

(Mr. Erdembileg, Mongolia)

The Mongolian People's Republic, as a peace-loving Asian State, together with the majority of countries of that vast region has consistently advocated and still advocates the preservation of peace and stability, the application of confidence-building measures and the maintenance of good-neighbourly relations among the States of the region. At the same time it is seriously concerned at the aggravation of the situation on the Asian continent owing to aggressive actions of the forces of international imperialism and reaction, which are trying to achieve military superiority by forming a new military and political alliance and by building up militarization and, from a position of strength, attempting to dictate their will to sovereign States.

The Joint Declaration by the Heads of State or Government of six countries — Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania — addressed to all nuclear-weapon Powers received broad support in the Mongolian People's Republic. The recent Statement of the Soviet Government on the Joint Declaration was received with satisfaction in our country. Reaffirming the principles upon which its peace-loving foreign policy is founded, the Soviet Union stated that:

Prevention of war must become the main goal, a compulsory standard for the conduct of all nuclear Powers irrespective of the size of their nuclear arsenals;

The nuclear Powers must under no circumstances use nuclear weapons against those States that have no such weapons on their territories;

It is important not to permit any further spread of nuclear weapons to those parts of the world where they do not exist and not to carry the nuclear arms race into new spheres, including outer space.

The question of prevention of the militarization of outer space has become increasingly topical of late. And that is perfectly right and proper.

Under modern conditions, when the latest scientific and technical developments are being widely used in all fields of human activity, the task of maintaining a peaceful outer space and of forestalling the threat of the spread of the arms race to outer space is assuming ever greater significance. There exists a real threat that the near future may see the development and deployment of space weapons which, on the one hand, may create in certain quarters the illusion of obtaining advantage through a first nuclear strike, and, on the other hand, would essentially undermine the possibility of taking immediate steps to prevent an arms race in outer space through international legal instruments, having appropriate verification machinery. To be faced with such developments would be exceptionally dangerous.

We ask ourselves is there a possibility of preventing such dangerous developments? In our view, a real possibility of doing so exists. The important point in this matter is the timely adoption without delay of effective measures to avert the militarization of outer space.