

(Mr. Komatina, Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations)

"The prevention of an arms race in outer space also remains an issue of great concern to the international community. I would urge that all the avenues open to you be explored to deal with the problem in all its aspects.

"I should like to stress once more the importance of concluding negotiations in the Conference on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament so that the results may be submitted to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

"I offer you my full support and best wishes for success in your efforts during the year that lies ahead. In view of the rethinking on primary issues of global concern now coming to the surface, it may well prove to be a formative year."

This concludes the message of the Secretary-General to the Conference.

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(Mr. Chnoupek, Czechoslovakia)

The next priority area of the negotiating effort which I wish to mention is that concerning the beginning of practical and effective work on matters relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. An issue of crucial importance to the maintenance of strategic stability in a context of nuclear disarmament.

We believe that a generally sound foundation has been laid for the Conference to proceed from general considerations to talks on concrete measures. Specifically, on prohibiting anti-satellite weapons and ensuring the immunity of artificial Earth satellites. The proposal for the establishment of an international inspectorate to examine objects to be launched into outer space also remains highly topical. We would like to believe that, given the practically unanimous demand for stepping up deliberations, it will be possible to expand the mandate of the Conference committee on this issue this year.