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Turning now to President Reagan's statement which you have referred to: if what the President has said about readiness to negotiate is not merely a tactical move, I wish to state that the Soviet Union will not be found wanting. We have always been prepared to undertake serious and businesslike negotiations, and have repeatedly said so.

We are ready to embark on negotiations with a view to working out and concluding an agreement to prevent the militarization of outer space, including complete renunciation of anti-satellite systems, with a mutual moratorium - to be established from the date of the beginning of the talks - on testing and deployment of space weapons. This is precisely the way we formulated our proposal from the outset. Now it is for Washington to respond.

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