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Agenda item 54

PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Doulaye Corentin KI (Burkina Faso)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled:

"Prevention of an arms race in outer space:

"(a) report of the Conference on Disarmament;

"(b) report of the Secretary-General"

was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-first session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/87 of 12 December 1985.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1986, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and a continuation of the general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items, namely, items 46 to 65 and item 144, took place between the 3rd and the 32nd meetings, from 13 October to 4 November (see A/C.1/41/PV.3-32).

4. In connection with item 54, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/
- (b) Prevention of an arms race in outer space: report of the Secretary-General (A/41/470 and Add.1);
- (c) Letter dated 20 December 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communique issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the North Atlantic Council at Brussels on 13 December 1985 (A/41/58);
- (d) Letter dated 21 January 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/97);
- (e) Letter dated 30 January 1986 from the representatives of Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Delhi Statement, adopted on 19 January 1986 by the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues (A/41/124-S/17777);
- (f) Letter dated 3 February 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/131);
- (g) Letter dated 21 February 1986 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/175);
- (h) Letter dated 3 March 1986 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/185);
- (i) Letter dated 21 March 1986 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/230-S/17937 and Corr.1);
- (j) Letter dated 15 May 1986 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 16 to 19 April 1986 (A/41/341-S/18065 and Corr.1);
- (k) Letter dated 1 May 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/356);
- (l) Letter dated 11 June 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communiqué on the meeting of

the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member States, held at Budapest on 10 and 11 June 1986, as well as the appeal by the States members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization to the States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and to all European countries for a programme of the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe (A/41/411-S/18147 and Corr.1 and 2);

(m) Letter dated 25 June 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/430);

(n) Note verbale dated 13 June 1986 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the resolutions adopted at the 75th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Mexico City from 7 to 12 April 1986 (A/41/435);

(o) Letter dated 14 August 1986 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Mexico Declaration adopted by the Heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico and Sweden, and the First President of the United Republic of Tanzania, at Ixtapa, Mexico, on 7 August 1986 and copies of the letters they addressed on the same date to the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the President of the United States of America (A/41/518-S/18277);

(p) Letter dated 25 August 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/541-S/18295);

(q) Letter dated 10 September 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/594-S/18333);

(r) Letter dated 30 September 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare, from 1 to 6 September 1986 (A/41/697-S/18392);

(s) Letter dated 14 October 1986 from the Deputy Head of the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the forty-first session of the General Assembly addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/709-S/18401);

(t) Letter dated 15 October 1986 from the Deputy Head of the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the forty-first session of the General Assembly addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/714-S/18403);

(u) Letter dated 23 October 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communiqué of the meeting of the Committee of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the

States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, held at Bucharest on 14 and 15 October 1986 (A/41/744);

(v) Letter dated 23 October 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/759-S/18422);

(w) Letter dated 4 November 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/794-S/18445);

(x) Letter dated 30 October 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations and the representative of Mexico to the First Committee addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the document entitled "What is to be done?: recommendations of the Palme Commission", adopted on 26 October 1986 by the Palme Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues (A/C.1/41/8).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.4

5. On 27 October, China submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/41/L.4), which was introduced by its representative at the 34th meeting, on 5 November. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming that the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, as a common aspiration of all countries in the world, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, and shall be the province of all mankind,

"Recalling the principles and objectives of 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, 2/ and in particular articles III and IV thereof,

"Further recalling paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 3/ and its relevant resolutions since 1981,

"Especially bearing in mind its resolution 40/87, adopted on 12 December 1985,

2/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

3/ Resolution S-10/2.

"Convinced that the development of outer space weapon systems entails a qualitative escalation of the already serious arms race and further aggravates the world situation,

"Fully taking note of the urgent demand of the international community that immediate and effective measures be taken to prevent an arms race in outer space,

"Recognizing that, with a view to achieving the goal of prevention of an arms race in outer space, measures may be considered in the following aspects, simultaneously or separately:

"(a) Complete prohibition of all types of outer space weapon systems, including anti-missile weapons and anti-satellite weapons, so as to realize the 'non-weaponization' of outer space;

"(b) Prohibition of the use or threat of force and any other hostile actions or threat of such actions in outer space or against the Earth from outer space,

"Believing that the two countries with the largest space capabilities bear a special responsibility for the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

"Taking note of the consideration of the Conference on Disarmament of this question,

"Welcoming the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on this question by the Conference on Disarmament during its 1986 session, 4/

"Noting with regret that the Ad Hoc Committee so far has not been able to start negotiations on an international agreement for the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

"1. Calls upon all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the realization of the objective of peaceful uses of outer space and to adopt prompt and effective measures to prevent an arms race in outer space;

"2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body, to speed up the consideration of the question of preventing an arms race in outer space in all its aspects as a matter of priority and urgency, taking into account all the relevant draft resolutions and proposals;

"3. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish immediately an ad hoc committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the outset of its 1987 session, and while taking into account the above-mentioned possible measures concerning the prevention of an arms race in outer space, to initiate negotiations without delay for concluding an international agreement, or agreements as appropriate, on the prohibition and destruction of all outer space weapon systems and on the prohibition of the use of force or hostile actions within outer space;

"4. Calls upon all States possessing outer space capabilities to refrain from developing, testing and deploying outer space weapons, so as to create propitious conditions for negotiations;

"5. Urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to conduct serious bilateral negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to keep the Conference on Disarmament properly informed of the progress of these negotiations;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all the documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

"7. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

"8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session an item entitled 'Prevention of an arms race in outer space'."

6. At the request of the sponsor, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.4.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24 and Rev.1

7. On 29 October, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/41/L.24). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka at the 29th meeting, on 3 November, and read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Inspired by the great prospects opening up before humankind as a result of man's entry into outer space,

"Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes exclusively,

"Reaffirming that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind as its common heritage,

"Reaffirming further the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes,

"Recalling that the States parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, have undertaken, in article III, to carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding,

"Reaffirming, in particular, article IV of the above-mentioned Treaty, which stipulates that States parties to the treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner,

"Reaffirming also paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it is stated that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

"Recalling its resolutions 36/97 C and 36/99 of 9 December 1981, as well as resolutions 37/83 of 9 December 1982, 37/99 D of 13 December 1982, 38/70 of 15 December 1983, 39/59 of 12 December 1984 and 40/87 of 12 December 1985,

"Gravely concerned at the danger posed to all mankind by an arms race in outer space and, in particular, by the impending threat of exacerbating the current state of insecurity by developments, including ongoing testing, that could further undermine international peace and security, jeopardize existing restraints and retard the pursuit of general and complete disarmament,

"Mindful of the widespread interest expressed by Member States in the course of the negotiations on and following the adoption of the above-mentioned Treaty in ensuring that the exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes, and taking note of proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session devoted to disarmament, and at its regular sessions and to the Conference on Disarmament,

"Noting the grave concern expressed by the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at the

extension of an arms race into outer space and the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, and also to the Committee on Disarmament,

"Convinced that further measures are urgently needed for the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

"Recognizing that, in the context of multilateral negotiations for preventing an arms race in outer space, bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America could make a significant contribution to such an objective, in accordance with paragraph 27 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session,

"Noting with satisfaction that bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have continued since 1985, on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms, both strategic and intermediate-range, and in their relationship, with the declared objective, endorsed in the Joint Statement of their leaders on 21 November 1985, of working out effective agreements aimed, inter alia, at preventing an arms race in outer space,

"Concerned that concrete results had not emerged from these negotiations as yet,

"Taking note of the report of the Conference on Disarmament,

"Welcoming the re-establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space during the 1986 session of the Conference on Disarmament, in the exercise of the negotiating responsibilities of this sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, to continue to examine and to identify through substantive and general consideration issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

"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 urgently 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. Reiterates 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, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

"6. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to consider as a matter of priority the question of preventing an arms race in outer space;

"7. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its consideration of the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, taking into account all relevant proposals including those presented in the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at its 1986 session and at the forty-first session of the General Assembly;

"8. Further requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an ad hoc committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of its session in 1987, with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

"9. Urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to pursue intensively their bilateral negotiations in a constructive spirit aimed at reaching early agreement for preventing an arms race in outer space, and to advise the Conference on Disarmament periodically of the progress of their bilateral sessions so as to facilitate its work;

"10. Calls upon all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to observe relevant existing treaties and to refrain from developing, testing or deploying space weapons pending the negotiation and conclusion of an agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space as well as to conclude initially a ban with appropriate verification measures on dedicated anti-satellite weapons, dismantling existing systems and those under development;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to convey to the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies, in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the wish of the Member States for the early completion of the study of the Institute on Disarmament problems relating to outer space and the consequences of extending the arms race into outer space;

"12. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

"13. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this subject by the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

"14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled 'Prevention of an arms race in outer space'."

8. On 20 November, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1), which was later also co-sponsored by China, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and Peru, containing the following changes:

(a) In the first preambular paragraph, the word "humankind" was replaced by the word "mankind";

(b) At the end of the second preambular paragraph, the word "exclusively" was deleted;

(c) At the end of the third preambular paragraph, the words "as its common heritage" were deleted;

(d) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the phrase "and the relevant paragraphs of the Harare Declaration of the eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries" was added at the end of the paragraph;

(e) In the ninth preambular paragraph, after the words "insecurity by developments", the words "including ongoing testing" were deleted and, after the words "peace and security", the words "jeopardize existing restraints" were also deleted;

(f) In the twelfth preambular paragraph, the word "urgently" was deleted;

(g) At the end of the thirteenth paragraph, the words "of the General Assembly" were added;

(h) The fifteenth preambular paragraph was revised to read:

"Anxious that concrete results should emerge from these negotiations as soon as possible,";

(i) In operative paragraph 3, after the word "adopted", the word "urgently" was deleted;

(j) Operative paragraph 10 was revised to read:

"Calls upon all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to refrain in their activities relating to outer space from actions contrary to the observance of the relevant existing treaties or to the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space;".

9. At its 46th meeting, on 17 November, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1 as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 8 was adopted by a recorded vote of 116 to 1, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows: 5/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(b) Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.24/Rev.1, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 130 to none, with 1 abstention (see para. 14). The voting was as follows: 6/

5/ Subsequently the delegation of Zaire indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of operative paragraph 8.

6/ Subsequently the delegation of Zaire indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: United States of America.

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.41

10. On 30 October, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/41/L.41), which was introduced by the representative of Italy at the 34th meeting, on 5 November. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its relevant resolutions and the applicable provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 3/

"Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

"Reaffirming that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

"Reaffirming further the view of all States that the exploration and use of outer space shall be the province of all mankind,

"Recalling that the States parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 2/ have undertaken, in article III, to carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, both in the interest of strengthening international peace and security and of promoting international co-operation and understanding,

"Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing disarmament agreements relevant to outer space and, in general, with the existing legal régime concerning the use of outer space,

"Aware of the fundamental contribution that space activities can make both to the economic and social progress of mankind, and to international trust, implementation of arms control agreements, peace and stability,

"Noting the great contribution that can be made to an increase of international trust by a greater openness and transparency in activities carried out in outer space,

"Convinced that further efforts should be made in the search for effective and verifiable agreements on the interrelated questions of preventing an arms race in outer space and terminating it on earth,

"Aware of the crucial role that pertains to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and to the United States of America in the pursuance of these goals,

"Noting the recent exchanges of proposals and the continuing negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on matters concerning the prevention of an arms race in outer space and its termination on earth,

"Also noting the work so far undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee to consider all issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space and convinced that such a multilateral process and bilateral negotiations are both complementary and essential,

"1. Recalls the obligation of all States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to refrain from the threat or use of force in general, including in the arena of outer space;

"2. Expresses its satisfaction at the agreement reached in 1986 in the Conference on Disarmament, the single multilateral negotiating forum, on the re-establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the specific item of the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space;

"3. Reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating forum, has a primary role in the question of preventing an arms race in outer space;

"4. Notes that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament accomplished very useful and important work by identifying and clarifying a number of issues, examining the legal régime relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space and considering substantive issues and proposals related to the specific item;

"5. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the beginning of its 1987 session and to intensify substantive work on the subject;

"6. Emphasizes the need that the aforementioned efforts - in the multilateral field - should be aimed at decisively advancing the cause of disarmament, peace, stability and international trust and should be of a mutually complementary character in respect to those being developed bilaterally by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space and eliminating it on earth;

"7. Welcomes the continuation of bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America in space and nuclear arms, both of strategic and of intermediate range, with all these questions to be resolved in their interrelationship;

"8. Calls on the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and on the United States of America to further intensify their Geneva negotiations in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space and terminating it on earth, at drastically reducing nuclear arms and at strengthening international stability;

"9. Calls on all States to spare no efforts with a view to encouraging an early and successful outcome of these negotiations;

"10. Emphasizes the necessity of preventing the erosion of relevant existing treaties;

"11. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

"12. Decides to resume consideration of this issue at its forty-second session under the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

11. At the request of the sponsors, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.41.

D. Draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.42

12. On 30 October, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/41/L.42), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Inspired by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's entry into outer space,

"Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

"Reaffirming that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind,

"Reaffirming further the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes,

"Recalling that the States parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, have undertaken, in article III, to carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding,

"Reaffirming, in particular, article IV of the above-mentioned Treaty, which stipulates that States parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner,

"Reaffirming also paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it is stated that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

"Recalling its resolutions 36/97 C and 36/99 of 9 December 1981, as well as resolutions 37/83 of 9 December 1982, 37/99 D of 13 December 1982, 38/70 of 15 December 1983, 39/59 of 12 December 1984 and 40/87 of 12 December 1985,

"Gravely concerned at the danger posed to all mankind by an arms race in outer space and, in particular, by the impending threat of exacerbating the current state of insecurity by developments that could further undermine international peace and security, retard the pursuit of general and complete disarmament, and threaten to create obstacles in international co-operation in the peaceful use of outer space,

"Mindful of the widespread interest expressed by Member States in the course of the negotiations on and following the adoption of the above-mentioned Treaty in ensuring that the exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes, and taking note of proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions and to the Conference on Disarmament,

"Noting the grave concern expressed by the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space over the extension of an arms race into outer space and the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, and also to the Committee on Disarmament,

"Convinced that further measures are needed for the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

"Considering that prohibition of space-strike weapons, including anti-satellite weapons, space-based anti-ballistic missile systems and space-to-Earth class weapons would be an effective and secure way to prevent all possibilities for introduction of weapons into outer space,

"Recognizing that, in the context of multilateral negotiations for preventing an arms race in outer space, bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America could make a significant contribution to such an objective, in accordance with paragraph 27 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session,

"Noting with satisfaction that bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have continued since 1985 on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms, both strategic and intermediate-range, and in their relationship, with the declared objective of working out effective agreements aimed, inter alia, at preventing an arms race in outer space,

"Expressing the wish that these negotiations lead to concrete results at the earliest possible date,

"Taking note of the report of the Conference on Disarmament,

"Welcoming the re-establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space during the 1986 session of the Conference on Disarmament, in the exercise of the negotiating responsibilities of this sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, to continue to examine and to identify, through substantive and general consideration, issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

"Convinced that the spreading of the arms race in outer space would entail among other negative consequences a waste of huge amounts of resources much needed for development, including allocation of tangible material assistance to developing countries,

"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. Calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to adhere strictly to the existing legal restrictions and limitations on space weapons, including those contained in the Outer Space Treaty and the 1972 Soviet Union-United States Treaty on anti-ballistic missiles, and to refrain from taking any measures aimed at developing, testing or deploying weapons and new weapons systems in outer space;

"6. Stresses the urgency of halting the development of anti-satellite weapons, the dismantling of the existing systems, the prohibition of the introduction of new weapon systems into outer space and of ensuring that the existing treaties safeguarding the peaceful uses of outer space, as well as the 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems are fully honoured;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States that have not yet done so to submit their views 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-second session;

"8. Reiterates 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, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

"9. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its consideration of the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, taking into account all relevant proposals including those presented in the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at its 1986 session and at the forty-first session of the General Assembly;

"10. Further requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an ad hoc committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of its session in 1987 with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

"11. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

"12. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this subject by the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

"13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

13. At the request of the sponsors, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/41/L.42.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

14. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Inspired by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's entry into outer space,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind,

Reaffirming further the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes,

Recalling that the States parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 7/ have undertaken, in article III, to carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding,

Reaffirming, in particular, article IV of the above-mentioned Treaty, which stipulates that States parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner,

Reaffirming also paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 8/ the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it is stated that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its resolutions 36/97 C and 36/99 of 9 December 1981, as well as resolutions 37/83 of 9 December 1982, 37/99 D of 13 December 1982 38/70 of 15 December 1983, 39/59 of 12 December 1984 and 40/87 of 12 December 1985 and the relevant paragraphs of the Harare Declaration of the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, 9/

Gravely concerned at the danger posed to all mankind by an arms race in outer space and, in particular, by the impending threat of exacerbating the current state of insecurity by developments that could further undermine international peace and security and retard the pursuit of general and complete disarmament,

7/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

8/ Resolution S-10/2.

9/ See A/41/697-S/18293.

Mindful of the widespread interest expressed by Member States in the course of the negotiations on and following the adoption of the above-mentioned Treaty in ensuring that the exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes, and taking note of proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session devoted to disarmament, and at its regular sessions and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Noting the grave concern expressed by the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space over the extension of an arms race into outer space and the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, and also to the Committee on Disarmament,

Convinced that further measures are needed for the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing that, in the context of multilateral negotiations for preventing an arms race in outer space, bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America could make a significant contribution to such an objective, in accordance with paragraph 27 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Noting with satisfaction that bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have continued since 1985, on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms, both strategic and intermediate-range, and in their relationship, with the declared objective, endorsed in the Joint Statement of their leaders on 21 November 1985, of working out effective agreements aimed, inter alia, at preventing an arms race in outer space,

Anxious that concrete results should emerge from these negotiations as soon as possible,

Taking note of the report of the Conference on Disarmament, 10/

Welcoming the re-establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space during the 1986 session of the Conference on Disarmament, in the exercise of the negotiating responsibilities of this sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, to continue to examine and to identify through substantive and general consideration issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

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

10/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/41/27).

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. Reiterates 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, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;
6. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to consider as a matter of priority the question of preventing an arms race in outer space;
7. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its consideration of the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, taking into account all relevant proposals, including those presented in the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at its 1986 session and at the forty-first session of the General Assembly;
8. Further requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an ad hoc committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of its session in 1987, with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;
9. Urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to pursue intensively their bilateral negotiations in a constructive spirit aimed at reaching early agreement for preventing an arms race in outer space, and to advise the Conference on Disarmament periodically of the progress of their bilateral sessions so as to facilitate its work;
10. Calls upon all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to refrain in their activities relating to outer space from actions contrary to the observance of the relevant existing treaties or to the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space;
11. Requests the Secretary-General to convey to the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies, in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the wish of the Member States for

the early completion of the study of the Institute on disarmament problems relating to outer space and the consequences of extending the arms race into outer space;

12. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this subject by the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".
