

It is clear from the "Mexico Declaration" that you and we have a shared approach to the serious consequences which would ensue if outer space were to become a new arena for the arms race. Like you, we are convinced that space should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, in the interests of all mankind. This is the foundation of our country's recent initiative calling for the development of international co-operation in averting an arms race in space and promoting its peaceful use. At the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons we have tabled concrete proposals designed to ensure that space does not become an arena for military rivalry. We are in favour of strengthening the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-ballistic Missile Systems, which in present conditions constitutes the foundation of strategic stability, as well as full and strict compliance with all the provisions of that instrument, which has no specified date of termination. A matter of considerable significance in our view is early agreement between the USSR and the United States on banning space-to-earth and space-space strike weapons, prohibiting anti-satellite systems and destroying such facilities already possessed by the two sides. The Soviet Union is open to suggestions for solving this whole group of issues, and for seeking individual agreements which will ultimately lead to the goal laid down - a dependable means of blocking the path to the militarization of outer space.

In the "Mexico Declaration", you also touch on the question of a new Soviet-American summit. The Soviet Union is in favour of such a meeting. However, this new meeting should promote the normalization of relations between the USSR and the United States, improvement of the international situation and more rapid progress in the arms reduction talks. At such a meeting we would be prepared, for example, to sign an agreement banning nuclear tests. In brief, a meeting of the Soviet and American leaders should be really meaningful. This was the thrust of the understanding reached by the leaders of the two countries in Geneva.

In conclusion I should like to express my conviction that our joint efforts to curb the arms race and halt nuclear weapons tests will eventually be translated into concrete measures that will lead to attainment of that important goal.

Sincerely yours,

M. GORBACHEV