

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

Ideas such as those which abound in the statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations upon which I have just finished commenting deserve, in our opinion, serious reflection, especially on the part of the representatives of the nuclear-weapon Powers, above all those of them possessing the biggest arsenals of these terrible instruments of mass destruction, as we begin this session in the year of the fortieth anniversary of the birth of the United Nations and of the destruction of Hiroshima through the explosion of the first atomic bomb. It is to be hoped that this reflection may provide salutary inspiration for this Conference on Disarmament to be able fruitfully to undertake the work entrusted to it.

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25-26

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

Lastly, while speaking of the priority issues on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament it is impossible to overlook the question which life itself has today placed at the centre of the struggle against the nuclear threat, the struggle for disarmament. I mean, of course, the question of preventing an arms race in space.

The Soviet Union's view that to resolve the problem of the non-militarization of space is today of prime importance to the cause of preventing nuclear war and curbing the arms race received practically unanimous support at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The dialectics of the nuclear space age are such that unless a solid barrier is erected against an arms race in space, there can be no hope of halting it effectively on Earth. The Soviet delegation therefore proposes to seek the establishment by the Conference of an ad hoc committee on the prevention of an arms race in space. The basis for the mandate of that body should be the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 39/59, adopted on the initiative of the socialist and non-aligned countries by the votes of 150 States, or virtually the whole international community.