

(Mr. Cámpora, Argentina)

attempts to regulate the activities of States in outer space. The most resounding achievement was the adoption of the 1967 Treaty. Other international instruments of a multilateral and bilateral nature were also adopted, but there is no need to mention them because they are well known to us all.

The beginnings of international co-operation in the peaceful use of outer space both within the United Nations and in a bilateral framework has given rise to a variety of agreements leading to the use of satellites of great importance for communications, weather forecasting, geographical and natural resource surveying, among other things. In short, today no one can imagine a world without the benefits derived from the exploration and peaceful use of outer space.

At the same time, however, space science and technology have aroused man's imagination to create instruments of war. This is where the Conference on Disarmament is faced with its specific responsibility, and it has therefore included item 5 in its agenda, whose purpose is to prevent an arms race in outer space.

World public opinion already knows that the space powers have steadily militarized outer space. However, the international community must certainly be interested in also knowing whether the militarization of outer space has reached the point of no return. This is a question which we raise in the Conference on Disarmament. It is a question which will receive a definitive answer in the near future, since later the situation will become irrevocable if the policy of the space Powers continues along current lines. When the point of no return is reached, outer space will be militarized once and for all, and then here, in the Conference on Disarmament, we shall have to alter the title of agenda item 5 which refers to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and change it to refer to cessation of the arms race in outer space and space disarmament.

We believe, most unfortunately, that we are not far from having to make such a change in our agenda, which would mean changing our objective of "preventing" for that of "halting" an arms race in outer space. When that time comes, and everything suggests that we are heading for it, it will be a moment of tragic symbolism for the members of the Conference on Disarmament.

This Conference is continually aware that the space Powers have set out to militarize outer space. This is an obvious conclusion inasmuch as our work on this item has been watered down in general discussions and it is impossible to attain the necessary consensus to set up competent subsidiary bodies to study and negotiate agreements to prevent the militarization of space.

The six heads of State, including President Alfonsín of my own country, have drawn attention to this in their Joint Message addressed to President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev on 28 February last, in which they said: "We are concerned, however, that no concrete measures have as yet been agreed which would help to prevent an arms race in space...".

At a time when disturbing trends in space armaments may be observed and events in that environment are rapidly transforming the destiny of mankind, the Conference on Disarmament must rapidly resume the substantive