

(Mr. de Souza e Silva, Brazil)

The consideration of the new item introduced this year in the agenda of the Committee, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, again reflects the confrontational aspect of the relationship between the two Superpowers, already evident in the formulation of the two resolutions adopted by the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly on the matter. Each resolution seeks to prohibit the development of specific space activities in which each side perceives the other as holding a technological edge. Brazil cautioned the First Committee last year about the possibility that the introduction in our agenda of an item on outer space might prove detrimental to the pursuit of efforts towards a structured treatment of item 2 (Nuclear disarmament) in the Committee. It seems now clear that our fears were not ill-founded. Last year, this Committee held an interesting, albeit inconclusive and oddly secretive, debate on item 2 of its agenda. During this first half of the 1982 session, however, the treatment of this priority item has gone no further than its mention in statements in plenary. My delegation, for one, views this development with the utmost concern, since the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament have been assigned the highest priority by the United Nations. We would again urge the Committee to devote adequate time to item 2 of its agenda at the forthcoming second part of the 1982 session.