

will be taken as the threshold, an agreement will be reached on banning test explosions overstepping this threshold and then the threshold will be lowered by improving the verification capability itself.

Needless to say, the objective of this proposal is nothing but the acceleration of the process for a CTB, in view of the fact that no substantial progress has been made toward that goal over a long period. Therefore, in addition to improvement of technical verification capability, it should naturally be accompanied by a search for a means by which effective verification and inspection, based on trust among States, is made possible. I honestly believe that, in the present situation, this formula is the most realistic option left to us and I earnestly hope that it will open a way for an early realization of a CTB. I also take this opportunity to assure all of you that Japan is prepared to make available even further our advanced technology of seismic detection to increase the verification capability in this field, when such an approach has been accepted.

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It is already unrealistic even now, and it would not necessarily be desirable, to fix as the objective the complete demilitarization of space. It is, however, desirable and possible to achieve undertakings that would have the following features:

They would be limited, having as their objective the forestalling of destabilizing military developments without affecting the military activities that contribute to strategic stability and those that can be of assistance in the monitoring of disarmament agreements, account being taken of the joint nature of certain civil and military uses of space;

They would be progressive, with a view to limiting as a matter of priority those developments that would be likely to create a state of affairs that would be irreversible because it would not lend itself to subsequent verification;

Finally, they would be verifiable; all States must feel confident of respect for the application of such limitations and none must find itself in a position to benefit from a violation or the evasion of the agreed limits. There is a need to this end for the rapid initiation of an effort at international consultation covering the following points:

(1) The very strict limitation of anti-satellite systems, including in particular the prohibition of all such systems capable of hitting satellites in high orbit, the preservation of which is the most important from the point of view of strategic balance;

(2) The prohibition, for a renewable period of five years, of the deployment on the ground, in the atmosphere or in space of beam-weapon systems capable of destroying ballistic missiles or satellites at great distances and, as the corollary to this, the banning of the corresponding tests;

(3) The strengthening of the present system of declaration as established by the Convention of 14 June 1975 on the registration of space objects, with each State or launching agency undertaking to provide more detailed information on the specifications and purposes of objects launched so as to improve the possibility of verification;

(4) A pledge by the United States and the USSR to extend to the satellites of third countries the provisions concerning the immunity of certain space objects on which they have reached bilateral agreement between themselves.

The action proposed by the French Government therefore aims to preserve the great prospects for progress held out to the international community by the Peaceful use of outer space. It also seeks to preserve in the actual military sphere the observation, communication and monitoring tools that contribute to stability and, as a result, to security and peace.