

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

Our agenda also contains an item of contemporary and certainly future concern. This is the need to prevent an arms race in outer space.

Outer space has already been used militarily and, under present circumstances, some of those uses have contributed to stability, especially while nuclear deterrence has constituted such a pervasive aspect of our international life.

But even those who are either wary of or withhold information relating to military activities in outer space do not seem to argue in favour of the transference of the arms race on Earth into outer space.

If we are truly serious about this objective, then we should seek it directly in both bilateral and multilateral negotiations designed to ensure that an arms race in outer space never occurs.

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It must be recognized that multilateral engagement in disarmament negotiations is essential. The consequences of marginalizing the multilateral process could be grave and have widespread effects, including upon the super-Powers.

It is clear that the super-Powers cannot achieve a ban on chemical weapons solely bilaterally, when so many other countries could manufacture those weapons.

They cannot prevent an arms race in space bilaterally when at least a dozen countries already have space capabilities.