

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

Another of the major issues whose resolution brooks no delay is the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The threat of such a race exists, it is a real one, connected with the United States' desire to create space strike weapons which would form a large-scale anti-ballistic missile shield.

Many delegations at this Conference have pointed out the destabilizing and dangerous nature of the American "Strategic Defence Initiative". This is something which should be mentioned over and over again. Many politicians, scientists and military specialists emphasise that the creation of space strike weapons would be an insurmountable obstacle to achieving agreement on the limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons. This stems quite obviously from the link between defensive and offensive strategic weapons. There can be no rules in a space arms race. Any measure, any stage in the race will inevitably be followed by countermeasures from the other side, and the arsenals of both offensive and defensive arms will swell.

The inclusion in the structure of the strategic forces of one or of both sides of one more qualitatively new component, such as a large-scale ABM system with space-based components, confuses the entire system of evaluating the strategic balance and creates further difficulties for calculating the power relations of the partners in the negotiations. In addition, most likely, as already occurred in the case of strategic offensive weapons, developments in this sphere, (by the two leading nuclear Powers will take different paths, which will further increase the assymetry in the strategic forces of the two sides, and makes it all the more difficult to compare them. This assymetry will prove even greater if one takes into account the potential means of countering the space-based elements of an anti-missile system, as well as of the systems which may in turn be developed to counter those means. And this leads to the familiar circle: weapons -- counter-weapons -- counter-counter-weapons and so forth ad infinitum.

The SDI advocates assert that it is really only a research programme. However, the scale of the activity and the specific programmes and facts indicate precisely the contrary. For example, it was announced that at the White Sands test site in the United States a stage of a Titan rocket was hit