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## PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

### Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 12 December 1985, the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/87, the operative paragraph of which, inter alia, reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

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"1. Recalls the obligation of all States to refrain from the threat or use of force in their space activities;

"2. Reaffirms that general and complete disarmament under effective international control warrants that outer space shall be used exclusively for Peaceful purposes and that it shall not become an arena for an arms race;

"3. Emphasizes that further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space should be adopted by the international community;

"4. Calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and to take immediate measures to prevent an arms race in Outer space in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and Promoting international co-operation and understanding;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit their View<sup>6</sup> on the possibility of enhancing international co-operation in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space and the peaceful uses of outer space, including the desirability of establishing relevant machinery for that purpose, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session."

2. Pursuant to the above request, the Secretary-General has to date received replies from Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Finland, German Democratic Republic, India, Nepal, Netherlands (on behalf of the States members of the European Community), Poland, Seychelles, Sweden, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Viet Nam, which are reproduced in section II below. Other replies will be issued as addenda.

If. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[10 April 1986]

1. The Argentine Republic continues to **take the keenest** interest in **this** **question**. **Its** Government **feels that the matter should be** dealt with in a framework of **co-operation** and exchange of technological information **that** would provide a complete picture of **the activities** of States in outer space and **make** it possible to identify **them** precisely.
2. it is **the** traditional **position** of **Argentina** that **outer space** should be preserved **as the common** heritage of mankind for the benefit of all **States**, irrespective of their degree **of economic or scientific** development.
3. The Delhi Declaration (see A/40/114-S/16921), signed **by the** Heads of State **or** Government of Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania, and **by** President **Alfonso**, sets forth this principle clearly, and likewise calls for the prohibition of **the** development, **testing**, production, deployment and **use** of space **weapons**. The Declaration **also recalls** that **such** activities would be enormously costly, **a matter of the greatest importance**, particularly in view of **the** relationship **between** disarmament **and** development.
4. All military **uses of space** should be prohibited, **since an arms** race in space would **certainly create** a threat **not only** to military alliances **but, as in all** **aspects** of the **nuclear arms race**, to all mankind.
5. In that connection, the Argentine Republic considers **that** it would be very useful to **have a** periodic report on **the progress** of the bilateral **negotiations**, so as to render easier and more effective **the work of the** Conference on Disarmament and of **the** existing forums dealing **with the** principles governing **the activities** of States in the exploration and **use** of outer space.

BRAZIL

[Original: English]

(30 April 1986)

1. With reference to paragraph 5 of resolution 40/87, Brazil **has** shared the universal concerns **expressed** in multilateral **forums** regarding the extension to new environments of the **arms race between the** super-Powers, especially **when** prospects of the **militarization** of **outer space** seem quite feasible,
2. Assuring **the** right of all **countries** to partake in the crucial decisions on **disarmament** through **the** strengthening of **the** role **of the** United Nations and its specific organs is a traditional position of **principle** taken by the Brazilian

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delegations to the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament= Brazil **thus** considers timely and significant the creation, under the **auspices** of the Conference on Disarmament, of the Ad Hoc Committee **on** the prevention of an arms race in outer **space**, albeit its mandate **does** not **as yet provide** for actual negotiations.

3. Regarding paragraph 17 of the same **resolution**, the Brazilian Government will restrict itself for the time being to **noting the tendency in the** study to consider as "peaceful" the **uses** of space for strategic maintenance (military observation satellites, missile guidance and strategic communications).

4. In the view **of** the Brazilian **Government**, the usage of the term "**peaceful use**" at the international level **may be** prejudiced by the lack of **legal** studies, which should be unlinked to theories of nuclear deterrence, and **thus** merits more comprehensive consideration in the study.

#### BULGARIA

[Original: Russian]

[3 April 1986]

1. The people and Government of the People's Republic of **Bulgaria** warmly welcome the fact that, as a result of the collective **efforts** of the overwhelming majority of **States** Members of the United Nations, the General Assembly at its fortieth session drew up and adopted **a** resolution on the prevention of an arms race in outer **space** - an issue of decisive importance for the present and future development of mankind. Our country **shares** the conviction, expressed in the **impressive** support for that resolution (40/87), that its full implementation **would ensure that outer space** is reserved exclusively **for peaceful activity**, for the good of all countries and peoples.

2. Bulgaria considers that preventing the **militarization** of outer space is now a task **of** the utmost importance, which should be the focus of the international community's efforts to eliminate the threat of **nuclear** war. Prospects for **achieving** meaningful agreement on genuine measures **for** the elimination of nuclear **weapons** and appropriately and effectively verified **disarmament** depend to a large extent on the results of those efforts. In **today's world**, **strategic balance** depends on the successful **outcome** of the **struggle to prevent** the conversion of outer space into an arena for a new and **extremely** dangerous **arms** race.

3. The international community is not starting **from scratch** in its struggle for peace in outer space. In the **1960s** and **1970s**, agreement **was** reached on certain measures to limit the military use of outer space, significant among them being the 1963 Moscow Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water, the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and other multilateral and bilateral agreements.

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4. The People's Republic of Bulgaria and **the other** socialist States, all of **them** peace-loving countries, consider **that** efforts in this area **must not cease**. All channels for the introduction of weapons of **any sort** into space **must be** successfully **and** permanently **cut off**. Bulgaria supports **the** constructive **and** comprehensive approach of **the** Soviet Union on the issue of **the** non-militarization of outer **space**, which found practical expression in the draft agreements which **that country** submitted in 1981 and 1983, its initiatives at **the** thirty-ninth and fortieth session<sup>8</sup> of **the** General Assembly of **the** United Nations, its unilateral commitment not to be the first to place anti-satellite weapons in space, and **the** proposal to prohibit **the** development, testing and deployment of space strike weapons, which it presented **at** the Soviet-American talks at Geneva. The programme for nuclear disarmament involving a ban on space strike **systems** put forward in **the statement of the General Secretary of** the Central Committee of the Communist Party of **the** Soviet Union, M. S. Gorbachev, on 15 January 1986 (see A/41/9' **is** particularly important. **In the** opinion of the Bulgarian Government, these proposals present genuine opportunities to **take** practical steps for **the** prevention of **an arms** race in **space** and for **the** elimination of **rruclerr** weapons. They allow the process of achieving **agreement** at **the** Soviet-American talks on nuclear disarmament and disarmament in **outer space to be speeded up and** can lead to constructive talks **on** a multilateral basis - at the Disarmament Conference. The contents **of** the above-mentioned **documents** should **also** be **broadly** reflected in the study being undertaken **by the** United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research **on** disarmament problems relating to outer space and the **consequences** of extending the **arms** race into **outer space**.

5. The only obstacle to the achievement of agreement **on the** non-militarization **of** space, that is to say on **prohibiting** space strike weapons, is the stubborn reluctance of **the** United States to abandon its **so-called** "**strategic** defence initiative". The People's Republic of Bulgaria, like **the** overwhelming majority **of** States, considers that the actual implementation of the "Star Wars" programme will undermine **the** very basis of international stability and of peace and security in the world.

6. The People's Republic **of** Bulgaria holds the **view** that in future research on the **issue** and in holding talks **on** a priority **basis** **In** order to settle **it**, a number of important circumstances **should be taken** into account. The **flimsiness** of **the** **contention** that the "strategic defence initiative" is limited to research and has no direct serious military and political repercussions is becoming increasingly apparent. For **a long** time **now**, testing **of** its components **has** been developed and carried out, and **some of them** involve **the** detonation of nuclear explosions.

7: The space-based anti-missile **system** which is being proclaimed as **non-nuclear** strategic defence could also perform a number of **important** offensive functions. No one is **any** longer in any doubt that a completely new type of weapon is being created, capable of attacking not **only** missiles but also satellites and targets on Earth, in **the** air and at **sea**, neutralizing **the** other side's ability to strike back. **In** other words, this is a **new** attempt to upset **the** existing strategic balance. These costly **and** dangerous systems can never lead **to the** elimination of **nuclear** weapons. On the contrary, **they have been** conceived as a new element ensuring potential for carrying **out** a first nuclear strike. Moreover, **the** continuing build-up **of the** strategic offensive force<sup>5</sup> of the United States **is** also evidence **of** that fact.

R. The hope of establishing an effective anti-missile defence is creating the dangerous illusion that a nuclear attack may be made with impunity, and this might induce some people to contemplate the admissibility of nuclear war.

9. Implementation of the "strategic defence initiative" will deliver a devastating blow to efforts to limit the nuclear arms race and to achieve nuclear disarmament and will open the way to an unlimited build-up of offensive nuclear forces.

10. The "Star Wars" programme will not only undermine but also completely destroy the existing components of the international legal system for the non-militarization of outer space.

11. In these circumstances, inaction and neutrality have no place. Active efforts must be undertaken by all States to stop the trend towards the militarization of space while there is still time. Everyone knows that, given political will, the most complicated problems can be solved by negotiation. To achieve that goal, however, States must first refrain from actions which might result in extending the arms race into outer space. It is especially important to observe strictly the Geneva agreement on the subject and on the goals of Soviet-American negotiations on the whole range of questions pertaining to nuclear and space weapons. The People's Republic of Bulgaria feels that bilateral and multilateral negotiations must complement each other. General Assembly resolution 40/87 reiterated that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and requested the Conference to re-establish for that purpose an ad hoc committee with an adequate mandate. Any attempts to replace genuine negotiations at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament with general discussions of the problem and to divert attention to secondary measures designed not to prevent but to regulate and legitimize the militarization of space must be rejected.

12. The People's Republic of Bulgaria sees additional, but extremely important, opportunities in the Soviet Union's proposal to convene a representative international conference within an acceptably short period of time to study the problems of space as fully as possible and to agree on basic guidelines and principles for international co-operation in the peaceful exploitation of space. The Conference would also examine the question of creating a world space organization. The convening of such a conference would also have a favourable impact on the work of the international forums that already exist in this area - the bilateral Soviet-American negotiations, the Conference on Disarmament and the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The establishment of an international space organization will not do away with the existing machinery of international co-operation. This organization, whose specific functions are indicated in the Soviet proposal, would become a focal point for the joint efforts of States and help to raise their co-operation in the peaceful exploitation of space to a higher level.

13. The study of the problems of disarmament in outer space and the consequences of its militarization, referred to in General Assembly resolution 40/87, must be conducted in conjunction with other efforts to prevent an arms race in outer

space. It **must** supplement and promote these efforts, **because they** would constitute **the** heart and core of **the** study itself. This in point of fact is **how the** People's Republic of **Bulgaria** perceives **the** purposes and objectives of **such** a study. In this connection, **the** expansion and enrichment of **the** information and knowledge of States concerning **the** political, strategic military and **economic consequences of the** development and deployment of space strike **weapons** would be very useful for the preparation and conduct **of the** international **conference** mentioned ~~above~~. **The study** might also include **the** conclusions of **a number** of respected scientists demonstrating the impossibility of creating an absolutely impenetrable anti-missile defence, and it might expose **the** offensive and dangerous **nature of the** 'Star Wars' concept. **It might also be possible to give some thought to the opportunities that the** colossal resources **now** earmarked for **the** development of space **weapons might** provide for peaceful space activity, to determine possible **areas for the** peaceful **use of** space by States and to propose projects for international co-operation **in** space.

14. The continuation of the arms race and its **extension to space** would **not** only fail to **strengthen any** kind of **security but would mean the** pointless squandering of vast material and intellectual resources. Keeping space free of weapons, on **the other** hand, would open up limitless possibilities for broad peaceful co-operation. The achievements of space **science** and technology would **be** used to find comprehensive solutions to such global problems **of** Earth as **conquering** disease and hunger **and** developing **new** sources of energy and industrial techniques **for** protecting the environment<sup>8</sup> and to develop biology, medicine, geology, meteorology, communications, oceanography and many other **areas** of human knowledge **and** activity. Favourable conditions would **be created for even more extensive joint efforts** of States to reveal the secrets of the universe. Examples of fruitful international co-operation in **the** peaceful exploitation and **use of space** already exist; **the** TINTERCOSMOS programme of the socialist countries, the Soviet-American Soyuz-Apollo flight, the international SARSAT **system the** project for studying Halley's **comet**, etc. This is the policy that States must follow in their space activity, but it will be able to succeed and benefit mankind only in a weapon-free outer space.

15. The only proper way to strengthen the security of States is to achieve nuclear disarmament and ban weapons in outer space without adding **new space weapons to the** already existing vast nuclear **arsenals on** Earth.

**16.** The People's Republic of Bulgaria believes that in **the** last analysis, reason and political will will prevail and that mankind will overcome the impending danger for outer **space** and be able to take up **the** truly monumental tasks **of the** peaceful exploitation of outer space for **the** benefit of all peoples. **For its part, the** People's Republic of Bulgaria will continue to exert every effort to ensure the constructive and speedy achievement of this goal.



## BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

(Original in Russian)

12 July 1986

1. It is the belief of the **Byelorussian** Soviet Socialist Republic that preventing a shift of the arms race into outer space is fundamental to the maintenance of peace and the curbing of the arms race: especially the nuclear arms race, on Earth.
2. It is a fact in today's world that there is no sense in seeking to enhance one's own security by building new types of weapons. Should strike weapons appear in space, the competition in nuclear and other weapons will not only not be checked but will spread with hitherto unknown force in the most dangerous directions. The danger of nuclear war will rise sharply.
3. Security should be sought not through military and technical advances but by political means. For this to occur it is essential to reconsider old, stereotyped patterns of thinking, rise above narrow, selfish interests and recognize the full extent of States' collective and individual responsibility for the fate of the world. Just such an approach is required to deal with the problems of averting an arms race in space.
4. The Soviet Union and other socialist countries, recognizing their responsibility as regards the maintenance and consolidation of peace, have since the very beginning of the nuclear and space age pressed for a ban on nuclear weapons, the prevention of an arms race in space, and broad international collaboration in the exploration and exploitation of circumterrestrial space for the good of all nations. The USSR has put forward an extensive, specific programme with a precise timetable for the complete eradication of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction. This programme states that agreement is needed, initially between the USSR and the United States, to ban space strike weapons; at a later stage, agreement must be multilateral, with the participation of the leading industrial powers, and a significant portion of the resources released should be applied to peaceful co-operation among States in the conquest of space. There is also the possibility of partial measures, such as an international agreement guaranteeing the immunity from attack of artificial Earth satellites, banning the production, testing or deployment of new anti-satellite systems and abolishing those already in existence.
5. Rapid progress in the negotiations between the USSR and the United States on nuclear and space weapons is essential, and real substance must be given to the negotiations in the relevant sub-committee of the Conference on Disarmament. What is required, however, is not some kind of "code" to govern the arms race in space, but workable agreements on preventing an arms race in space and stopping the one on Earth, strengthening strategic stability and, ultimately, eradicating nuclear weapons entirely, everywhere.
6. To ensure that space is kept peaceful, the strictest of controls may have to be imposed, including the opening of the relevant laboratories for inspection.

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7. In opposition to the hopes of the world and the resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution **40/87**, stands the United States policy of turning space into a bridgehead from which to win dominance on Earth. Serious danger would also result from programmes **being put forward in several** Western European countries, such as the "European defence **initiative**", and participation **by other countries** in the American "Star Wars" programme.

8. **Mankind needs no** "Star Wars" programmes, but rather vast plans for the joint, peaceful conquest of space. The shaping and execution of **such plans must be** tackled in earnest. This is one of the **most** important ways of securing progress throughout our planet and establishing an all-embracing system of international **security**. It is **the** belief of the Byelorussian SSR that there is **a** close organic link between **the** prevention of an arms race in space and the establishment in **space of peaceful international** co-operation.

9. Outer space is **an** exceptionally promising area for peaceful international co-operation. It is on such co-operation that the efforts of the international community should be concentrated. The USSR has **submitted** for consideration by the United Nations **an** extensive **stage-by-stage** programme of joint, practical activities in pursuit **of the** peaceful conquest **of** space, the aim of which is to lay firm **material, political, legal and organizational** foundations for **"Star Peace"**.

10. All **the** prerequisites for **the** successful implementation of these proposals are in place. Significant **national** **experience** has already **been** accumulated in the **exploitation** of space for the benefit of **the** **economy** and social development. There is **also** an extensive body of **international** experience in co-operation of **this** kind. A recent **shining** example was the success of **the** international co-operative **effort** to study Halley's Comet. A certain amount of international legal work has also been done to **define** the peaceful status **of outer space**.

11. The time **is now** ripe for a qualitatively new phase of wide-ranging, peaceful international co-operation in space, without prejudice, naturally, to existing forms **of** co-operation. States **must combine their forces within** multifaceted **organizational structures** whose aim is to use the **fruits** of space exploration for **the** good of **all** States, in part **by** offering comprehensive assistance **In this** area to **the** **developing** countries.

12. The areas in which global peaceful co-operation in space could be developed are truly **inexhaustible**. There is fundamental scientific research **the** application of space research in many fields of science, **technology** and **economics**; **the** study and **conservation** of **the** Earth's **biosphere**; **the** joint creation and use of new space **technology** for the benefit of **the** world's **nations**; and, in the long term, **the** **industrialization** of circumterrestrial space and the transformation of earthly **civilization** into an interplanetary one.

13. The problem of space in all its complexity, and the establishment of basic areas for large-scale international co-operation in space and principles to govern it, could be considered **at a suitable** international gathering, which might be **convened** before **1990**. This **might** be, for instance, an international conference or a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on **space matters. It**

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would be preceded by a study of what the world needs from space technology, due account being taken of capabilities and prospects. The gathering could approve a programme of co-operation for the 1990s and the following 10 to 15 years.

14. The requisite new organizational structure for such co-operation could be laid down by a world space organization established by the gathering to be convened. These preparatory measures, including preparations for the gathering, might be assigned to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The world space organisation would operate on the basis of mutual advantage, and would guarantee States *non-discriminatory access* to the *results* of co-operation in the peaceful conquest of space. The bulk of the resources for running such an organization and carrying out international co-operative projects in space would be provided by the space Powers and other economically developed countries. Developing States could participate in such projects under preferential conditions, and the least developed countries would be given the scientific and technical results in the form of assistance for the purposes of their development.

15. As co-operation became more extensive, the activities of the world space organization would become more diverse. The organization would establish links and co-operation with other international organizations engaged in the peaceful exploitation of space.

16. The world space organization could be a universal-membership international organization with its own charter (in the form of an international agreement), linked to the United Nations by an agreement on co-operation, and responsible for co-ordinating the execution of specialized programmes.

17. Its activities would include working for the peaceful conquest of outer space and monitoring compliance with agreements, as they were concluded, to ban the extension of the arms race to outer space.

18. The joint exploitation of outer space by all States for peaceful purposes is a policy that offers mankind breathtaking prospects for development. Preparations for "Star Wars", on the other hand, will lead straight to nuclear self-destruction. General Assembly resolution 40/87 rightly raises the question Of the consequences of an arms race erupting in space,

19. The "Star Wars" programme is a direct and dangerous assault on the cause Of universal peace. Its implementation would cause the disappearance of the very foundations of stability, strategic chaos, and a qualitatively new, absolutely uncontrollable phase in every area of the arms race. The combination of anti-ballistic defence with the capability for a pre-emptive strike against the opposing side's retaliatory forces would create an opportunity for unpunished nuclear aggression. The world would find itself in a state of universal uncertainty and fear and, associated with that, in growing peril of disaster. With the introduction of a space weapons system, important decisions with irreversible consequences for mankind can be taken by machines, not people. Civilization will fall hostage to machines, and hence also to technical hitches and malfunctions in them. Trust between States will ultimately be destroyed. The "Star Wars" programme is, in fact, intended to disrupt the current negotiations and cancel all

**existing** agreements on arms limitation. An **arms** race in apace will swallow up **enormous** material **resources** and result in unproductive squandering of **States'** **scientif ic** and technical potential, at the expense of mankind's most pressing **social and economic** needs.

20. All **these consequences** must be given careful **consideration in the course of** the **study** being conducted by the **United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research**. The **study must** likewise lay bare the true import of plans, **disguised as** "defensive" in nature, for the **militaristic** exploitation of outer space: to procure, through **space, decisive** military **superiority** and create the opportunity for an unpunished **first nuclear strike**. The **study should** dispel the myth, being **passed off** on international opinion, that the introduction of an anti-ballistic **defence** will result in the elimination of nuclear **weapons**. Assurances that "Star Wars" is an innocent research programme are, likewise, no more than a cover-up for the first steps in the development of new **strike-weapon systems**. This must be duly **reflected in the study**. It **must** be unambiguously **shown** that preparations for an arms race in **apace** are at **odds** with the entire system of existing **treaties and agreement**6 regulating the **status of** outer space. More **specifically**, the mere **decision to set up a apace-based anti-missile system**, irrespective of the project's state of advancement, flatly **contradicts** both the **letter and the spirit** of the 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems. The study **must demonstrate** the invalidity of affirmation8 that space **weapons** development is "impossible" to verify and therefore "impossible" to ban, and show that development **research on apace strike weapons** displays features **susceptible to** verification even at a relatively early **stage**. It **must** be made plain that the very notion of seeking to **gain** a technological "edge" for peaceful application from **deadly** military adventures in apace **is** an unnatural one.

21. The **study must** clearly underline the **topicality and tractability** of the **issues** associated with preventing an arms race in apace, and take up **States' proposals** to this end.

22. Serious attention **must** also be devoted to the alternative to **weapons** in apace - that **is, a "Star Peace" based** on broad international co-operation in the peaceful **conquest of** space. Both of these **elements**, the prevention of an **arms** race and the **establishment** of peaceful co-operation in outer **space, must** lie at the heart of an all-embracing system of international security.

23. All in all, to **respond** to the aims of the General **Assembly's** resolutions (including **resolution 40/87**) and the aspirations and demands of Earth's **nations**, the study being undertaken must be not abstract and scholarly but concrete and action-oriented, furthering the proposal and adoption of immediate, effective **measures** to prevent an arms race in outer space. It **must be** completed with celerity.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

(Original: Russian)

126 June 1986

1. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic supported the adoption of General Assembly resolution 40/87 on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and welcomed the appeal to explore the possibilities for strengthening international co-operation on this urgent matter, including the need to establish relevant international machinery.

2. Czechoslovakia, like the overwhelming majority of the world's countries, is deeply concerned about the threat of the arms race being extended into outer space.

3. The development of space strike weapons, as the stage already achieved in the implementation of these programmes in the United States shows, is directly linked to the improvement and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. The emergence of a system of nuclear space weapons would sharply increase the risk of nuclear war breaking out, and would lead to substantial destabilisation on a world-wide scale. It would intensify the arms race and create serious obstacles to disarmament, security, economic development and peaceful co-operation in the conquest of space.

4. Czechoslovakia shares the view that in the nuclear and space age, security can be obtained only if it is security for all and only by preventing the deployment of weapons in space and securing nuclear disarmament. We therefore fully support the policy of creating a comprehensive system of international security and the programme put forward by the Soviet Union on 15 January 1986 (see A/41/97) for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of this millenium, a programme in which the steps of stage-by-stage nuclear disarmament are organically linked to measures to prevent the deployment of weapons in outer space. We are consistently striving to make the exclusion of outer space from the area of military preparations and the prohibition of the use of force in space and from space against Earth an inviolable norm for the policy of all States and a universal international rule.

5. Czechoslovakia, together with all the Warsaw Treaty States, is prepared to co-operate with other countries on the broadest scale in order to curb the arms race on Earth and prevent it in space. In the communiqué of the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee held in Budapest on 10 and 11 June 1986, the Warsaw Treaty States called upon all States to join forces to that end (see A/41/411 and Corr.1 and 2).

6. We start from the premise that the trend towards the militarization of space can and must be stopped. In our view, an important partial step in that direction would be to conclude an international agreement on the immunity of artificial Earth satellites and a ban on the development, testing and deployment of new anti-satellite systems and the elimination of existing ones. We also attach priority to the cessation on a reciprocal basis, of all nuclear explosions. The continuance of nuclear tests as an integral part of the preparation of "Star Wars"

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is incompatible, in our view, with the obligation of the States members of the treaty banning nuclear-weapon tests in the three areas of the environment, including outer space, to strive for the complete discontinuance of all such tests for all time.

7. In these complicated and confused times, we feel that it is extremely important to ensure strict compliance with existing multilateral and bilateral arms limitation agreements. In this connection we support in particular the

- strengthening of the 1972 Soviet-American Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, which would also create favourable conditions for a
- substantial reduction of strategic nuclear weapons.

8. The major thrust of the efforts of all States to prevent the militarization of space is, as we see it, the establishment of a strict ban on the development, testing and deployment of space strike weapons with effective verification, including the opening up of the relevant laboratories.

9. In order to achieve a rapid and positive solution to these urgent problems, we feel it essential to maximize the productivity of the existing negotiating machinery, both bilateral and multilateral, including the effective use of the opportunities afforded by the United Nations.

10. We support the Soviet Union's proposal<sup>8</sup> aimed at the achievement of swift, workable agreements on deep cuts in strategic nuclear weapons, the complete elimination of Soviet and United States medium-range missiles in Europe and a ban on the deployment of weapons in space, proposals made during the Soviet-American negotiations at Geneva.

11. We also favour an immediate start of businesslike negotiations at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament to prevent the deployment of weapons in space.

12. In our view, prevention of the militarization of space is also a basic prerequisite for the peaceful use of outer space for the benefit of all peoples, on the basis of extensive and open international co-operation advantageous to all, without any discrimination. We are convinced that the stage-by-stage programme of joint, practical undertakings for the peaceful conquest of space contained in the message of N. Ryzhkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, of 10 June 1986, is fully in keeping with these goals. We welcome the idea of laying firm material, political, legal and organizational foundations for "Star Peace", and favour a thorough examination of it in the United Nations.

13. We support the proposal for convening no later than 1990 an international conference or a special session of the General Assembly on outer-space issues or for an examination of all these issues at some other suitable international gathering. We would like that examination to lead to the establishment of a world space organization, to the formulation of principles for qualitatively new, universal co-operation in the peaceful conquest of space, and to agreement on a long-term programme of joint practical action by States for that purpose.

14. We favour the formulation of **large-scale**, jointly agreed projects for **applying space technology** to solve the social and economic development problems of all countries, **to be co-ordinated by the proposed world space organization**. We proceed from the premise that the attention of this organization would be focused on the whole range of problems involved in the **peaceful conquest of outer space and the monitoring of agreements, as and when they were concluded, on the non-militarization of space**.

15. In connection with the **proposed programme** we attach great importance to the role of the **Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**, which would take **full** responsibility for **implementing measures at the organizational stage**.

16. Czechoslovakia regards this **"Star Peace" programme** proposed by the Soviet Union as **an** extremely important, rationally conceived and eminently **humane** initiative that **meets current and future requirements for safeguarding the peaceful existence and welfare of all peoples inhabiting our planet**. We for our part are prepared to assist in the **fullest** in implementing it.

#### ETHIOPIA

(Original, English)

[22 May 1986]

1. Ethiopia co-sponsored resolution **40/87, dealing with the fundamental question of preventing an arms race in outer space**. Ethiopia's support for this resolution emanates from its conviction that science and **technology** should be employed **solely for the peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space with the greater interest of humanity and the promotion of the common good of all mankind as its guiding and governing principles**.

2. Ethiopia strongly believes that the prevention of **an arms race in outer space, including the development, testing, production, deployment and use of space-based weapons and the elimination of existing space weapons systems cannot be seen in isolation from the ongoing process of disarmament negotiations**. On the contrary, **the already difficult and delicate process of nuclear disarmament negotiations** could undoubtedly prove to be sterile if **the arms race in outer space is allowed to be intensified**.

3. The rapid development of space **technology**, accompanied by highly sophisticated space weapons **systems, not only increases the already high risk of nuclear war, but also diverts much-needed human and material resources from economic and social development, particularly in the developing world**.

4. In view of this, Ethiopia supports the creation of **an international space organization with the express objective of preventing an arms race in outer space and promoting international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of outer space for the benefit of all mankind**.

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## FINLAND

(Original: English)

[13 June 1986]

1. The **Government** of Finland **views the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the expansion of** peaceful uses of **outer space as** challenges with major implications for the security and **economic well-being of the international community**. **Finland deeply believes in the goals expressed in the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies) space should be used for peaceful purposes to benefit mankind as a whole.**

2. **An arms race in outer space would add a new and dangerous dimension to the continuing arms race on Earth, with potentially grave consequences for strategic stability and the security of all States. Such a race would also divert resources from the peaceful uses of outer space,**

3. **In the view of the Government of Finland, that main responsibility of preventing an arms race in outer space rests with those States which possess the capabilities of exploiting space for military purposes. Finland has welcomed the bilateral talks between the United States and the Soviet Union at Geneva on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms. It is to be hoped that such talks will, as soon as possible, also result in effective agreements precluding an arms race in outer space.**

4. **Multilateral efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space are also urgently required. Finland considers the Conference on Disarmament, as Principal multilateral negotiating body in the field of disarmament, to be the proper and most suitable forum for these efforts. Resolutions 39/59 and 40/87 of the General Assembly contain the mandate on the basis of which progress in dealing with this issue in a multilateral context should be made.**

5. **In the view of the Government of Finland, efforts aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space should, in the first instance, focus on shielding those space activities that serve to enhance strategic stability and are necessary for arms-control and disarmament purposes. Such space activities include the use of satellites for, inter alia, early warning and verification tasks.**

6. **Resumption of bilateral talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on banning anti-satellite weapons as well as multilateral negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament could offer means of addressing this growing problem. Finland is concerned that, while the use of satellites for these as well as purely civilian purposes continues to increase rapidly, there is no comprehensive legal framework covering, and indeed protecting, their use. In the view of the Government of Finland, a thorough consideration of this problem area should receive high priority in the context of bilateral and multilateral talks on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.**



7. The rapid development of science and technology creates new possibilities for the further utilisation of outer space for peaceful purposes to the benefit of all mankind. The 1963 Treaty provides the basic guidelines for international co-operation in this field. Subsequent United Nations conferences on the subject have deepened knowledge and understanding of the far-reaching and complex issues involved throughout the international community.

8. The Government of Finland has consistently supported the work on outer space that has been undertaken within the United Nations system over the years. Finland regards the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as the major international forum for bringing together the efforts of all concerned, and supports the continuation and development of the Committee's work. The space-related activities of a number of United Nations bodies also make an important contribution in this field.

9. Now that new technologies are making the economic utilization of outer space more feasible and more countries are interested in these prospects, the use and management of this resource requires a more comprehensive approach than heretofore. In the view of the Government of Finland, such an approach would most appropriately be undertaken within the United Nations system and would, in the first instance, involve closer co-ordination of the work of the various United Nations organs in this field. In so far as new machinery for the purpose of enhancing international co-operation in this regard is to be contemplated, the many implications of its establishment, in terms of functions, organization as well as budgetary resources, need to be carefully studied. The experience of negotiating processes within the United Nations system concerned with establishing new machineries in their respective fields should also be evaluated in that connection.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC!

[Original: English]

[ 28 May 1986 ]

1. The German Democratic Republic is firmly committed to efforts to prevent an extension of arms competition into outer space and to see outer space used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Not to allow an arms race in space has become the key issue in averting a nuclear war, halting the nuclear arms race and taking effective steps towards nuclear disarmament. To prevent space from becoming another scene for the arms race also requires major obstacles in the way of radical reductions of strategic offensive weapons to be removed. It is a dictate of political realism and common sense to ban forever the creation of space strike weapons.

2. In the nuclear and space age, security cannot be attained through military and technical devices but only through political means. A turn for the better can be achieved not through the accumulation of newer and newer weapons but through an unbiased and result-oriented political dialogue based on the Principle of equality and equal security for all parties concerned. What is needed is a genuine resolve

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of **State** not to periaiat in the **stereotypes of** confrontation and the striving for **military** superiority, **but to** approach matters in a new **way**, and to find **new** forms **and procedures for the** dealings between different **social systems**, States and regions. It **is** vital to seek **out** and seize **any** opportunity, however small, to halt the trend **towards the steadily** increasing danger of war and, with **a** view to **stabilizing** peace on a permanent **basis**, to **reverse** it.

3. The German Democratic Republic **strorgly** advocates parallel bilateral and multilateral negotiations for the prevention of **an arms race in** apace. It supports all efforts **aimed at** further **strengthening** the existing negotiating **forums on** space matters. At the Eleventh Congress of ~~the~~ Socialist Unity Party of Germany (**SED**), the General Secretary **of the SED Central Committee and** Chairman of the Council Of State **of the German Democratic Republic**, **Erich Honecker**, **stated the following in** this context (see A/41/356)<sup>8</sup> "All ~~thos~~ in the **world who feel** a sense of **responsibility** to their own people and **to the human race as a whole**, **are coming out against US** intentions to clutter space with doomsday weapons. **SDI is not necessary for the development of advanced technology. The peaceful exploration and utilization of space afford wide enough scope** for this. We are committed to peace in space and on earth".

4. The German Democratic Republic expressly welcomed the start of bilateral **negotiations between the USSR and the United States on the** entire complex Of nuclear and space arms. As a result of **the Soviet-United States summit at Geneva**, **the two sides agreed that there could be no winners in a nuclear war nor in a nuclear arms race.** ~~The~~ large majority of States therefore rightly demands **that the words of Geneva should now be matched by deeds.** **With its unilateral advance concessions and its initiativee to stop all nuclear explosions, its comprehensive programme to rid the world of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction, and its proposal to establish a comprehensive system of international security, the Soviet Union has taken; effective steps to ensure that the course mapped out at Geneva should not be allowed to peter out.** The Soviet proposals are realistic, as **they take full account of the conditions of the nuclear and space age.**

5. In contrast to **those** proposals, there are plans of imperialist circles further to build **up** and qualitatively to perfect **the nuclear weapon** arsenals, and to **carry the arms race into space.** It **cannot be** overlooked that the programmes for the **militarization of outer space, which are running at full steam, are inspired by an intention to achieve strategic-military superiority for the long term.** The **inception of space strike weapons is closely** connected **'with concepts envisioning the first use of nuclear weapons and the feasibility and winnability of nuclear war.** Space strike **weapons** are to create a capability for a nuclear first strike without fear of **the risk of a counterstrike.** By ~~their~~ nature **they would be** global weapons that would **have a potential of pinpoint attacks on any target on the ground, in the atmosphere and in space at any time.** Hence, they constitute **a threat to all peoples.** Their development, **testing and stationing would not, as claimed by the proponents of the "Star Wars" concept, lead to a nuclear-free, more secure world; the contrary would be the case.** The international situation would **be destabilized** to a dangerous extent! it would be much harder, if not impossible, to achieve results in **the negotiations on disarmament, and the danger of a nuclear inferno would drastically increase.**

6. The creation of space weapons systems will give the arms race new dimensions **both** in spatial and economic terms. Enormous material and **intellectual** resources would be squandered. The resolution of pressing global problems of mankind would be delayed further. Research and development work on space strike weapons already leads to an erosion of existing bilateral and multilateral treaties on **arms** limitation and disarmament. Already now **such** work is impeding ongoing negotiations and preventing the achievement of new measures of disarmament. Agreement **on** halting all nuclear explosions is being blocked by one side because, among other reasons, it is carrying out tests to develop a nuclear-pumped X-ray laser under **the** so-called strategic defence initiative.

7. International instruments like the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the **Moon** and Other Celestial Bodies, and the **Soviet-United States** Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems must not be violated in their letter and spirit. The German Democratic Republic is **resolutely** opposed to any attempt aimed at undermining, deliberately misinterpreting **or** circumventing those **significant** agreements.

8. In view of the negative consequences a **militarization of** outer space would have, **the** German Democratic Republic expects that the bilateral negotiations between the USSR and the United States will produce an agreement on the renunciation of the development, testing and stationing of space strike weapons. Such an agreement could then be converted into **a** multilateral instrument with mandatory membership of all leading industrial countries. Attention must be drawn **to the** responsibility of those States which participate in the space armaments programmes and therefore **will** have to take part of **the blame** for a new, even **more** dangerous round **of the arms race**.

9. **At the** Geneva Conference on Disarmament, the German Democratic Republic has **been** advocating that multilateral negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer **space** should be initiated without delay, as called for in resolution **40/87** with the affirmative votes of 151 States. A comprehensive solution **of** the problem could be reached by the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against Earth. Regrettably, **such a** comprehensive approach **has** so far not **been** feasible because of **the** position adopted by some Western countries. The German Democratic Republic therefore supports the compromise proposal of the USSR to conclude as a first step a treaty to ensure the immunity of space objects. Such a treaty could set forth an obligation not to use or threaten the use of force against space **objects**, and the prohibition **of the** development, testing and stationing of anti-satellite weapons, and **could** provide for **the** destruction of existing **systems of such** weapons.

10. The German Democratic Republic attaches great importance to **the** activity of **the** United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) in the interest of continued constructive consideration of ways and means of promoting international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space. The accords worked out by the Committee to date, **such as the Outer Space Treaty, the**

Moon Treaty, the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space and others, are important foundations on which to conduct farther-reaching negotiations to prevent an arms race in outer space. Concerning the future work of the COPUOS, the German Democratic Republic believes that it is important that agreements be reached on the delimitation of the air space and outer space as well as on questions arising from the use of the geostationary orbit. The draft set of principles on remote sensing of Earth, adopted at the twenty-fifth session of the Legal Sub-Committee, shows, in the view of the German Democratic Republic, that given the political will of all sides, positive results can be achieved.

11. Great Importance attaches to productive co-operation among States in the peaceful exploitation of space. Man's entry into space and the beginning of the practical application of space rank among the outstanding scientific and technological accomplishments of mankind. The exploration and use of outer space is today not only an important branch of science but assists to a growing extent in the fulfilment of major national economic tasks. Thanks to generous support and assistance provided by the USSR, including the facilities of its highly developed space flight equipment, the German Democratic Republic has been able to share in space activities with its own research projects and with instruments and devices developed for this purpose.

12. For more than 15 years, the German Democratic Republic has actively participated in the INTERCOSMOS programme of the socialist countries, which serves the peaceful exploration of outer space. It was involved in 68 space projects with 149 instruments used aboard spacecraft, and two ground complexes. The sophisticated technology used for these purposes includes solar-radiation-measuring instruments, telemetric facilities and the multispectral camera MKF 6 jointly designed by scientists of the German Democratic Republic and the USSR; another feature has been its participation in the 1984-1986 VEGA project to study Halley's Comet, which involved the successful presentation of the comet's core on an image processing system manufactured in the German Democratic Republic.

13. The highlight of the German Democratic Republic's co-operation was the first USSR-German Democratic Republic manned space flight in 1978. Aboard the Soviet orbital station Salyut Six, German Democratic Republic cosmonaut-pilot Siegmund Jähn carried out experiments, Inter alia, on space physics and materials science, space biology and medicine as well as remote sensing of Earth. Scientific instruments and apparatuses from the German Democratic Republic are to be used also in the new Soviet orbital complex with the "Mir" base station.

14. In the coming years too, the German Democratic Republic will contribute technical experiments and scientific work in the main areas of co-operation as laid down in the INTERCOSMOS programme, namely:

- Space physics, including materials science
- Space meteorology
- Space communications
- Space biology and medicine
- Remote sensing of Earth

15. Institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the **German Democratic Republic** will provide special instruments to take part in the next major international experiment called "Photos" in 1988 to explore **the planet Mars** and its **moon Phobos**.

16. In the **field** of space materials science, **the German Democratic Republic** has undertaken mutually advantageous co-operation **with the French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES)**. Its aim is to improve scientific and methodological preparations for space experiments.

17. Within the framework of the competent non-governmental organisations, **such as the International Astronautical Federation and the Committee on Space Research, the German Democratic Republic actively** supports all measures capable of promoting international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful **uses** of outer space.

18. The implementation of new, large-scale projects **for** the peaceful exploration of outer space require<sup>6</sup> "**Star Peace**", i.e., a qualitatively **new** stage of international co-operation in outer space. In the view of **the** socialist States, mankind should enter the third millennium not with space **weapons** but with ambitious Projects for the peaceful **use** of **outer space**. **Such projects** could cover basic scientific research, including the **Moon and other celestial** bodies, and **the** launching of interplanetary spacecraft. The results of space research could **be** applied in the various areas of science and help resolve **such** global problems **as** the elimination of hunger, **the** overcoming of the economic backwardness of many **countr**ies, environmental protection, and **the** utilisation of new sources of energy. States should jointly plan **and** conduct **the** development and **use** of **space technology**, including large international orbital **stations** and manned spacecraft of different **types**.

19. In close connection with these **ideas**, **the** proposal of setting up an **international** space organization within **the** framework of the **United Nations system** increasingly appears to be a topical task. The German Democratic Republic support!; the establishment of **such an** organization. In its view, the organization would promote **the** international co-operation of States in **the** exploration **and** peaceful **use** of outer space, ensure the access of all States to scientific and technical achievements in **that field**, **and provide** assistance to States in **making** practical use of results of space research to speed up **their economic** and social development. At **the same** time, the organization could assume responsibilities in monitoring compliance with agreements **that** were concluded or **may be** concluded **with a** view to preventing an **arms race** in space.

20. Concerning the establishment and functioning of the proposed organization, experience gained **by the** International Atomic Energy Agency could **be** turned to **account**.

21. To consider all aspects of these proposals **and** ideas, it appears desirable to **convene** an international conference.

INDIA

[Original: English]

[13 August 1986]

1. India welcomes the timely appeal of the United Nations through its General Assembly resolution 40/87, inviting Member States to present their views on the possibility of enhancing international co-operation in (a) the field of preventing an arms race in outer space and (b) the peaceful uses of outer space, including the desirability of establishing relevant machinery for that purpose. It attaches the highest importance to both these objectives.
2. India has repeatedly voiced its concern at the likely extension of the arms race into space as a result of recent advances in space and other emerging new technologies and of the national defence plans of some countries. Even though the new space weapon systems are yet to be developed, the situation is fraught with the gravest of dangers to the international community as a whole. It would vastly increase the likelihood of a nuclear catastrophe by further destabilising the existing precarious balance of terror.
3. The use of space for development of these weapon systems would, moreover, be tantamount to privatisation of a common resource and, that too, for a most unworthy end. It would thus be totally contrary to the general consensus on outer space, namely that it is the province of all mankind. Given the near unanimous approval of the resolution by the United Nations General Assembly, it would also show total disregard for the views, and the minimal legitimate interests, of the vast majority of nations. The 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, clearly spells out the principles that should guide the exploration and use of outer space in its preambular paragraphs and makes provisions in its operative paragraphs to give effect to them. The plans for development of space-based weapons make a mockery of these principles and objectives.
4. Development of the new space weapons would, moreover, become an obstacle to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The "Star Wars" scenario requires, even for minimal effectiveness, a very large number (of the order of a few thousand) of battle stations and other related satellites in space. Such a huge inventory will draw upon various orbital resources, including the scarce resources (slots, etc.) of the g-stationary orbits. This will make it difficult if not impossible for other nations (especially the developing nations, which are still in the process of acquiring space capability) to pursue their plans for peaceful uses of outer space.
5. It would also divert a very large amount of resources - in the range of trillions of dollars - away from other more useful and beneficial applications on the ground as well as in space. In this connection, it is important to recall that the continued high levels of military spending by the large military spenders are emerging as one of the principal factors responsible for the structural maladies afflicting the world economy today.

6. Above all, "Star Wars" would lead to an unprecedented increase in mutual suspicion and distrust. Every thing that countries do in space would be suspect. Free bilateral and multilateral co-operative activities, whereby countries benefit from co-operative ventures with all major space Powers, would become extremely difficult under these circumstances. Technology transfer, launch opportunities, co-operation in satellite construction and design, etc. would also become problematic. All this would greatly hinder the civilian uses of space by the smaller and less developed countries.

7. Thus there is no doubt that the extension of the arms race into space would seriously come in the way of peaceful use of outer space, besides leading to a ruinous waste of resources and taking humanity closer to annihilation.

8. The nearly 30 years that have passed since the launching of the first satellite in human history have seen ~~leap-frogging~~ advances in the conquest and utilization of space. The exploration of the solar system and other advances in space research - admittedly limited so far to a few developed States - have greatly expanded the horizons of science and enhanced our fundamental understanding of the mysteries of the universe. These have opened up hitherto unimaginable vistas that have the potential of transforming conditions of life on our planet. Countries large and small have benefited from space communications, space remote sensing and space meteorology in a manner unthinkable only a few decades ago. The immense possibilities that have opened up, and are continually unfolding, before us call for harmonisation of national interests and avoidance of unilateral measures that conflict with their optimum utilization. These possibilities can hardly be realized in the absence of such a spirit, thus making international co-operation indispensable. The challenge before the international community today is to continually find newer and better ways, through specific programmes of international co-operation, of giving concrete expression to the mind-expanding vision that space has laid before us.

9. Numerous bilateral and multilateral co-operative projects, such as INTELSAT, INTERSPUTNIK and INMARSAT, and international agencies like the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Union have successfully demonstrated in concept and in practice the feasibility and desirability of "international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space". Besides, several agencies in the United Nations deal with different aspects of space-related activities. India has had the privilege of being associated with all of these agencies and assesses them very highly. It would like to see a further strengthening and expansion of their activities.

10. Given the enormous costs of space-related projects, such co-operation would result in significant economies for all concerned. The challenges posed by space can be met more effectively if the solutions to problems discovered by, and the experiences of, one State are shared by the others. Access to each other's technology would also ensure transparency and foster a climate of mutual trust.

11. We specifically recommend the followings:

(a) Urgent measures to atop the extension of the arms race into space:

(i) These could commence with a simple statement by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) or the General Assembly, adopted by consensus and expressing agreement not to introduce weapons into space and declaring a moratorium on development, testing and deployment of space weapons, pending the conclusion of an international agreement by the Conference on Disarmament)

(ii) This should be accompanied by a declaration to negotiate in good faith at the Conference on Disarmament the international agreement banning space weapons;

(iii) Ongoing activities of COPUOS regarding clarification and strengthening of the existing legal régime, e.g., those of the Legal Sub-Committee, must be completed speedily. Opportunities for strengthening the existing legal régime relating to space through simple amendments, such as enlargement of the scope of the above-mentioned Treaty and of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into outer Space, should be considered on a priority basis. Problems of jurisdiction must not be put forward as an excuse for delaying substantive consideration of these matters;

(b) More intensive international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space in a number of areas:

(i) Organization of a major International programme for spreading the use of space techniques such as communications, remote sensing, meteorology and navigation in the developing countries. This programme should lay special emphasis on training of engineers, scientists and other technical personnel, establishment of earth stations and other relevant infrastructure and expertise for communications and remote sensing, and meteorology data at reasonable prices through specially funded joint international efforts. The programmes could even include region-specific space systems, if they are found necessary and relevant. The distinctive needs of the developing countries should be specially taken care of during both the initial planning and implementation stages;

(ii) Establishment of an International space station in low Earth orbit which would be available for use by all countries. The research findings, data as well as other information arising from the work on this space station should be available freely to the international community.

12. India has received valuable co-operation from several developed countries. For its Part, it has, in keeping with the spirit of promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, offered a programme called "SHARES" for sharing the Indian experience in space with other developing



countries. This programme includes training opportunities in remote sensing and communications, joint building of rocket and satellite payloads, data reception from Indian satellites and a whole range of other possibilities.

13. On the question of machinery, India believes that prior to establishing new organizations, the potential of existing international structures such as COPUOS and other United Nations organizations, as well as the existing bilateral and multilateral arrangements, should be fully utilized. While we value highly the activities of COPUOS and other United Nations agencies dealing with various aspects of space, we believe that these need to be stepped up in a big way and that this can be done most profitably by increasing the volume of resources placed at their disposal. Of late, co-ordination among these different agencies has improved considerably, and this welcome trend must be maintained. In our view, the immensity of the task makes it necessary to utilize the specific strengths and competence of each of these forums separately and simultaneously. We do not believe that a monolithic merger of all these bodies would lead to better results. Nor do we think it necessary to create another institution for this purpose. Further expansion or setting up of new organizations should be considered only after adequate experience is gained in the implementation of the programme suggested above.

14. On the study being undertaken by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on disarmament developments relating to outer space and the consequences of expanding the arms race into outer space, India is of the view that the scope and contents of the study have been chosen with care and are most appropriate and timely. In view of the rapid pace of technological change in this area, such studies need to be updated continually so that the impact of all new developments can be monitored. The United Nations has been in the forefront of promoting international awareness on disarmament questions through sponsorship and publicity for some of the most outstanding studies on these subjects. It must play a similar pioneering role in respect of various issues pertaining to the peaceful uses of outer space as well.

NEPAL

[Original: English]

[22 April 1986]

In compliance with resolution 40/87 on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, His Majesty's Government of Nepal fully agrees that weapons of mass destruction should not be placed in orbit around Earth or be installed in outer space. Nepal is in agreement with the resolution that outer space is the common heritage of mankind and should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

## NETHERLANDS\*

[Original: English]

(1 May 1986)

1. The twelve **members of** the European Community **demonstrated by** their **positive** support for the adoption of resolution **40/87** ("Prevention **of** an **arms race** in outer **space**") that they attach **great** importance to the overall **spirit of** the **resolution itself**. They **therefore continue** to welcome **constructive** development of bilateral and multilateral **ways and means** on the one hand of **stimulating** the peaceful **uses of** outer **space** and on the **other hand of** preventing an **arms race** in outer space. In **spite of some possible** interaction **between** certain civilian and military **uses of space**, they remain convinced that these two aspects **are** more appropriately dealt with in **separate forums**.

2. The Twelve believe that the development of civilian international co-operation in **space** should continue to be a **major** policy objective. From a **scientific and practical point of view**, it **cannot be denied** that **enormous progress has** already been achieved. In **this respect**, mention should be made of the ongoing activities of the United Nations Committee on the **Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**. INTELSAT is another noteworthy example of **successful** international co-operation. They further would like to point out the relevant contribution of the European Space Agency to the exploration and peaceful **uses of outer space**. They therefore **are of the opinion** that the **first objective cited above** - the **furtherance of** the **peaceful uses of outer space** - is already sufficiently dealt with within the international **framework**. The above-mentioned **examples** illustrate that international **forms of co-operation originate** when the **scientific and practical need exists**. The Twelve therefore **submit** that it is not at present **necessary** or desirable to elaborate on the feasibility of additional **relevant machinery**.

3. **Besides** the many peaceful **activities in space**, **space is also used** for military purposes. A substantial proportion of the total number of **military satellites performs a stabilizing** role in international relations, for example by helping to verify arms-control **agreements** and maintain **secure** communications in **periods of tension**, by **providing a** capability of **early warning** of military **attacks** and in **general by increasing openness** about military preparations, thereby **reducing the possibility of surprises**. There **are** other activities using space which **also form part of the general** military posture of some **States** and their **allies**. **Research and development are being pursued on these and other space activities**. The Twelve **stress** the importance of strict compliance with **existing arms-control treaties**, since these play an important **role in preserving peace and preventing an arms race in outer space**.

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\* On behalf of the States **members** of the European Community.

4. The Twelve hope and expect that the bilateral negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on space and nuclear arms will bear fruit. In accordance with the joint statement of the United States and the USSR dated 8 January 1985, the objective of these negotiations is to work out effective agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on Earth, limiting and reducing nuclear arms, and strengthening strategic stability. At the same time, the Twelve believe that the Conference on Disarmament, while taking into account the bilateral talks, should proceed to examine the multilateral aspects of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Initially, questions relating to the existing legal régime for outer space should be pursued.

5. The Twelve underline that the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) study on space should be an occasion for an objective international discussion on substantive questions concerning an arms race in outer space. They look forward to a substantial and impartial contribution from UNIDIR in this respect.

6. In view of the foregoing, the Twelve do not at present see a need for additional machinery to handle space matters. Sufficient machinery is in place and if the need for special machinery arises, it can always be created at the time. The report that has to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-first session in accordance with resolution 40/87, should thus advise the Member States of the progress made in the existing forums and take this as a basis for its recommendations.

#### POLAND

[Original: English]

[14 May 1986]

1. In the face of the growing threat to peace and international security posed by the accelerating momentum of the nuclear arms race and the danger of its extension into outer space, Poland attaches major importance to early and productive efforts with a view to curbing the armaments race on Earth and barring it from outer space as well as proceeding to genuine disarmament. As the record at the United Nations bears out, dedicated pursuit of these goals is among the principal tenets of Poland's foreign policy.

2. Our assessment of the international climate leaves no doubt, however, that the attainment of the said goals, especially the prospect of ridding the world entirely of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, raised by M. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in his statement of 15 January 1986 (see A/41/97), would be totally incompatible with attempts to deploy space-based strike weapons. Indeed, the materialization of a policy line advocated in the United States strategic defence initiative would not only compromise efforts to curb the arms race, but also provoke countermeasures in order to restore strategic balance and, in the process, fan up an unrestrained arms race. Obviously, in such an event, the chances of pursuing international co-operation in the peaceful exploration of outer space and the use of space technology would be doomed.

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3. The Government of the Polish People's Republic is firmly convinced that keeping the arms race from extending into Outer space is, indeed, an indispensable premise of and a prerequisite for meaningful co-operation in a domain where all States, irrespective of size, have a valid stake, where all must be guaranteed equal rights.

4. Proceeding from that premise and seeking to contribute to a more informed debate on the complex problems involved, the head of the Polish delegation, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, presented the United Nations General Assembly at its fortieth session with an initiative concerning the preparation of a study by eminent experts of different nationalities and under the auspices of the Secretary-General, of the diverse consequences of the militarization of outer space, including those in the area of international co-operation in its peaceful use. Poland welcomes the involvement of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in the preparation of a study in that regard. Without trying to pre-judge its findings, the Polish Government expects the study to make an important contribution to promoting the cause of outer space and international co-operation in that area.

5. Poland, aware of the potentially grave consequences of an arms race in outer space for International peace and security, on the one hand, and the importance of peaceful utilization of outer space for man's benefit, on the other, has welcomed and extended its full support to the proposals concerning international co-operation in the peaceful exploitation of outer space under conditions of its non-militarization, submitted by the USSR to the United Nations General Assembly at its fortieth session. We share the view, in particular, that the application of the results of space research and space technology to medicine, biology, weather forecasting and climate studies, communications, geology, agriculture, navigation and the exploitation of seas and oceans could represent the areas of most profitable international co-operation. As a medium-sized country, Poland is vitally interested in such co-operation and is, therefore, determined to oppose vigorously, together with other States, any attempts of a military nature, which would limit or make such co-operation impossible.

6. The Government of the Polish People's Republic would welcome the convening of an international conference to consider modalities of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including the possibility of establishing a world space organization. A peaceful régime of outer space should be adequately assured under a juridically binding international agreement.

7. Poland strongly believes that the international community cannot and must not miss the historical opportunity to bar weapons from outer space and thus prevent it from ever becoming a "Star Wars" battlefield. In our considered view, outer space must remain the common property of mankind and a province reserved for peaceful exploration and use for the benefit of all. It is, consequently, prepared to co-operate with all States in the pursuit of that goal.

SEYCHELLES

[Original: English]

[20 June 1986]

1. The peaceful utilisation of outer space has long been of concern to the international community, particularly since the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, was concluded in 1967.
2. Recent developments in space technology, however, would appear to threaten the Peaceful utilization of outer space and has caused concern among members of the international community.
3. In this respect, the Republic of Seychelles fully supports the United Nations appeal to Member States to submit their considerations on the development of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space.
4. As both a small-island State and a developing country, the Seychelles is concerned about the extension of the arms race in space. Such activities cannot, in this nuclear age, serve to enhance international peace, co-operation and development.
5. Indeed, mutual co-operation in peaceful space activities could serve to benefit mankind as a whole. It is a question of peace as opposed to war.
6. This century has witnessed two world wars, the emergence of nuclear weapons and increased strife between States.
7. The time for peace is now. we should take a page from history and see our children inherit a peaceful world and a peaceful twenty-first century.
8. In this context, the Soviet Union's proposal to convene not later than 1990 an international conference on a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on questions of outer space, is a welcome initiative which the Seychelles fully supports.
9. This would afford an opportunity for Member States to discuss practical measures in co-operating in the peaceful utilization of outer space.
10. The establishment of a world space organization associated with the United Nations would be a concrete step in safeguarding peaceful exploitation and activities in space. It would also serve to ensure that those States lacking the appropriate technology to engage in space activities would nevertheless not only benefit from the mutual exchange of information, but also be able to use such high technology in promoting their social and economic development, and extend participation directly or indirectly to developing countries in the field of Space exploration.

11. In conclusion, the people of Scychellee firmly believe in the concept and essentiality of universal peace as a prerequisite to fruitful international co-operation in the furtherance of our planet's economic and social development.

SWEDEN

[Original: English]

[19 June 1986]

1. Sweden continues to be deeply concerned about the prospects of an extension of the arms race into outer space. Military space activities have been important since the beginning of the space age. In fact, most satellites launched have had military purposes. However, outer space has hitherto remained free from armed conflicts. With the development of specific weapons systems intended for use in outer space, this situation could well be changing. The development and deployment of anti-satellite systems and the possibility of space-based ballistic missile defence are a cause for concern. Moreover, the introduction of space weapons could lead to a slowing down in the development of peaceful space activities.

2. The question of an arms race in outer space must, however, be considered in the general context of disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament was last year able to start work on this question. Sweden hopes that the Conference on Disarmament will continue this work with a view to initiating negotiations in order to reach agreement on concrete measures to prevent an arms race in outer space.

3. One of the matters discussed by the Soviet Union and the United States in their bilateral negotiations at Geneva is space weapons. The subjects of these negotiations are difficult and complex. They concern the security of all States. Sweden is convinced that progress in these negotiations would greatly assist in the work of the Conference on Disarmament. Only through multilateral negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament can the concerns of the entire international community be met in full.

4. International co-operation - both bilateral and multilateral - is necessary to be able to take measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. It is not the lack of appropriate forum that is delaying such measures, but rather a lack of basic trust between the two major space powers.

5. For Sweden, international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space is essential. Such co-operation enables Sweden to benefit from outer space activities, to pursue a space programme and to stimulate its own industrial development in a way that we could not do alone.

6. The United Nations and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space have a particular role in promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and helping all countries, regardless of their state of development, to benefit from space science and technology.

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7. Sweden is prepared to discuss, at an appropriate time, any constructive proposal concerning ways and means to enhance international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. However, to be able to take a position with regard to Proposals for a new machinery, It would be necessary to consider whether present or future needs cannot be met through existing mechanisms. For reasons stated above, in Sweden's view, all aspects concerning the military uses of space, including the prevention of an arms race in outer space, should be dealt with in the Conference on Disarmament.

8. Sweden welcomes that the General Assembly has been able to return to the consensus tradition on the item relating to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. It is important that this tradition be upheld in the future. To help guarantee this, the Swedish Government considers it essential that a clear division between the civilian and military aspects of the uses of outer space continue to be upheld in the international debate on the issue and that each topic be discussed in the appropriate forum.

UGANDA

[Original: English]

[26 February 1986]

1. In the last 29 years, momentous developments have been registered in the exploration of outer space. The development of space science and technology have brought mankind to a stage where its application is an important tool in the promotion of economic and social development. At present technological progress is outstripping efforts aimed at finding an agreed framework for the management and control Of outer space for peaceful purposes in the interest of all mankind.

2. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses Of Outer Space (UNISPACE-82), which reviewed developments in this field and made appropriate recommendations, was, therefore, timely. The report of the Conference did not satisfy the objectives of all the countries at the Conference. It was, however, a compromise text representing the consensus of the International community. The recommendations reflected the desire of both developed and developing countries to work in constructive co-operation. It offers the foundation on which we should build. Every effort should be made to implement the recommendations.

3. The potentials of outer space represent a valuable and common heritage for mankind. Outer space offers another unique opportunity to explore new frontiers and shared benefits. The exploration and exploitation of outer space should proceed on the basis of a co-operative effort determined by an international set Of binding principles and rules.

4. Uganda is aware of the important role that remote sensing can play in planning and development, particularly for developing countries. We have, therefore, set up a remote sensing centre to work out suitable programmes for remote sensing applications in our country. Remote sensing, well utilized, is one of the fields

where there can be productive co-operation between developed and developing countries for mutual benefit. However, if not well **regulated**, it can become an instrument for **perpetuating** the imbalance and inequities inherent in the **present** world economic structure, and **increase** the dependency of **our countries**. There **is**, therefore, an urgent need for an **agreement on this subject**. Such an agreement must include the **following basic principles**:

(a) **Respect for the sovereignty of the sensed State over its national resources**;

(b) **The need for prior notification and agreement before being sensed or disseminating data acquired thereby to third parties**;

(c) **The right of the sensed State to access, in a complete and continuous manner, to the information gathered.**

5. Uganda attaches **great importance to the need for an international convention governing the use by States of artificial Earth satellites for direct television broadcasting**. Such a convention should **reflect** the aspirations of the developing world to rectify the present Imbalances of **one-way flow of information**. Whereas this powerful new medium can be put to **great use by developing countries and enhance International co-operation**, it has an inherent **danger of creating** distorted behavioural patterns in developing countries, which are not compatible with our needs or realities. It would be **unfortunate if programmes** that our countries do not desire were imposed on us. Uganda has always maintained that all activities relating to international direct **broadcasting by satellite should be based on the principles of consultations and agreement between States**.

6. This subject has been on the **agenda of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space** for a long time. It is to us a matter of **regret** that despite **great efforts no agreement has been reached**. With crucial developments in this area, there is a **great danger of the Committee's work being hampered by a fait accompli**. The adoption of a set of principles to govern this medium is, therefore, **more urgent than before**.

7. We have always expressed our concern with **regard to the unrestricted use of the geostationary orbit and the related radio frequency spectrum by technologically advanced countries**. The practice of "first come, first served" is **unfair and unequitable**. It is, therefore, desirable that the United Nations develop the needed criteria for the **most equitable use of the geostationary orbit**. UNISPACE-82 recommended that it **was imperative that its use be properly and justly regulated**.

8. To be just, the **legal régime** ought to take into account the future needs of **developing countries and the special interests of equatorial countries**. The **equatorial countries are the ones physically linked and closest to the geostationary orbit**. It is important to **abate their fears concerning the potential danger to human life and environment that may result from uncontrolled and hazardous activities in the orbit**. The envisaged **legal régime** should, therefore, inter alia, stipulate the rights of equatorial countries and the **legitimate interests of other States**. Uganda is a party to both the Quito and Bogotá **Declarations of equatorial countries**.

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9. **Uganda** believes that it is necessary to define and delimit outer space. In our view, such a definition should identify where State sovereignty begins and where it ends and should be equitable and take into account rights to the geostationary orbit.

10. As we have stated, outer space offers a unique opportunity for mankind to delve into a new and endowed frontier with a commonality of purpose and shared benefits. The issue that confronts us today is what modalities we shall construct to ensure the equitable sharing of benefit. This question is all the more relevant in view of the immense technological disparities between the outer space Powers and the developing countries. In the view of Uganda, there is need for a co-operative effort in the exploration of outer space. An essential component and indeed a prerequisite for such an effort is the liberal transfer of space technology from the developed to the developing countries. We believe that the United Nations has an important role to play in this regard. We therefore support the strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division. In our view, its expansion into a centre for outer space activities would be beneficial to developing countries.

11. The pursuit of co-operative objectives and common benefits, such as we advocate, for outer space precludes the promotion of conflicting or contradicting interests. It is for this reason that Uganda supports the overwhelming international expression against the militarization of outer space and urges strict adherence to the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space. In our view, the militarization of outer space, in all forms, constitutes an unacceptable extension of the polarization that today lies at the very foundation of international tension.

12. Since resolution 1962 (XVIII) of 13 December 1963, the United Nations has endeavoured to ensure that the arms race is not introduced to space. At UNISPACE-82, the overwhelming majority of States endeavoured to have the Conference recommend meaningful steps that ought to be taken to stop the trend of militarization of outer space. In the light of reports that the arms race in space is accelerating, it is incumbent on the General Assembly to reiterate the overwhelming concerns of the international community, once again, that space should not be militarized.

13. The Conference on Disarmament must act speedily to conclude an international treaty or agreement on the non-militarization of outer space which all States Members of the United Nations should be obliged to observe and respect. Since outer space is the common heritage of all mankind, Uganda would consider that the establishment of an international régime under the auspices of the United Nations for the positive realization of the above objectives would be compatible with the spirit of international collectivism which the United Nations is expected to promote for the good and benefit of the entire international community.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[10 June 1986]

1. The Soviet Union welcomes the United Nations invitation to States to submit their views on the possibility of enhancing international co-operation in the field of preventing an arms race in space and the peaceful uses of outer space, as an unambiguous expression of the will of the international community,
2. The subject touches on two aspects of a single global task: halting preparations for "Star Wars", which are leading towards nuclear self-destruction, and advancing an alternative "Star Peace" - the conquest of outer space for peaceful purposes through the combined efforts of all States.
3. The USSR, in keeping with the policy course defined at the Twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) of establishing a comprehensive system of international security, is making consistent efforts to secure the complete exclusion of arms from the sphere of military preparations and its use for peaceful purposes alone.
4. The conquest of space demands of all States a new, genuinely planetary form of political thinking and renunciation of the categories of force and military superiority. It is quite evident that the spread of the arms race into space cannot strengthen anyone's security or render nuclear weapons unnecessary and obsolete. The facts of modern life offer no State any hope of protecting itself by military and technical means alone. The introduction of space strike weapons would sharply increase the risk of nuclear war and the danger threatening all States and peoples.
5. In the nuclear and space age, security can be obtained only if it is security for all, and only by preventing the deployment of weapons in space and securing nuclear disarmament. This is the intent of the plan advanced on 15 January 1986 in the statement by M. S. Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee (see A/41/97), for the complete eradication of nuclear weapons throughout the world by the year 2000. The plan calls for an agreement, initially between the USSR and the United States and later a multilateral accord to which the leading industrial Powers must be party, to ban space strike weapons.
6. The process of nuclear disarmament would be organically linked with the development of co-operation among States in the peaceful conquest of space. A substantial share of the resources released as nuclear arsenals are eradicated and the resources which could be swallowed up in "Star Wars" could be directed towards this universal undertaking.
7. It is vital to prevent preparations for "Star Wars" from becoming irreversible, putting on the arms race and putting hurdles in the way of disarmament, security, economic development and peaceful co-operation in the conquest of space. The Soviet Union favours a strict ban on the development,

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testing or deployment of space strike weapons, with effective controls including access to the relevant laboratories. It is also prepared to advance towards this ultimate goal step by step.

8. One such step would be the conclusion of an international agreement to guarantee the immunity of artificial Earth satellites, ban the development, testing and deployment of new anti-satellite systems and eliminate those already in existence.

9. To avert an arms race in space, and to halt it on Earth, the first task is to put a stop - on a reciprocal basis - to all nuclear explosions. Nuclear tests for "Star Wars" are incompatible with the treaty banning nuclear-weapons tests in the three areas of the environment, including outer space.

10. There needs to be strict and rigid compliance, today, tomorrow and thereafter, with the Treaty between the United States and the USSR on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, which is a cornerstone of strategic stability. Any State which set about violating it, or collaborated in the attempt, would bear a heavy responsibility.

11. It is our conviction that in order to avert an arms race in space we need to maximize the productivity of existing negotiating machinery, both bilateral and multilateral, and make effective use of the opportunities afforded by the United Nations.

12. First, it is necessary to speed up the negotiations at Geneva between the USSR and the United States, which are intended to produce efficacious understandings on ways of averting an arms race in space and stopping the race on Earth, limiting and reducing nuclear weapons, and enhancing strategic stability. The proposals advanced by the Soviet side in these negotiations have provided the necessary basis for swift, workable agreements on deep cuts in nuclear weapons and the prevention of an arms race in space.

17. At the same time, we are proposing to begin business-like negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament with the aim of preventing the deployment of weapons in space.

14. Today, space travel is becoming increasingly Earth-oriented, concerned with the practical business of this planet. The time has come to embark on extensive projects for the peaceful conquest of space through the efforts of all mankind, for the sake of universal progress and security on Earth.

15. It makes no sense to fragment and duplicate States' efforts to conquer outer space. The rational application of effort through co-ordination and combination would have a cumulative effect and make a reality of what even the most highly developed country simply cannot accomplish alone.

16. Collaboration among States in space would serve as a bridge towards enhanced trust and mutual understanding between them on Earth as well. The USSR is prepared to expand its collaboration with all States, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

We favour open collaboration, available to all without discrimination, to bring tangible benefits to the people. We favour collaboration between scientists and engineers of all countries in the execution of peaceful space projects, to make space a truly universal laboratory.

17. The Soviet Union submits for the consideration of the international community of States the following stage-by-stage programme of joint, practical undertakings for the peaceful conquest of space. It is divided into three stages, and its aim is to lay firm material, legal, political and organizational foundations for "Star Peace" by the year 2000.

First stage (organization)

18. Five years should be spent investigating what the peoples of the world need from space technology, bearing in mind present possibilities and the prospects of development in space facilities. An international conference, a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on space issues, or some other suitable gathering should be convened no later than 1990 to conduct a thorough review of space-related issues and harmonize the general thrust of multi-purpose projects and the principles governing a qualitatively new form of wide-ranging international co-operation in the peaceful conquest of space. This gathering would approve a programme of action covering the 1990s and looking ahead to the following 10 to 15 years. It would establish a world space organization (WSO) and draw up specialized programmes for the execution of specific co-operation projects under WSO auspices. Responsibility for activities during the first stage, including preparations for the conference, could be assumed by the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

19. In the view of the Soviet Union, efforts should be concentrated on the formulation of large-scale projects applying space technology to such socio-economic matters of general interest as communication, navigation, and land, air and sea rescue; remote sensing for applications in agriculture and in the exploitation of natural resources on land and in the oceans and seas; the study and conservation of the Earth's biosphere and the creation of a global weather-forecasting and disaster-warning service; the use of new sources of energy, the development of new materials and technology for use in medicine, biology and other spheres, and the establishment of production lines exploring deep vacuum and weightless conditions.

20. Bearing in mind the accumulation of experience, in particular recent success in the study of Halley's Comet, it would also be worthwhile to promote investigation of outer space and celestial bodies by geophysical means, with the assistance of automatic interplanetary stations.

21. Putting forward such projects, the Soviet Union believes that they should embody the greatest attainments of technological thinking world-wide and represent the fruit of egalitarian, genuine and mutually advantageous co-operation among all States, bringing them real benefits, with particular regard for the needs of the developing States.

22. In our view it would be realistic and just for the bulk of the resources for such international projects to be supplied by the space Powers and other economically developed countries; developing States would participate in these projects under preferential conditions, and the least developed countries would be given the scientific and technological results in the form of assistance for use in their development. The Soviet Union hereby declares its willingness to exchange information on its achievements in space, and to launch peaceful spacecraft for other countries and international organizations on Soviet rockets under mutually acceptable conditions.

#### Second stage (physical preparations)

23. This would occupy the first half of the 1990s. It comprises the development and production of space technology for agreed projects. Systems would be put into operation as they became ready. At first, of course, efforts and resources could be concentrated on priority projects, bearing in mind their potential for quickly becoming self-financing, and the possibility of using the experience acquired in dealing with later tasks.

24. One of the central tasks would be to use space technology in a comprehensive study of the state of the Earth's biosphere in order to formulate and apply specific measures to ensure its conservation. In other words, at the threshold of the third millennium, States would combine their accomplishments in space to preserve the planet Earth.

25. The activities of WSO would begin to expand. The organization would begin to co-ordinate national plans for the conquest of space, arrange exchange of experience from space activities, help countries - particularly those taking their first steps in the use of outer space - to find places for their apparatus and arrange experiments aboard other countries' spacecraft, and encourage large-scale joint space projects. It would establish links and exchanges with other international organizations conducting projects related to the peaceful uses of space. One of its chief functions would be to co-ordinate activities under specialized international programmes in order to ensure that all collaboration on the global scale was as rational and efficient as possible.

#### Third stage (execution)

26. By the year 2000, there should be tangible results in all fields of co-operation. Then the requisite spacecraft would be launched, the necessary ground systems would be brought into operation, and a variety of specialized space applications programmes would begin to operate on a self-financing basis and yield practical results.

27. The organizational and physical infrastructure would be created for a whole range of major undertakings: the joint manufacture of spacecraft, including orbital stations, production of platforms, and manned interplanetary spacecraft for making the transition, as early as the first decades of the twenty-first century, to the practical conquest of the Moon and its use as, among other things, a base for flights to other planets.

28. In other words, the upshot of the programme proposed by the USSR would be the exploitation of circumterrestrial space through the combined efforts and for the benefit of all the people of Earth, and there would be a real opportunity to convert terrestrial civilisation into an interplanetary one from the outset of the third millennium.

29. To co-ordinate States' efforts at a qualitatively new stage of co-operation in the conquest of space, including the execution of major physical projects, the logical and indispensable thing to do is to set up a world space organization.

30. The Soviet Union sees WSO as a universal inter-state organization, with a charter in the form of an International treaty, linked to the United Nations by an agreement on co-operation, which would be responsible for co-ordinating the execution of specialized programmes. It would be funded principally by countries with major space potential and other economically developed States.

31. The new organization would direct its attention to the peaceful conquest of space and the monitoring of agreements, as they were concluded, to prevent the extension of the arms race to space. For monitoring purposes, it would initially use technical means provided by the space Powers, and later its own facilities.

32. The organization would help to enable all States to make real use of space science and technology for the purposes of social and economic development, and would help the developing countries to become direct partners in the great conquest of space.

33. Such is the "Star Peace" programme, proposed to the world community by the Soviet Union in the firm conviction that this, rather than ill-considered plans for "Star Wars", is what earthly civilization should carry with it into the twenty-first century.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[Original: English]

(23 May 1986)

1. Paragraph 5 of resolution 40/87 apparently refers to a proposal of the Soviet Union (agenda item 145) which sought consensus on what the Soviets termed "non-militarization of outer space" as a pre-condition for enhanced international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The views of the United States on paragraph 5 remain as stated in the explanation of vote given in the First Committee on 22 November 1985. The United States rejects the concept that pre-conditions should be established to the role of the United Nations in promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Indeed, it should be recalled that no action was taken on agenda item 145 at the request of the sponsor and that the General Assembly decided to terminate this agenda item. Establishment of pre-conditions to the important role played by the United Nations in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space would impair, not enhance, international co-operation. Such linkage would, in fact, seriously undermine the

practice of three decades at considering questions concerning co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space separately from, and independently of, questions relating to outer space arms control.

2. Moreover, there are well-established multilateral forums for dealing with all of these questions. The First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament are the competent multilateral forums for questions relating to the disarmament aspects of outer space. In 1985, moreover, the Conference on Disarmament established an Ad Hoc Committee to deal specifically with such questions. The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is the competent multilateral forum for questions relating to the peaceful uses of outer space. In this connection, it is worth noting that the United States and other Member States have submitted relevant proposals aimed at assuring the role of the Committee as a highly relevant and productive forum in the United Nations, in keeping with its mandate as the only standing committee of the General Assembly for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The United States opposes supplanting well-established multilateral forums with unnecessary and potentially counterproductive new machinery.

#### VIETNAM

[Original: English]

[30 June 1986]

1. Resolution 40/87, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fortieth session, is a reaffirmation of the special attention given by the international community to the question of preventing an arms race in outer space.

2. Today, as the fourth decade of the space era is coming, at levels varying from country to country, space science and technology is used in a wide variety of fields, such as communications, navigation, remote sensing, biology and medicine. Given the rate at which space science and technology have been advancing, there are great potentials for the uses of outer space for peaceful purposes, such as promoting the economic and social development of every State.

3. At the same time, in the space era, mankind is confronted with the danger of the extension of the arms race into outer space. Indeed, during the 1950s, at the beginning of the space era, the international community had been attentive to the relationship between the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. In 1963, at its eighteenth session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 1962 (XVIII) concerning the legal principles to guide States in the exploration and use of outer space. A number of international agreements have been concluded to ensure the peaceful use of outer space. Among them are the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. The Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held at Vienna from

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9 to 21 August 1992, reiterated that "the extension of an arms race into outer space is a matter of grave concern to the international community" and that "the prevention of an arms race and hostilities in outer space is an essential condition for the promotion and continuation of international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes" (see the report of the Conference, A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2, paras. 13 and 14).

4. Since the late 1970s and the early 1980s, the danger of the militarization of outer space has stood out more clearly in the face of the large-scale plans to develop space weapon systems. These weapon systems have the double mission of neutralizing the counterattacks of the attacked in case of nuclear war and of attacking targets in space and on Earth. Accompanied by the comprehensive programmes for the modernization and development of nuclear weapons, the space weapon programmes are in fact aimed at upsetting the existing strategic equilibrium in the world. Realities of the past 40 years show that the development by one side of new strategic weapon systems would only lead to countermeasures by the other side, thus resulting in a larger and more intensive arms race. Space-based anti-missile systems would increase the possibility of a nuclear war in consequence of the illusion that a nuclear attack can be launched with impunity or even due to misunderstanding, miscalculation or technical malfunction. The extension of the arms race into outer space would not only destroy many existing multilateral and bilateral disarmament agreements but also give rise to more confrontation, hence impeding the disarmament process. The huge human as well as material resources consumed and mistrust generated by the arms race in outer space would negatively affect international co-operation and investment in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space. With their still low degree of economic, scientific and technological development, the developing countries would suffer the most in case of disturbed international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

5. Viet Nam unreservedly supports any efforts aimed at furthering International co-operation in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space and the peaceful uses of outer space. In this regard, in recent years there have been numerous important initiatives, such as those to conclude an agreement prohibiting the use of force in outer space and from space against Earth. The Soviet proposal to establish a world space organization to deal with international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space is of great and urgent importance. An international conference can be convened with the participation of all States, especially those having major space capabilities, to consider the question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space in all its aspects as well as the main principles and directions for such co-operation. The world space organization would also co-ordinate all efforts exerted by the existing international organizations towards International co-operation in outer space, heighten the quality of such co-operation and lay down further principles to enhance co-operation.

6. To promote joint efforts aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space, it is important to increase understanding about the dangerous consequences inherent in an arms race in outer space and the urgent need for concrete measures to prevent it from happening. In this spirit, Viet Nam supports the proposal made by the Polish People's Republic at the fortieth session of the General Assembly about a study on



the consequences of the militarization of outer space to be prepared under the auspices of the Secretary-General with the assistance of eminent consultant experts of various nationalities. We can recall the benefits of the previous United Nations studies on the social and economic consequences of the arms race, the consequences of the use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, etc. A study of disarmament problems relating to outer space and the consequences of extending the arms race into outer space should accord priority to comprehensive analysis of the political, economic and military consequences for each individual country as well as for the entire world of the extension of the arms race into outer space. It should also explore the ways and means to maintain the peaceful uses of outer space and to prevent the militarization of outer space, including the conclusion of new agreements.

7. Viet Nam is convinced that both the expedition of the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space in the interests of mankind and the prevention of an arms race in outer space requires the constant and conscious efforts of the entire international community. Viet Nam is prepared to do its utmost to contribute to these joint efforts.

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