

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

Most delegations paid greatest attention to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. That fact deserves to be stressed in particular. It reflects an ever growing awareness of the adverse consequences of the militarization of outer space for the security of mankind. We noticed that the majority of delegations at the Conference rejected the adventurous "Star Wars" plans and favoured the use of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes.

The broad discussions in the Ad Hoc Committee showed the urgency of starting as soon as possible negotiations on the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, taking into account all relevant proposals and future initiatives as requested in United Nations resolution 39/59. We consider the Soviet draft treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the Earth as a solid basis for such negotiations. Speaking of the prevention of an arms race in outer space, we wish to thank the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Ambassador Alfarargi of Egypt, for the great efforts undertaken by him. The socialist countries regret very much that due to the position of one group of States the Conference was again prevented from establishing relevant Committees for negotiating on priority questions, such as a nuclear-weapon-test ban, the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament, and the prevention of nuclear war.

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(Mr. Qian Jiadong, China)

The establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space is a positive aspect of the current session. The Committee has done useful work under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Alfarargi of Egypt. The exchange of views on issues related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the preliminary deliberations on relevant international legal instruments as well as proposals put forward by various delegations have helped to make a good start for future deliberations and negotiations. However, from the profound differences of opinion of various delegations in the course of the session, particularly the differences which emerged during the discussions on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, one can see that arduous tasks still lie ahead on the prevention of arms race in outer space.