

introduction of new weapon technologies into regions not directly concerned with either of the two major space Powers, further undermining their security.

10. There was also criticism by some delegations concerning the use of reconnaissance and surveillance satellites by space Powers to monitor strategically-vital information about countries that have no way of controlling or having access to such information. Furthermore, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the fact that there had been instances where satellites had been used in support of military operations against developing countries. In this view, that situation, which had important implications for the security of most countries, did not reflect recognition of the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, as stated in the preamble of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

11. Delegations of the group of socialist countries fully shared the view that outer space is the common heritage of mankind and that, consequently, its exploration and use should be preserved for exclusively peaceful purposes in order to promote scientific, economic and social development of all countries. They noted that up to the present, outer space has been an area free of weapons and that urgent measures have to be taken in order to prevent the extension of the arms race to outer space.

12. The same delegations emphasized that there was increasing concern at the threat of the spread of the arms race to outer space. In their view, this threat stemmed from the programme known as the "Strategic Defence Initiative", which is not a research programme as it is stated but aimed at the development and deployment in space of a new class of armament - attack space weapons.

13. These delegations elaborated on the adverse political, military, economic and other consequences that, in their opinion, an arms race in space would have. These consequences included destabilization of the strategic situation; increased threat of the outbreak of nuclear war; acceleration of the arms race in all