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PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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HUNGARY

[Original: English]

[12 September 1986]

1. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic is of the view that expansion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and prevention of the extension of the arms race into outer space are of decisive importance to the future of mankind. Space activities have come to a turning point, with a steep increase in their political and economic significance. The future pattern of international security and of global economic co-operation, international political practice and the development of its institutional system are largely determined by the dimension and nature of these changes.
2. Today, mankind has a vital interest in ensuring that the dynamic development of space activities will rest upon the universal, indivisible and mutual security of all countries of the globe. This is impossible to achieve with the use of military force and the pursuit of military superiority. The Government of Hungary therefore lends support to any initiatives for the complete prohibition of all weapons or systems of weapons that are deployed, wholly or in part, in outer space, on Earth, at sea or in the air and are destined to destroy, damage or interfere with the natural operation of objects in space, on Earth or in the Earth's atmosphere, in or from space. Conclusion by States of an international agreement on the immunity of artificial satellites, the prohibition of the development, testing and deployment of new anti-satellite systems and the elimination of existing ones could be a step towards attainment of this comprehensive goal. The Government of Hungary is of the view that a working group with a negotiating mandate should be set up within the framework of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament to elaborate such an agreement.
3. With a view to preventing the extension of the arms race into outer space, it would be important to establish an appropriate institutional system guaranteeing universal security as well as international economic and political co-operation, while strengthening the existing institutional system, which has played a significant role in ensuring the dynamic development of space activities, and deepening bilateral and multilateral relations. The Government of Hungary is convinced that efforts to ensure the dynamic development of peaceful activities in space are of decisive importance to the future of mankind despite the current political, economic and military divisions of the world. Present conditions with regard to outer space are still rather favourable to such efforts in so far as the great Powers are directly involved and other countries of the world are able to agree on the basic principles of space activities to be laid down in bilateral and multilateral agreements. The limitation of activities aiming at the militarization of outer space is an indispensable condition for a steep increase in activities for peaceful purposes.
4. The Government of Hungary lends full support to the initiatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for more effective co-ordination, preparation and implementation of ideas and proposals concerning space activities, as well as for sharing their results, and for the elaboration of a comprehensive programme of

peaceful co-operation in space. It shares the view that the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is a body apt to elaborate or prepare such a programme, which should be realized with the highest possible degree of professional concreteness. To this end, it would be practicable to review the experiences gained in bilateral and multilateral or international co-operation in research and other peaceful activities conducted in or from outer space and to rely on it for the implementation of such a programme. The Government of Hungary also deems it advisable to convene an international conference to discuss the conditions for and the modalities of the development of peaceful activities in outer space and to set up a world space organization. The main purpose of establishing a world space organization would be to promote, in various ways, opportunities for all States to make effective use of the achievements of space science and technology to meet their needs for social and economic development. It is the view of the Government of Hungary that the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could formulate suggestions as to the structure, functions and legal status of the world space organization.

LESOTHO

[Original: English]

[26 February 1986]

Lesotho has no views to express at this stage.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[13 June 1986]

1. The Government of Mexico believes that international co-operation to prevent an arms race in outer space must be intensified.
2. The Government of Mexico believes that the militarization of outer space will help to intensify the arms race on Earth because, as indicated in various studies on this subject, there is a close relationship between the arms race on Earth and that initiated outside it. Space weapons development, research and testing will lead to improvements in the weapons deployed on Earth, making it much more difficult to reach agreements on halting and reversing the arms race in all its aspects.
3. Accordingly, the Government of Mexico maintains that urgent action must be taken to conclude a treaty on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. In this connection, Mexico has promoted within the Conference on Disarmament the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate different questions related to the drafting of a legal instrument to prevent the militarization of outer space. The Government of Mexico therefore believes that the aforesaid Ad Hoc Committee must be given all the support it might need to fulfil its mandate as soon as possible.

4. The Government of Mexico also believes that, without the political will of the space Powers, any effort to halt the arms race in outer space will be in vain. The international community must therefore draw the attention of the nuclear super-Powers to the grave responsibility they bear towards the rest of mankind. In this connection, the six signatories to the New Delhi Declaration on peace and disarmament of 28 January 1985 (see A/40/114-S/16921) urged the nuclear super-Powers to take the necessary steps to halt the arms race on Earth and avoid its extension to outer space.

5. The Government of Mexico believes that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is the proper forum for considering international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and for studying practical and viable measures for implementing programmes which could properly be undertaken in this sphere under United Nations auspices. In this connection, the Government of Mexico believes that the necessary support must be given to the work of that Committee.

MONGOLIA

[Original: Russian]

[30 July 1986]

1. The Mongolian People's Republic, like the overwhelming majority of States, consistently campaigns against an arms race in space and for extensive international co-operation in the peaceful conquest of outer space. It believes that collective, determined efforts by all States, large and small, developed and developing, are needed to accomplish this global task.

2. The militarization of space and the peaceful conquest of space are incompatible. The facts of today's nuclear and space era urgently require a redoubling of efforts by States to establish the necessary political and legal basis for preventing an extension of the arms race into space. Hence, it is important to revitalize the bilateral and multilateral negotiations on this vitally important problem. The world community is entitled to expect positive results from the current Soviet-American talks at Geneva on nuclear and space weapons.

3. Mongolia is deeply concerned that the United States is making preparations for the manufacture of space weapons. The purpose of the Strategic Defence Initiative, which is known in the United States as "Star Wars", is precisely to create space-based first-strike weapons. The supporters of this exceptionally dangerous programme are wagering on the power of weapons that exploit the very latest advances in science and technology as a means of imposing their will on others. This is the enormous danger that the Strategic Defence Initiative represents to the fate of mankind. Accordingly, Mongolia, like the majority of States around the world, opposes the Strategic Defence Initiative and believes that the United States Administration's position on this matter is one of the greatest obstacles to progress in the field of disarmament.

4. In the light of the above, Mongolia believes that the only alternative to "Star Wars" is "Star Peace" as proposed by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. The real way to attain this goal is presented in a twofold programme for the gradual eradication of nuclear weapons, with a concomitant ban on space-based strike weapons, and a step-by-step programme of joint, practical activities for the peaceful conquest of space up to the year 2000.
5. An important initial step towards the prevention of an arms race in space would be for the nuclear Powers, following the example of the Soviet Union, to declare a moratorium on nuclear explosions and join the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium on the deployment of anti-satellite weapons in space.
6. Mongolia supports the new proposals by the Soviet Union for an international agreement guaranteeing the immunity of artificial Earth satellites and prohibiting the manufacture, testing and deployment of new anti-satellite systems while abolishing those already in existence. The swift formulation of such an agreement at the Conference on Disarmament would be an important interim step towards the attainment of the final goal, the prevention of an arms race in outer space.
7. Peaceful co-operation in the conquest of space bears within it enormous potential and promise for all the world's nations. It would very substantially boost the building of confidence and mutual comprehension among States.
8. Bearing in mind the gigantic problems facing States in the peaceful conquest of space, Mongolia shares the view that a world space organization must be set up. This matter could be discussed and decided upon either within the United Nations or at any other suitable international gathering. The main purpose of such an organization, in Mongolia's view, would be to co-ordinate activities and unite States' efforts in the peaceful exploration and exploitation of outer space. The organization could also, in parallel with national technical means where possible, monitor compliance by States with existing and future agreements on the prevention of an arms race in space. In carrying out its activities, the world space organization would have to bear in mind the interests of all States, especially the aims and requirements of socio-economic development in the developing countries.
9. As regards the study to be carried out by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, Mongolia believes that it must be comprehensive in nature.
10. In Mongolia's view, the study should contain, among other things, the following basic features:
 - (a) The political, military, economic and other adverse consequences of the militarization of space;
 - (b) The military and technical aspects of space weapons (existing and planned);
 - (c) Current international agreements concerned with limiting military activities in outer space;

(d) Opportunities for international co-operation in averting an arms race in space, and in the future conquest of space;

(e) Conclusions and recommendations.

OMAN

[Original: Arabic]

[20 March 1986]

1. The Sultanate of Oman, believing that outer space should be a part of the common heritage of all mankind, stresses that all mankind has a common interest in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and that this must be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development.
2. The occurrence of an arms race in outer space and the creation of space weapon systems that may increase the risk of the undermining of international peace and security and impede efforts towards general and complete disarmament are matters for concern.
3. On the basis of the all of the foregoing, the Sultanate of Oman supports all efforts aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space, in particular the efforts of the Conference on Disarmament, and hopes that this Conference, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, will do everything in its power to realize the aspirations of mankind with regard to the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[14 August 1986]

1. Mankind has recently been brought to the brink of danger. The arms race, already of unprecedented scope, not only is accelerating but also threatens to spill over into outer space. The development of space strike weapons, if they cannot be prohibited may become an extremely destabilizing factor and a catalysing agent for a virtually uncontrolled arms race, and will increase the threat of nuclear war. The militarisation of outer space is capable of absorbing colossal material and intellectual resources and doing enormous harm to mankind's peaceful development. The extension of the arms race into outer space will be an obstacle to international co-operation in the peaceful conquest of outer space.
2. Under present circumstances, no State can defend itself by military and technical means alone. Reliable security for all countries and peoples and peaceful conditions for their development can be ensured only through the joint efforts of all States to prevent the deployment of weapons in outer space and

through nuclear disarmament. The series of Soviet proposals contained in the statement of 15 January 1986 on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000 (see A/41/97) was designed precisely to achieve these goals. They envisage an agreement on the prohibition of space strike weapons - initially between the Soviet Union and the United States and subsequently on a multilateral basis, with mandatory participation by the major industrial Powers.

3. The Soviet Union has proposed that the countries and peoples of the world should strive to ensure that the planet enters the third millennium not from the launching platform of "Star Wars" but with plans for the peaceful conquest of outer space by the forces of all mankind. A large part of the resources released as nuclear arsenals are eliminated, together with those resources which may be absorbed by the "Star Wars" programme, could be used to implement these plans.

4. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic strongly favours prohibiting the development, testing and deployment of space strike weapons, with effective verification. Existing stocks must be destroyed.

5. The task of preventing an arms race in outer space and curbing it on Earth would be facilitated by halting nuclear explosions on a reciprocal basis. An agreement on this issue would permit an abrupt halt to the nuclear-arms race and an end to the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and to the development of new ones.

6. Compliance with the 1972 treaty between the USSR and the United States on the limitation of anti-missile defence systems - which is of unlimited duration - is of particular importance in preventing the militarization of outer space.

7. In the present situation, urgent measures must be taken to prevent the extension of the arms race into outer space. Such measures may be developed and adopted through both bilateral and multilateral negotiations, which would complement each other. Effective use should also be made of the capabilities of the United Nations.

8. The Soviet three-stage programme of joint practical action for the peaceful conquest of outer space provides a constructive basis for such negotiations. Its implementation would make it possible to lay down solid material, political, legal and organizational foundations for a "Star Peace" before the end of the century.

9. The proposal for the first stage - to convene, no later than 1990, an international conference in the form of either a special session of the General Assembly or another appropriate forum, to review in detail the problems of outer space and to formulate principles for qualitatively new and broad international co-operation in the peaceful conquest of outer space - is an extremely timely one.

10. Such an international forum might establish a world space organization, under whose aegis specialized programmes for the implementation of specific co-operative projects could be prepared. These measures, including the preparation of the conference, might be carried out by the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Specific projects for the use of space technology would help to solve problems of social and economic development common to all countries.

11. The proposal that the basic means for implementing international projects should be provided by the space Powers and other economically developed countries is extremely practical and fair. The developing countries would participate in these projects on favourable terms, and the least developed countries would receive the scientific and technological results as a form of development assistance.

12. During the following stage, covering the first half of the 1990s, space technology would be developed and produced through agreed projects for a global study of the state of the Earth's biosphere in order to formulate and implement specific measures to preserve it. The work of the world space organization and its relations with other international organizations implementing projects for the peaceful use of outer space would also expand.

13. During the last stage, up to the year 2000, the appropriate spacecraft would be launched, ground systems would be brought into operation and programmes for applying space technology would start to show practical results. This would create the pre-conditions for turning the Earth's civilization into an interplanetary civilization by the beginning of the third millennium.

14. In our view, the work of the world space organization would be directed towards the peaceful conquest of outer space and monitoring compliance with agreements to prevent the extension of the arms race into outer space as and when they are concluded.

15. The world space organization might help to enable all States to take real advantage of the achievements of space science and technology in order to meet the goals and needs of their own socio-economic development, and it would facilitate the direct participation of the developing countries in the conquest of outer space.

16. In the view of the Ukrainian SSR, an agreement on the non-militarization of outer space is a fundamental and key issue deserving priority. At its fortieth session, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the prevention of the arms race in outer space (resolution 40/87 of 12 December 1985), with 151 delegations voting in favour of it. The Assembly thereby clearly endorsed a concerted effort by States to prevent outer space from becoming an arena for the arms race and to develop peaceful co-operation in outer space.

17. The Ukrainian SSR will continue to do all in its power to prevent the extension of the arms race into outer space and to preserve it for peaceful activities.
