

COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/322

1 September 1982

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

Message of greetings from L.I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

I warmly greet the participants in the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Your conference has assembled on the eve of an important date -- the twenty-fifth anniversary of the beginning of the space era that was started by the launching in the Soviet Union on 4 October 1957 of the first artificial earth satellite. This great victory of human genius ranks with the most outstanding events of world history.

Mankind can rightfully take pride in what has been accomplished during these 25 years. The mastery of outer space is taking place virtually with cosmic speed: from the first artificial earth satellite, from the first revolution around our planet accomplished by Yuri Gagarin, to large orbital complexes and months-long manned flights, to super-long-distance expeditions to the Moon, Mars and Venus.

Today the science of outer space is contributing also in the most direct way to the carrying out of wholly terrestrial, economic tasks. It has become a reliable assistant of the geologist and the sailor, the agronomist and the meteorologist, the communications specialist and the doctor, the cartographer and the forestry worker.

If we look into the near future we shall see being placed on the agenda the question of creating in outer space permanent laboratories on the basis of ever larger orbital complexes with replaceable crews. The creative possibilities of man who is daringly storming the vastness of space are truly boundless!

The successful development of international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space is a cause for satisfaction, and in this the United Nations has played a considerable part. This co-operation is diverse in form and extremely rich in content.

It is particularly gratifying that the first international crews, for whom the trail into outer space was blazed by the "Intercosmos" programme being implemented by the socialist countries, have already been in a near-earth orbit. Citizens of ten countries have made jointly with our cosmonauts space flights in Soviet spaceships and stations. We are ready to contribute further to international flights in outer space.

Co-operation in outer space should unite people and develop an awareness of the fact that we all live on the same planet and that peace and prosperity on earth depend on all of us.

The Soviet Union consistently declares that outer space should remain an arena of peaceful co-operation, that the infinite expanses of outer space should remain free from weapons of any type. The attainment of this great humanitarian objective by joint efforts is not only feasible but is also a vital need for the sake of the future of all mankind.

I wish all participants in the Conference great success in their work and express the hope that its results will serve the cause of the strengthening of peace, mutual understanding and co-operation and contribute to further progress in space exploration for the benefit of all the peoples of our planet.