

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

their disposal, as regards access to the exploration and use of outer space and the application of the practical results of such activity for the purposes of their economic and social development in accordance with their needs and without any conditions infringing their sovereignty. The proposed world organization could assume the role of co-ordinator on an international scale of the activities of other international organizations in the field of space.

In our view, such an organization could facilitate the effecting of the requisite verification of compliance with the agreements already concluded or to be concluded with a view to preventing an arms race in space. Such functions for an international organization would, in our view, be consistent with the repeatedly expressed wishes of a whole range of States.

With regard to practical matters, the USSR proposes the convening not later than 1987 of a representative international conference with the participation of, inter alia, the States having major space potential in order to review all aspects of the problem of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration of outer space under conditions of its non-militarization with a view to agreeing on the main lines and principles of such co-operation. The same conference would also consider the question of setting up an international space organization for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. The establishment in practice of that organization could be undertaken following the reaching of agreements effectively ensuring the non-militarization of space.

The Soviet Union's new proposal testifies yet again to the fact that our country, in a spirit of goodwill and conscious of responsibility for the fate of humanity, calls upon all countries to proceed jointly to the discharge of this truly historic task. We trust that the world's States will give every attention to the Soviet Union's new initiative. We are profoundly convinced that there is simply no other reasonable alternative than to institute co-operation among States in the peaceful exploration and use of space under conditions of its non-militarization.

Instead of plans for "star wars" the Soviet Union proposes a programme for "star peace" in which all the States on our planet could take part. Each of them would make its contribution to this noble programme and would derive benefits from it.

The new Soviet initiative is in the interests of the world community, of all countries and peoples. It is non-confrontational and is not aimed against anyone. Its implementation requires first and foremost a broad political approach and the setting aside of stereotypes and considerations connected with the search for instantaneous advantages and unilateral benefits. It is important that the positive experience acquired in the sphere of the peaceful exploration of space should not be cancelled out by military rivalry in this sphere.