

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

We are convinced that an agreement on a multilateral basis banning the use of force against satellites corresponds to the interests of all countries -- those that launch satellites into orbits, as well as those using the services of satellites. In submitting the proposal concerning such an agreement the USSR is taking into consideration the positions of many States members of the Conference which at this and previous sessions have advocated the establishment of a régime for the protection of satellites and the banning of anti-satellite weapons. They include Sweden, France, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sri Lanka, India and others. An international legal guarantee of the inviolability of satellites would be a factor strengthening strategic stability.

It is quite obvious also that such an agreement on a multilateral basis would be an important contribution by the Conference on Disarmament to the prevention of an arms race in outer space and would contribute to progress at the bilateral Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons as well. It would seem that in the circumstances, when there are no weapons in outer space, negotiations aimed at the elaboration of a text of such an agreement should not face insurmountable difficulties and they can be conducted so as to produce positive results in a relatively short period of time.

The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, M.S. Gorbachev, said at the 27th Congress of the CPSU: "It is imperative, before it is too late, to find a realistic solution guaranteeing that the arms race does not spread to outer space. The 'star wars' programme cannot be allowed to become a stimulus for a further arms race or a road-block to radical disarmament." The proposal to conclude an agreement on the immunity of earth satellites, and on the prohibition and elimination of anti-satellite systems, is further evidence to the effect that the Soviet Union is actively seeking constructive solutions which would lead in practice to the prevention of the arms race in outer space and to its cessation on Earth.

An agreement to ensure the immunity of space objects would not, understandably, solve the problem of the prevention of the arms race in outer space in all its dimensions. However, it would be an important step in the direction of the complete prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the Earth. That would be a step from "star wars" to "star peace".

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(Mr. Campora, Argentina)

Space science and technology have launched man into the conquest of space. A few countries with greater capabilities are in the vanguard of that conquest, while the vast majority of countries are taking part to a different and lesser degree. The international community has obtained limited results in its