

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

The Soviet Foreign Minister, E. Shevardnadze, and United States Secretary of State Shultz, as you know, signed an agreement between the USSR and the United States on co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, providing for joint activities between Soviet and United States scientists in exploration of the solar system, space astronomy and astrophysics, Earth science, the physics of solar-terrestrial communications, and space biology and medicine. There was a productive and substantive comparison of views on other issues of bilateral co-operation which singled out new possibilities for its development and expansion. The visit included a discussion on issues connected with the state of affairs at the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons, and in particular the question of challenge inspection. The Soviet side pointed out that only a few issues are outstanding at the negotiations, and if we focus our efforts the prospects which are opening up are both real and promising.

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(Mr. Monshemvula, Zaire)

The delegation of Zaire hopes that outer space will be explored and used solely for peaceful purposes, and that the exploration and use of outer space will be conducted for the benefit of mankind as a whole. The provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space should be strictly applied. Moreover, paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly of 1978 advocates new measures and international negotiations in this area. The General Assembly also called upon all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to refrain, in their activities relating to outer space, from actions contrary to the observance of the relevant existing treaties.

An arms race in outer space would have incalculable consequences and would render obsolete certain international agreements prohibiting the placing of nuclear weapons in orbit around the Earth or on celestial bodies. The Conference should do its utmost to conclude agreements which can be

complementary to the provisions of the 1967 Treaty relating to the exploration and use of outer space. Likewise, respect for commitments entered into by the two major nuclear Powers under the ABM Treaty would ensure greater security and increase confidence among all States on the planet.