

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

Another, negative trend in the development of international relations has also been clearly apparent in the world. The arms race has continued, development of the so-called "strategic defence initiative", meaning preparation for "star wars", has been actively instituted, and new, yet more dangerous kinds of weapon, especially binary chemical weapons and others, have been coming on to military assembly lines. Naturally, the opposition between those two tendencies could not but affect the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

On the one hand, as a result of the persistent efforts of socialist and non-aligned States, the Conference on Disarmament finally embarked upon the consideration of one of the most urgent problems of our time, the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We wish to express our satisfaction at the establishment of an ad hoc committee on this question and the great interest shown in it by States represented in the Conference. The main result of the Ad Hoc Committee's work must be considered the broad recognition of the enormous danger with which the transfer of the arms race to outer space is fraught. The overwhelming majority of States have expressed concern that the realization in practice of the so-called "strategic defence initiative" would have irreparable consequences for the fate of humanity.

(Mr. Ter Horst, Venezuela)

We were also able to establish the Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, which was expertly guided by Ambassador Alfarargi of Egypt. It is to be hoped that it will be possible at the 1986 session to move forward towards the achievement of substantive agreements in that Committee, which, like everyone else, we hope will be re-established.