

(Mr. Erdembileg, Mongolia)

According to the United States review "Aviation Week and Space Technology", reusable spacecraft have been given the role of a connecting link between military centres on Earth and orbital operational stations, programme development for which has already entered the final stage.

From Press reports it transpires that the Pentagon strategists have also assigned the "Shuttle" programme a substantial role in the activation of military reconnaissance from space. Use will be made for this purpose of artificial satellites placed in orbit by a remote manipulator.

In short, there exists a real danger of the unleashing of an arms race in space. The world community naturally cannot remain indifferent in the face of such an escalation of activity to implement plans for the militarization of outer space designed to undermine the existing military balance and to initiate yet another spiral of the arms race including space weapons.

It should also be pointed out that the stationing of new types of weapons in outer space would have the most negative effect on co-operation among States in the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes, the fruits of which the international community is enjoying on an ever-increasing scale. In that connection, I should like particularly to emphasize the great importance of the results of the activities of socialist States within the framework of the "Intercosmos" programme.

A year ago, there occurred an event of special significance in the life of the Mongolian people -- the joint Mongolian-Soviet space flight, as a result of which successful scientific research of exceptional importance to Mongolia's national economy was carried out.

In the light of the foregoing, the Mongolian delegation considers the Soviet Union's proposal to be timely and appropriate to the demands of the existing situation.

In saying this, I should like to stress that, in our view, this proposal pursues, inter alia, the important aim of halting the arms race as regards its main trend, that of the further qualitative refinement of weapons through the use of scientific and technological progress.

As is known, the General Assembly also approved resolution 36/97 C, which includes, inter alia, a request to the Committee on Disarmament to consider the question of conducting negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and, in particular, the prohibition of anti-satellite systems.

In that connection, my delegation shares the view of those who have expressed a wish to examine the question of anti-satellite systems in the context of other measures aimed at an over-all solution of the problem of preventing the spread of the arms race to outer space. That question is, moreover, taken into consideration in article 3 of the draft treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space as submitted by the Soviet Union and referred to in General Assembly resolution 36/99.