

(Mr. Tian Jin, China)

The resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session call upon the Committee to consider at its current session the question of preventing an arms race in outer space. In recent years, the two superpowers have been energetically developing military technology used in outer space. They have in their hands some outer space weapons which are near the operational stage. The fact that the arms race between them has already extended into outer space is another salient feature in the new round of their arms race.

The development of outer space weapons poses an additional threat to world peace and security and has aroused anxiety and vigilance in the international community. It is appropriate for the Committee on Disarmament to consider the issue of preventing the militarization of outer space. We hold that outer space, the common heritage of mankind, should be used for peaceful purposes in the interest of humanity. We are opposed to any military activities in outer space which jeopardize peace and security. At the same time, we are opposed to the practice of paying lip service to the prevention of the militarization of outer space while actually working hard to develop various types of outer space weapons.

(Mr. Summerhayes, United Kingdom)

Among the other items of business before the Committee to which we attach much importance is a subject commended to our attention by General Assembly resolutions 36/97 C and 36/99, namely, the question of further measures of arms control in outer space. My delegation hopes that this subject is to be included in the agenda of the Committee for this session and that time will be allocated in our work schedule for discussion of the technical issues which will have to be addressed in this new area of work.

(Mr. Sadleir, Australia)

Australia, in part because of geographical circumstance, has long been involved in the adventure of exploring outer space. It is a source of concern to us that that new frontier of man should not be abused. It was for this reason that Australia, at the recent General Assembly, co-sponsored resolution 36/97 C. We consider that, in this first half of its 1982 session, the Committee could best advance its work on the issue of outer space by engaging in a broad exchange of views on the question in all its aspects. This would enable the Committee to take, at a later stage, a more informed approach in dealing substantively with the topic.