

(Mr. de la Gorce, France)

benefit from a violation or the evasion of the agreed limits. There is a need to this end for the rapid initiation of an effort at international consultation covering the following points:

- (1) The very strict limitation of anti-satellite systems, including in particular the prohibition of all such systems capable of hitting satellites in high orbit, the preservation of which is the most important from the point of view of strategic balance;
- (2) The prohibition, for a renewable period of five years, of the deployment on the ground, in the atmosphere or in space of beam-weapon systems capable of destroying ballistic missiles or satellites at great distances and, as the corollary to this, the banning of the corresponding tests;
- (3) The strengthening of the present system of declaration as established by the Convention of 14 June 1975 on the registration of space objects, with each State or launching agency undertaking to provide more detailed information on the specifications and purposes of objects launched so as to improve the possibility of verification;
- (4) A pledge by the United States and the USSR to extend to the satellites of third countries the provisions concerning the immunity of certain space objects on which they have reached bilateral agreement between themselves.

The action proposed by the French Government therefore aims to preserve the great prospects for progress held out to the international community by the peaceful use of outer space. It also seeks to preserve in the actual military sphere the observation, communication and monitoring tools that contribute to stability and, as a result, to security and peace.

We cannot resign ourselves to the introduction and proliferation in space of new weapons that would create serious risks of destabilization and would trigger a new and ruinous arms race.

#### ERRATUM TO CD/PV.263

On page 21 of the English version, paragraph 5 should read as follows:

Further, France, as a party to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, is very anxious that it should be observed. But, as the President of the Republic pointed out in his statement to the thirty-eighth United Nations General Assembly, that treaty provides only a partial response to the questions raised by the development of space technologies, since it only prohibits the permanent stationing of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.