

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

For the third year now a vast majority of delegations in this chamber have been calling for specific negotiations on another priority issue of disarmament — that of preventing an arms race in outer space. The Soviet delegation approaches this issue in the belief that the task of preventing militarization of outer space brooks no delay. And it has to be dealt with in a most radical way, before the menacing process of militarizing outer space becomes irreversible. As Comrade K.U. Chernenko pointed out, "on this issue there should be no room for propagandist tricks or for attempts at ensuring some temporary advantages for oneself. To prevent outer space from being militarized is a problem which is of importance to the whole of mankind".

On the basis of this understanding of the importance and urgency of the problem, our country has put forth a whole range of proposals, initiatives and draft documents aimed at preventing the arms race from spreading into outer space.

In particular, the Conference on Disarmament has before it an initiative of the Soviet Union aimed at prohibiting the use of force in outer space and from outer space against the Earth. A Soviet draft treaty on this issue has been referred to the Conference by a decision of the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session. The draft provides for a ban on the testing and deployment in outer space of any space-based weapons to be used against targets located on the Earth's surface, in the atmosphere and in outer space as well as for a radical solution of the anti-satellite weapons issue, and contains a number of other important provisions.

A treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in or from outer space would establish the non-use of force in outer space and from outer space as a political and legal regime, while at the same time providing reliable material guarantees for such non-use of force.

In the past three years those opposed to negotiations on preventing the militarization of space have used all kinds of pretexts to block the very possibility of progress towards that goal. But what we heard most often were statements about