

THE BASIC DIRECTIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL
CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL EXPLORATION OF OUTER
SPACE UNDER CONDITIONS OF ITS NON-MILITARIZATION

(Proposals by the USSR)

The breakthrough into outer space and the transition towards the practical utilization of its limitless expanses represents one of mankind's most outstanding scientific and technical achievements.

In the historically brief period which has elapsed since the launching by the Soviet Union of the world's first artificial Earth satellite in 1957 and the launching in 1961 of the space ship "Vostok" piloted by Yuri Gagarin, the planet's first cosmonaut, a gigantic leap forward has been made in the peaceful exploration of outer space.

Man has, in essence, begun to settle in near space. Today, hundreds of satellites are in orbit, along with permanent stations in which teams of scientific and technical experts, including international teams, relieve one another and work for months at a time. Interplanetary scientific stations are venturing out to the depths of the solar system. Systematic studies of the Moon, Venus and Mars are being conducted with the help of spacecraft. Mankind's horizons in space are becoming ever broader and greater.

However, the possibility of outer space being transformed into a source of grave military danger is now growing. Plans are being announced and actions undertaken aimed at the development and deployment of offensive space weapons for the destruction of objects in space and, from space, in the air and on the Earth, including the development of a large-scale anti-missile system with space-based elements.

The implementation of plans for the militarization of space would lead to an abrupt intensification of the nuclear threat and would deprive peoples of any hope that a day might come when nuclear weapons will disappear from the face of the Earth. More than that, the arms race would acquire a qualitatively new and still more dangerous dimension in every respect. It would consume colossal new resources, which could serve the peaceful development of mankind and the solution of the vital problems facing it.

Like a grave, incurable disease, militarization would strike at all spheres of space activity and create insurmountable obstacles blocking the development of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration of outer space.

The peoples and Governments of all countries must realize the scale of the task facing mankind and the full measure of their historical responsibility for resolving it.

We have reached a point in the development of civilization when either an age of large-scale exploration and utilization of outer space for the good of man will begin or outer space will become a source of lethal danger to man.