

(Mr. Schori, Sweden)

reconnaissance into the future, but it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the bringing of space into the military confrontation and tension can only lead to a new and dangerous upturn in the seemingly endless arms race. Space should be preserved for peaceful uses and peaceful co-operation.

Anything that may endanger the existence of the ABM treaty risks to have a destabilizing effect on international relations and should thus be avoided until a better and more stabilizing arrangement can be found in the field of arms control and disarmament.

The bilateral talks between the Soviet Union and the United States have, inter alia, the declared purpose of covering the question of the prevention of an arms race in space.

However, it is obvious that a meaningful comprehensive agreement on the prevention of an arms race in space cannot be reached exclusively on a bilateral level. An ASAT ban not adhered to by all States with an ASAT capacity would make many important satellites potential objects of attacks. It would also leave the satellites of the Soviet Union and the United States vulnerable to attacks by ASATs of a third State. A multilateral approach to ASAT weapons would thus be in the interest of all nations. The decision to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space is therefore one of the most positive recent developments in the Conference.

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(Mr. Lowitz, United States)

In the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, its Chairman, the distinguished representative of Egypt, Ambassador Alfarargi, guided its work well as it began an exploration of the issues under its mandate and within its programme of work. It is, accordingly, with great regret that we have witnessed the unfortunate exercise in which the Committee has become ensnared in preparing its report, despite the dedicated efforts of the Chairman and the secretariat. This certainly does not bode well for the future. My delegation will want to consider carefully the full range of outer space issues during the break, bearing in mind the complementary nature of our efforts to the bilateral negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union.