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PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[20 October 1988]

1. The Byelorussian SSR consistently advocates joint and active efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space and has supported all General Assembly resolutions designed with that aim in view, including resolution 42/33.
2. The course of events in this field during the past year indicates that the problem of preventing an extension of the arms race into outer space remains very urgent. The Byelorussian SSR reaffirms its positions of principle and its practical proposals set forth in its reply to the previous questionnaire pursuant to the General Assembly resolution on the prevention of an arms race in outer space (A/41/470).
3. The Byelorussian SSR proceeds from the principle that, unless an arms race in outer space is prevented, it will be impossible to achieve a nuclear-free world and guarantee complete security.
4. Both the bilateral and the multilateral approaches should be combined and should complement each other. The time has come for negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the context of the Conference on Disarmament. These multilateral efforts could culminate in agreements on the prohibition of anti-satellite weapons, the guarantee of immunity of artificial earth satellites and an international system to verify the non-deployment of weapons of any kind in outer space, and could ensure the maintenance of international co-operation in outer space for peaceful purposes.
5. There is also a need to promote inter-State co-operation in accordance with agreed rules and procedures to prevent pollution of outer space.
6. There are numerous important proposals on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and these could enable sound progress to begin. The fact that they were put forward by such a major space Power as the USSR indicates that they are truly capable of being implemented. One important measure would be the establishment of an international space inspectorate to monitor a ban on the launching of weapons into outer space. The establishment of a world space organization would provide the necessary organizational framework to transform outer space into a sphere of peaceful co-operation whose benefits would redound to all peoples of the planet. Measures could also be taken - by developing the proposal of France - to establish an international space-monitoring agency.
7. It is essential that States, guided by the common interests of mankind - and an outer-space régime concerns them directly - be ready to undertake agreed practical steps.
8. The strict observance of international agreements relating to outer space would be an important aspect of that régime. The Byelorussian SSR is convinced

that a crucial element here is the Soviet-American Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, which should be adhered to in the form in which it was signed in 1972. It would be in the interests of peace if early agreement were to be reached at the Soviet-American negotiations on nuclear space weapons.

9. The recently stated readiness of the Soviet Union to establish, at the Krasnoyarsk radar tracking station, a centre for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and to include it in the system of a world space organization represents a tangible and constructive step that would be in the interests of the international community. The readiness of other space Powers to respond in the same key could be the starting point in establishing a régime for the utilization and exploitation of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes.

10. The Byelorussian SSR expects the General Assembly at its forty-third session to make a significant contribution to efforts to promote world-wide agreement on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

#### ECUADOR

[Original: Spanish]

[29 February 1988]

Ecuador, as a country with a pacifist tradition, has criticized the arms race in all forums, and has therefore consistently defended the principle that outer space should be maintained as a zone of co-operation for peace. In accordance with this position, it has always supported the resolution on this item which has traditionally been submitted in the General Assembly. In short, Ecuador considers that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes, since its militarization would add to the dangers posed by the nuclear arms race. It also considers that there is a need to foster the creation of an international climate conducive to promoting and guaranteeing confidence-building measures in order to arrive at a positive outcome in the negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

#### GHANA

[Original: English]

[9 March 1988]

Ghana is against the introduction of military competition into space, which should remain to be used peacefully for the benefit of all. We urge the parties to the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems to abide strongly by that Treaty. We also call for the banning of anti-satellite weapons and the testing of such weapons.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[10 November 1988]

1. The prevention of an arms race in outer space is a crucial task of the international community. The introduction of weapons into outer space would deal a blow to disarmament and seriously threaten international security.
2. Given the ever-growing ties, mutual dependence and cohesion of the world, questions of security may be solved only through political - and not military - means. It is imperative to avoid confrontation and to promote dialogue and the search for mutually acceptable decisions on all the problems facing mankind.
3. This fully applies to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Outer space must be reserved for peaceful purposes with a view to promoting the economic and social development of the entire international community.
4. A vital prerequisite for preventing an arms race in outer space is the strict observance of the Treaty between the USSR and the United States on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Systems, as signed in 1972, and non-withdrawal from it for an agreed period.
5. The Ukrainian SSR believes that, given the global nature of the problem of preventing an arms race in outer space, there is a need to inject more vigour into the multilateral negotiations being carried out to that end. First and foremost, the Conference on Disarmament must be rendered much more productive. The representatives of a number of States, including the Soviet Union and France, have submitted concrete proposals to the Conference. The time has come to consider those proposals in depth and in all their aspects and to move on towards putting them into practice.
6. The prevention of an arms race in outer space presupposes the presence of a strict system of verification. Obviously, it must be multilateral. The USSR proposal for establishing a system of international verification with a view to preventing the deployment in outer space of weapons of any kind is a step in that direction.
7. The heart of that system would be an international space inspectorate. Its main task would be to determine the nature of objects to be launched into outer space and to prevent the launching of weapons, or structures equipped with weapons, into outer space.
8. To ensure the effective functioning of the inspectorate, participating States would have to inform the inspectorate of the forthcoming launching of objects into outer space and to grant its representatives access to objects to be launched. An important aspect of such an inspectorate would be the permanent presence of international teams of inspectors at all test sites intended for the launching of space objects, together with provision for inspections. This proposal, which is a manifestation of the policy of openness, ~~glasnost~~ and confidence-building, could

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greatly facilitate the task of preventing the introduction of weapons into outer space.

9. The Ukrainian SSR considers that there is a direct link between the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the utilization of space for the benefit of human civilization. Both these tasks call for the internationalization of efforts and the expansion of co-operation among all States. Here, a major role can and must be played by the United Nations.

10. The Ukrainian SSR supports the proposals for the establishment under United Nations auspices of a world space organization, which would constitute a unique centre for co-ordinating the peaceful uses of outer space. This would enable all States to have access to peaceful space activities and to utilize the ensuing possibilities for the purposes of development. An important aspect of the activities of such an organisation would be the verification of compliance with international agreements prohibiting the militarisation of outer space.

11. The Ukrainian SSR considers that the international community should redouble its efforts to prevent an extension of the arms race into outer space, which should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of present and future generations.

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