

(Mr. Kornienko, USSR)

Banning research deliberately aimed at the development of space strike arms and effectively verifying such a ban is quite possible. A common will is all that would be required. Opening the laboratories concerned for verification would be enough, and the Soviet Union is ready for that. For instance, if someone ventured to violate the ban on the development of space strike arms the fact would inevitably become known, since to prevent such research from reaching a dead end, tests outside the laboratory would be needed, which cannot be carried out in secret.

While on the question of the objective interrelationship between the questions of strategic nuclear arms and space strike weapons, I wish to stress, at the same time, that the Soviet nuclear disarmament programme is structured in such a way -- and this is yet another of its distinctive features -- that the nature of the interrelationship between its various components is different, with regard to some of them no solutions are possible without simultaneously resolving other issues, but in other cases certain measures can also be implemented independently.

In other words, our programme does not in any way rule out the possibility of discussing and finding generally acceptable solutions to a number of important problems outside its framework as well.

For instance, the Soviet Union's previously expressed readiness to reach agreement, without a direct linkage to space and strategic arms, on reducing Soviet and American intermediate-range missiles in the European zone also remains valid today as far as the option to cut down these missiles to zero is concerned, which is also included in our programme.

In this context it is envisaged that both the United States and the Soviet Union would actually destroy those missiles rather than redeploy them in other areas, or transfer them to any other country, just as they cannot transfer their strategic missiles. We have not heard any reasonable arguments against this. The same is true of the proposal that along with the destruction of all Soviet and American medium-range missiles in the European zone, any further build-up of the relevant British and French nuclear arms should be stopped.

The problem of preventing an arms race in outer space, which is on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament, certainly remains important in its own right. It is our firm belief that the Conference should continue to work on that problem, and the more active and effective that work is the better. It will facilitate rather than impede the solution in the Soviet-American negotiations of the problem of banning space strike arms in its interrelationship with the question of reducing and eliminating strategic nuclear arms.

A major step in that direction could be taken, in our view, by working out at the Conference an international agreement on ensuring the immunity of artificial earth satellites and on banning the development, testing and deployment of anti-satellite systems as well as eliminating those systems that already exist.