

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

Member States made no effort to implement them. Among them are several like the four I have considered here, whose implementation is anxiously awaited by all the peoples of the Earth and a start could at least be made on them, should it still be necessary to make distinctions in this respect, by applying what the six Heads of State or Government stressed most particularly in the New Delhi Declaration when they said that "two specific steps today require special attention: the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and a comprehensive test ban treaty".

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(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

Mankind has entered the year of 1986, which was proclaimed the International Year of Peace by a decision of the United Nations. We see now favourable possibilities for overcoming the confrontational trends that have built up in world politics in recent years, for beginning to clear the ways to the curtailment of the arms race -- and first of all, the nuclear arms race -- on Earth and to the prevention of the appearance of weapons in outer space.

It goes without saying that the reduction and subsequent elimination of nuclear weapons are possible only in the event of the solution of the question of the prevention of the arms race in outer space, which rightfully occupies one of the central places in the work of the Conference on Disarmament. As M.S. Gorbachev stressed the other day, "The Soviet Union has been and remains an irreconcilable opponent, as a matter of principle, of the 'star wars' project. And that is not because the project is American. We in Moscow

regard this matter in the following way. It is impossible to create a universal space defence; it is, at best, an illusion and that from the technical, economic and political viewpoints. Any 'space shield' can, however, very easily be turned into a 'space sword'. And he who holds that sword may fail to resist the temptation to use it. That is the crux of the matter, that is the origin of our position, which is dictated by the interests of maintaining peace and by nothing else".