

(Mr. Turbanski, Poland)

The group of socialist States expresses its concern over the lack of progress, for yet another consecutive session, on one of the priority agenda items, namely the prevention of an arms race in outer space. In the light of the programmes of the United States military circles to deploy entirely new types of weapons systems in outer space, negotiations on preventing the militarization of outer space should start in the framework of this Conference at the earliest. The socialist countries draw attention in this context to the grave implications the development and deployment of new space weapons systems may have for the whole humanity and urge the delegations of the Western Group to take concrete steps in this respect before it is too late. They also emphasize the dangers involved in the United States plans to develop a space-based ABM defence system. Such a system cannot but further spur on the arms race in offensive weapons, make the strategic situation by far less stable and the first strike more probable. Therefore the socialist countries advocate an early start of negotiations on preventing the arms race in outer space in the framework of the Conference on Disarmament. They are firmly and invariably in favour of setting up an ad hoc committee on the subject with a clear negotiating mandate.

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(Mr. Kazemi Kamyab, Islamic Republic of Iran)

I would like to touch on the subject of the extension of the arms race into outer space which has become a matter of serious concern. At the present time there is evidence of the early stages of militarization of outer space and the super-Powers are already engaged in production and development of sophisticated war machinery for a "star wars" scenario.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that serious measures should be taken in regard to negotiation, preparation and adoption of a treaty banning the use of outer space for military purposes. The negotiations for elaborating this new instrument should be started as soon as possible. The trend of militarization of outer space should be halted and the arms race in this common heritage of mankind be prevented. Taking speedy and serious measures in this regard would be of immense service to humanity.

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(Mr. de la Gorce, France)

The French Government attaches fundamental importance to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the subject of agenda item 5. We have several times