

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

Then, why do some circles need a new spiral of the arms race in outer space?

The American magazine Business Week gives the following answer to this question: "Whoever manages to seize control of outer space -- the main arena for future wars -- will be able decisively to change the balance of power and this will mean the establishment of world supremacy".

The Soviet Union has constantly opposed the conversion of outer space into an arena for the arms race, and it continues to do so. On 18 April 1981, President Leonid Brezhnev stated: "Let the boundless ocean of space be unsullied and free from weapons of any kind. We wish by joint efforts to achieve a great and humane goal -- the prevention of the militarization of outer space".

At the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Soviet Union made a proposal aimed at preventing the extension of the arms race to outer space and the conversion of outer space into a source of aggravation of the relations between States. To that end it urged the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space. We propose that States undertake not to place in orbit around the earth objects carrying weapons of any kind, not to install such weapons on the celestial bodies and not to deploy them in any other manner, including on reusable manned space vehicles of an existing type or of other types which may be developed in the future.

The draft treaty also deals with the question of the prohibition of anti-satellite systems, the solution of which is urged by a number of States. Article 3 of the draft treaty proposed by the Soviet Union contains an undertaking not to destroy, damage, disturb the normal functioning of or change the flight trajectory of space objects of other States parties to the treaty, if these objects were placed in orbit in strict accordance with the provisions of the treaty.

We propose the initiation of negotiations on this matter in the Committee without delay and the establishment of an ad hoc working group to this end. We would not object if the mandate of the working group were to include also the recommendations in resolution 36/97 C of the General Assembly with respect to negotiations on the prohibition of anti-satellite systems. At the same time we believe that the Committee's main aim should be to solve the problem of the elimination of the arms race in outer space as a whole, and therefore the question of anti-satellite systems should, of course, be discussed in the context of other measures aimed at achieving this goal.

(Mr. Hollai, Hungary)

Before concluding this review of my Government's position on some of the major problems of arms limitation and disarmament, I wish to mention that we fully support the proposal made by the Soviet Union at the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly for the earliest possible conclusion of an international treaty aimed at preventing outer space from becoming a new arena of the arms race. We hope that all the members of the Committee realize the great danger that would face mankind if another sphere of vital interest to all States got involved in the arms race.