

It is extremely regrettable that standing on the highest frontier of man's intellect, we do not have the gumption to observe elementary rules of safety.

If airplanes get certificates of air-worthiness, if pilots undergo strict medical check-ups and professional tests, such procedures must certainly apply to space objects.

Rigorous verification should be established, particularly on Earth, to make sure that weapons do not find their way into space. Glasnost, in our view, must begin with research. We should seek to create an environment in which neither a state nor a "company" could launch into space anything unknown, any "black boxes". What we need here is a kind of ecological expert board that would give a go-ahead to any space plans.

There is nothing unrealistic about the regimes of openness on land, on the seas and in space. Many forms of verification and control have already been tested and are being successfully used in everyday practice. There are numerous promising concepts, methods and proposals.

As regards the idea of Open Seas, we could agree to exchange information on fleet postures, send notifications of major naval exercises, movements of large naval formations, naval transfers of troops to areas that are close to the borders of other states, and invite observers to naval exercises and maneuvers.

As for the regime of Open Space, we propose the establishment of an International Space Inspectorate as part of an international verification system to bar weapons from space, and the creation of an International Space Monitoring Agency.

If we proceed from the principle of fairness and reciprocity which is as old as the world, we should have no insurmountable obstacles in developing measures and procedures that would truly make open the skies, land, the seas and space.

During the recent talks with Secretary Baker in Moscow we reached agreement on mutual visits by experts to certain radars in our two countries. We regard this as an important step in building confidence.

Now, a few considerations on the subject of our dialogue here.

There is no doubt that the Conference should begin movement towards agreement on an Open Skies regime. Even in its first phase specific results could be achieved. For example, a declaration of principles could be adopted, to serve as a basis for an agreement.