

(Mr. Wegener, Federal Republic of Germany)

My delegation has one common complaint vis-à-vis the two separate agenda items of nuclear testing and outer space: that important opportunities have been missed. I am speaking against the background of the well-known views of my delegation: we would like to see an appropriate negotiation process launched on both the conclusion of a comprehensive-test-ban treaty, and on those aspects of the prevention of an arms race in outer space susceptible to multilateral solution. Especially under these auspices it is to be regretted that an all-or-nothing mentality on the part of some has prevented us from taking in hand at least those important aspects on which all delegations could have agreed. In the field of nuclear testing we could have provided a major input into the future negotiations on a comprehensive test ban in the fields of scope, verification, and institutional issues; in the area of outer space we could have made our entry into this vital subject of the future with a well-structured process of taking stock of the existing legal and factual situation, identifying and assessing future negotiating needs. A small minority of delegations have prevented us from embarking on such useful accomplishments. They now have to face the responsibility that no work at all is done in fields which they themselves have proclaimed to be of great concern to them.

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(Mr. Fields, United States)

On 17 July, we agreed with the Soviet Union to expand and improve the operation of the direct communications link -- the "hot line" -- between the respective capitals to reduce further any risk of war arising from uncertainty or miscalculation. As President Reagan stated on that date, the agreement is a "good example of how we can, working together, find approaches which can move us towards a reduction in the risks of war". And we are prepared to accept without preconditions the invitation of the Soviet Union to meet in Vienna in September to negotiate and conclude agreements concerning the militarization of outer space, including anti-satellite systems and other aspects of this issue.