a system called the Miniature Homing Intercept Vehicle (MHLV), which uses a small vehicle carrying an infra-red sensor for guidance, can ram and destroy the target by scattering small metal particles which collide with the target. A missile could also be launched from an aircraft; the missile would be selfguided and would destroy the satellite upon impact. Missiles can thus be launched from any position, and would be less vulnerable than a laser weapon placed in outer space. The space shuttle could easily transport nuclear weapons, and move from orbit to orbit to attack other satellites.

## f) Aerospace Transportation Systems and Space Stations

The importance of the space shuttle system lies in the fact that it will enhance the effectiveness of military satellites. Compared with the existing expendable boosters, the shuttle will be able to launch greater payload weights and volumes. The shuttle system not only allows the recovery of satellites for reuse but also enables satellites to undergo repairs in orbit.

Among its most important tasks, one could mention:

- Satellite servicing, <u>i.e.</u>, inspection, examination, repairs, neutralization and destruction of satellites;
- 2) Placing combat equipped platforms for anti-satellite systems or anti-ASAT systems.

12.