the progress of their bilateral negotiations has a