

The implementation of the so-called "Strategic Defence Initiative" which, paradoxical as it may be, is being advertised as a panacea for guaranteeing peace and security would, as a matter of fact, expand the arms race into outer space, and would inevitably increase sharply the danger of nuclear war and make the arms race irreversible.

It is high time that the Conference on Disarmament substantiated the claims about its own potential and fulfilled the intention of its founders that it should be a negotiating mechanism for reaching concrete agreements.

At the same time, it should be noted that the Conference is unlikely to overcome its difficulties if ideological considerations are introduced in the disarmament negotiations, and, instead of the question of prevention of nuclear war, we discuss which society is open and which one is not, or if negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space are replaced by a dispute as to which government is democratic and which one is not. It is high time that it was understood that the Conference on Disarmament has no chance of succeeding in fulfilling its tasks if one delegation continues to stick to the uncompromising principle of "take it or leave it".

No other conclusion can be drawn from the statement made last Tuesday by an authoritative representative of a leading Western nuclear-weapon State, Mr. Adelman. Obviously, this statement failed to meet the developing positive spirit in the Conference. My delegation believes that such statements could hardly contribute to the creation of an atmosphere propitious to our work. We reject the attempt to divert the attention of this Conference towards unfounded and one-sided interpretations of the issue of compliance with the existing disarmament agreements. We disagree with the approach which, on the one hand, seeks to create the impression that that delegation is ready to make headway on certain agenda items, notably the prohibition of chemical weapons, and on the other hand, embarks on voicing groundless accusations, thus poisoning the atmosphere of the negotiations, and insisting that its own draft convention should be the only basis for the Conference's work.

To heal the international situation, to cease the arms race, to prevent militarization of outer space, to eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth, all this is in the interests of each and every nation. In our opinion, this same lofty spirit permeates the Delhi Declaration, signed by State and Government leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania. We welcome it as a continuation of their joint document of 22 May last year, and as a new contribution to the disarmament efforts. We consider it of utmost importance that in New Delhi special emphasis was placed on the necessity of taking immediate measures so as to exclude the possibility of use of nuclear weapons and to prevent nuclear war.

The analysis of the decisions of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly clearly points to an increase in the aspirations and readiness of the overwhelming majority of United Nations Member States to reach genuine measures for disarmament. We look upon the General Assembly resolutions relevant to the agenda items of this Conference as a new stimulus for imparting more practical features to its work. The implementation of these recommendations would entirely correspond to the over-all policy-course of the Socialist countries on Conference issues, as reflected in the Communiqué of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, held in Berlin on 3 and 4 December 1984, where it is stated, inter alia,