

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

In order for humanity to be freed from the scourge of nuclear war, an arms race must be prevented in outer space. In one of the next meetings, my delegation will present in greater detail its position on item 5 of our agenda. Inasmuch as this issue relates to agenda item 2, I wish to say the following today: In January 1985, the USSR and the United States pledged "to work out effective agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on earth, at limiting and reducing nuclear arms, and at strengthening strategic stability". This pledge has become something of a generally recognized guideline and is now also reflected in various United Nations resolutions. No matter how you look upon it, the pledge rules out the deployment of arms in outer space and makes strict compliance with the ABM Treaty an absolute must. So, it is perfectly in line with the universal demand that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes only and not be turned into the arena of a new round in the arms race.

The SDI, in turn, is utterly incompatible with that pledge. The "Star Wars" concept not only endangers military stability and increases the risk of war, it is also the main obstacle to agreements on a drastic reduction of nuclear arsenals and their ultimate liquidation. Those who champion that strategy resort to misleading descriptions of the nature of the SDI and to untenable allegations of activities and intentions on the other side. Still, a simple question is insistently being asked the world over: why does space have to be stuffed with weapons if the aim is to advance the process of disarmament on our planet and if the very arms against which the SDI is supposed to offer protection will be eliminated in that process? The fact is there is no convincing answer to that question, unless one admits that one's real goal consists in obtaining military superiority and threatening the other side with a nuclear first strike capability or with new types of weapons designed to be fired from space.