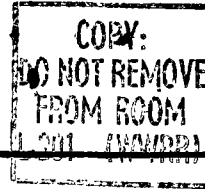


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FIRST COMMITTEE
9th meeting
held on
Monday, 25 October 1982
at 10.30 a.m.
New York



VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 9TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GBEHO (Ghana)

CONTENTS

DISARMAMENT ITEMS

AGENDA ITEMS 39 to 57, 133, 136, 138 and 139 (continued)

General debate

Statements were made by:

- Mr. Garcia Robles (Mexico)
- Mr. de Souza e Silva (Brazil)
- Mr. Petrovsky (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 39 to 57, 133, 136, 138 and 139 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE

The CHAIRMAN: The first speaker this morning is the representative of Mexico, who will speak in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Disarmament.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico), Chairman of the Committee on Disarmament (interpretation from Spanish): As you have just said, Sir, I shall on this occasion be speaking as the current Chairman of the Committee on Disarmament. I wish to introduce to the First Committee the annual report of the Committee on Disarmament on its 1982 session (CD/335).

Six months ago the Committee on Disarmament submitted to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament a special report on the status of negotiations on various questions under study by the Committee in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/92 F of 9 December 1981. The report was introduced on 14 June 1982. It was clear and well presented, characteristic of the representative of Japan on the Committee, Ambassador Yoshio Okawa, who was at that time acting as Chairman of the negotiating body. It provided a summary both of the organization of the work of the Committee, starting from its first session in 1982 and of the substantive work of the Committee relating to that period. Since, naturally, the Committee paid special attention to the first part of the 1982 session, the annual report which it is now my honour to introduce as current Chairman of the Committee on Disarmament, covers primarily the brief period corresponding to the second part of the current year, from 3 August to 17 September.

In the material relating to the organization of the work of the Committee I might point out a proposed addition to rule 25 of the rules of procedure presented by the Group of 21 and the report contains an account of the work of the Committee on the modalities of the composition of the Committee and related questions.

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Chairman,
Committee on Disarmament)

As regards the substantive work, it should be pointed out that in the same period, from 3 August to 17 September, the Ad Hoc Working Groups on item 3, "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" and on item 6, "Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament", did not hold any meetings. As regards the first of those groups, the Committee will consider the question of possible resumption of its work next year. As regards the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament, the Ad Hoc Working Group which was re-established by the Committee - of which, again, I have the honour of having been appointed Chairman - is to resume its formal meetings in 1983, pursuant to the General Assembly's decision in paragraph 63 of the Concluding Document of the second special session devoted to disarmament. That paragraph called on the Committee on Disarmament to submit a revised comprehensive programme of disarmament to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

The reports of the Ad Hoc Working Groups on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons, on Chemical Weapons and on New Types of Weapons of Mass Destruction and New Systems of Such Weapons: Radiological Weapons, as in past years were adopted by the Committee and their texts, which are self-explanatory, may be found in the body of the report, of which they are an integral part.

In concluding this brief summary I wish to stress the exceptionally valuable co-operation which the Secretary and Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Rikhi Jaipul, have continued to give to the Committee. Special mention should also be made, with praise, of Mr. Vicente Berasategui, Deputy Secretary of the Committee.

Finally, I believe it is my duty to draw the attention of the members of the First Committee to the fact that next year will be the fifth anniversary of the creation of the Committee. I therefore believe that this Committee, which the General Assembly in 1978 called "the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament", has a duty to begin to produce draft treaties or conventions on that subject. As the General Assembly said at the time, if tangible progress is to be made then, in the words of the Final Document, we must:

"proceed along the road of binding and effective international agreements in the field of disarmament". (resolution S-10/2, para. 17)

(Mr. Garcia Fobles, Chairman,
Committee on Disarmament)

That was defined as a pressing need "to translate into practical terms the provisions of the Final Document". (ibid.) Let us hope that the proposals the delegations submit to the General Assembly at this, its thirty-seventh session, can contribute to the achievement of that goal.

Mr. de SOUZA e SILVA (Brazil): Mr. Chairman, I should like to congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee and to pledge the full co-operation of my delegation as you discharge your important functions.

I should also like to congratulate Ambassador Garcia Robles and Mrs. Alva Myrdal on the award to them of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1982, as a reward for all the years they have both devoted to the cause of disarmament.

Once again the international community gathers at the United Nations to review the situation in the field of disarmament and international security. Despite the set-backs and frustrations of the recent past, the yearly renewal of this gathering bears ample testimony to the concern of all peoples of the world with the questions that deal with the very survival of mankind.

All States represented in this forum have subscribed to the principle that disarmament is in the individual interest of every Member of the international community as well being the collective responsibility of all. They recognized, and solemnly reaffirmed that recognition only three months ago, that all nations have a legitimate and vital interest in measures of disarmament. The special responsibility placed upon the nuclear-weapon Powers - readily acknowledged by those same Powers - does not mean a monopoly on decisions, nor can it be interpreted as sanctioning a hegemonic relationship with the world at large. The endless accumulation of weapons of mass destruction by any individual nation as a means of ensuring its own security and survival threatens the security and survival of all nations and is thus an unacceptable concept, categorically rejected by the community of nations.

When he spoke at the opening of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly on 27 September, the President of Brazil declared that the balance of terror is not an acceptable substitute for peace. President Figueiredo went on to say: "We cannot persist in the illusion that world harmony can be founded on an excess capacity for destruction." (A/37/PV.5, p.6)

(Mr. de Souza e Silva, Brazil)

Since security and disarmament are in the interests and are the responsibility of the entire community of nations, it is obvious that these goals cannot be attained so long as the most powerful States cling to the exclusive possession of awesome means of destruction; on the contrary, peace and security will continue to be placed in constant jeopardy if those States persist in expanding their rivalry into new and more dangerous spheres of military confrontation. Such an attitude is in stark contradiction with the stated wish of the international community as a whole, including the peoples of those very same Powers which are directly responsible for the present international climate of tension and uncertainty. It also runs counter to commitments explicitly undertaken by those Powers in binding international instruments.

Statesmen and leaders of the nuclear-weapon Powers would do well to heed the call for restraint and responsibility in taking decisions that affect the vital interests of mankind as a whole. In his address to the General Assembly three weeks ago, the President of Brazil also stated:

"The society of nations is essentially a political community. Just as domestic decisions cannot be taken without consulting the interests and yearnings of the people, so it is impossible to ignore in this forum the just and legitimate claims of the great majority of nations, thus preserving vertical structures of international power." (ibid., p. 13-15)

Brazil stands resolutely against any attempt at perpetuating the current state of imbalance in international relations. A handful of nations seem to operate under the assumption that they have every right to acquire and wield absolute power, even at the risk of the total destruction of mankind. They seem to assume that solemn international commitments, including those undertaken in legally binding treaties, are meant only to restrict the action of the powerless, while they themselves are placed beyond the reach of such commitments.

The unfortunate consequences of that attitude on the multilateral treatment of the issues of disarmament and security are well known to all of us. The selfishness and insensitivity of the nuclear-weapon Powers, and particularly of the two super-Powers, have been responsible for the failure of efforts to reach agreements that would stop and reverse the arms race; even more sadly, the behaviour of those Powers has also endangered existing agreements and shaken

the faith of the international community in the sincerity of purpose of the powerful. The responsibility for this state of affairs lies squarely on their shoulders. The nuclear-weapon Powers are the ones that must prove to the international community their continued dedication to the principles they have accepted and reaffirmed. They are the ones that must show, through tangible deeds, that solemn commitments written in international treaties have not been forgotten. They are the ones that must assume and exercise in a constructive way the special responsibilities accepted by them.

The proceedings of the current session of the General Assembly represent a renewed opportunity for the international community to express its wishes with regard to some of the most pressing questions in the field of disarmament and international security; it also affords the international community a new opportunity to assess the disposition of the nuclear-weapon Powers, and particularly of the super-Powers, towards those questions. I should now like to touch briefly upon some of those issues, while reserving the right of my delegation further to intervene at the appropriate occasion in our debate.

(Mr. de Souza e Silva, Brazil)

Foremost among the issues to be examined by the First Committee is the long overdue negotiation of a treaty to extend the ban on nuclear-weapon testing to all environments. My delegation and many others have stressed the importance and priority attached to a comprehensive nuclear test ban. In the Committee on Disarmament the contradiction between stated official positions and obligations assumed under binding international instruments, such as the 1963 Partial Test-Ban Treaty, has been called to the attention of those who still stand in the way of the negotiation of a comprehensive test ban. We had particularly in mind the position of the United States of America, and we look forward to seeing that its attitude fully matches its assurance of continuing compliance with that Treaty.

My delegation also deplores the decisions by France and China not to participate in the preliminary work now under way in the Committee on Disarmament on that question. Their co-operation in multilateral efforts directed towards a comprehensive test-ban treaty would be a natural consequence of the responsibilities that they have accepted, both as members of the Committee on Disarmament and as parties to the consensus on the Final Document of 1978.

The delegation of the Soviet Union has submitted a draft resolution on this question under a new agenda item that it has proposed. Incidentally, my delegation shares the concern of the representative of the Bahamas, Ambassador Hepburn, at the proliferation of agenda items dealing with the same subject and hopes that the consensus opinion of the General Assembly on the nuclear test ban can be expressed in a single resolution negotiated among the sponsors of the texts to be submitted later on. As for the substance of the document attached to the Soviet draft resolution, we note preliminarily that the "basic provisions" proposed draw extensively on the report submitted by the trilateral negotiators to the Committee on Disarmament two years ago. That would seem to indicate that, as a starting point, a measure of common ground could be found among the three States concerned.

The Committee on Disarmament has before it other texts and proposals submitted to its predecessors. The single resolution that should be adopted at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly ought not to prejudge

(Mr. de Souza e Silva, Brazil)

the merits or shortcomings of the existing proposals on the matter. In our view, it should strongly urge the Committee on Disarmament to proceed forthwith to the negotiating of a treaty on the cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, taking into account all current proposals and previous initiatives. The existing subsidiary body of the Committee on Disarmament is fully entitled to carry out such a task.

Another issue that has elicited great interest among Members is the prevention of the arms race in outer space, as they notice the current intensification of efforts by the super-Powers to utilize the extra-terrestrial environment for military purposes. Both super-Powers, however, are parties to the 1967 Treaty on the peaceful uses of outer space, which declares that outer space should be utilized exclusively for the benefit of mankind. Yet thousands of satellites already in orbit are used - or, rather, misused - for military purposes, such as, for instance, housing the guidance and navigational systems for weapons of mass destruction. Can such activities be said to be in keeping with the obligations assumed under the existing international treaty, let alone its purposes and spirit? What benefit does mankind derive from such activities and operations? Heedless of the dangers inherent in this new area of confrontation, the super-Powers proceed actively to expand further the utilization of the extra-terrestrial environment for warlike objectives. The gravity and urgency of the situation calls for enlightened statesmanship, rather than irresponsible conduct dictated by narrow self-interest in this dangerous game of power.

The adoption at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly of two rival resolutions, each aimed at curtailing activities in which one side perceives the other as holding a technological edge, proved incapable of setting in motion any workable procedure for arriving at practical negotiations on these pressing issues. My delegation urges the super-Powers and their allies to cast aside the sinister logic of confrontation and to engage instead in meaningful negotiations to expand the scope of the existing treaty on outer space in conformity with its main objective, that is, the utilization of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of mankind.

(Mr. de Souza e Silva, Brazil)

This Committee has also inherited from the ill-fated second special session on disarmament a number of items on which no action was taken, chiefly because of the lack of political will to engage in any serious discussion that could lead to progress. The main casualty of that situation were the endeavours, since the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, to bring before the United Nations the single most pressing issue of our age - the prevention of nuclear war. On the occasion of the second special session on disarmament, public opinion vividly demonstrated, wherever it could be freely expressed, the deep concern for survival in the face of the threat looming over mankind. My delegation hopes that the General Assembly will not let the opportunity to take meaningful action slip by once again. Only by facing squarely the challenges of our time will the United Nations be able to accomplish the historic task for which it was created.

By the same token, the prestige and effectiveness of the Organization, and particularly of the multilateral machinery for disarmament, rest ultimately on its ability to cope with the problems placed before it. But it is only through the will of States to live up to their commitments that this Organization can become an effective tool for the solution of problems that concern us all. The restructuring of secretarial services, or of technical or research units in the field of disarmament should reflect an enhanced ability of the multilateral organs to fulfil their responsibilities. My delegation trusts, therefore, that this session of the General Assembly will take decisions enabling the Disarmament Commission to discharge fully the deliberative function which the Final Document of 1978 entrusted to it. In the examination of and action on the relevant section of the report of the Committee on Disarmament and on proposals dealing with institutional arrangements, my delegation will have in mind the same aforementioned considerations.

Let me close my remarks by stressing a point that my delegation has made before. The history of the failure of this Organization to achieve progress in the field of disarmament cannot be ascribed to the shortcomings of the structure at its disposal. Rather, progress can be brought about only by the concerted

(Mr. de Souza e Silva, Brazil)

action of the Governments that make up this Organization, an action in which those that bear a special responsibility for disarmament must necessarily participate in good faith. As long as they do not show, not by words but by their deeds, that they are prepared to live up to their responsibility before this body, it is the duty of all other members of the international community to demand respect for the concerns of the vast majority of mankind.

Mr. PETROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries attach cardinal significance to the problem of the prevention of nuclear war, the limitation of armaments and disarmament. This is shown in particular by the outcome of the meeting held on 21 to 22 October in Moscow of the Committee of the Foreign Ministers of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance.

On behalf of their countries, the participants at the meeting declared that

"The States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty will continue in future to do their utmost to stop the process of the worsening of tension in the world, to remove the danger of war and to achieve progress in the limitation and reduction of armaments, in particular in nuclear armaments".

"In this connexion" - we read in the communiqué of the Committee - "the States represented at the meeting, being convinced that the adoption by all nuclear Powers of the obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons would, in present conditions, be exceptionally important for the prevention of a nuclear war, welcomed and supported the assumption of such an obligation by the Soviet Union, as announced in Mr. Brezhnev's message to the General Assembly at its second special session on disarmament. They consider it essential that similar obligations should be assumed by all those nuclear Powers that have not yet done so".

At the meeting it was noted that:

"The overwhelming majority of Member States of the United Nations, broad circles of world public opinion and the peoples of the world advocate the adoption of effective measures for the prevention of nuclear war, for the intensification of negotiations on halting the arms race and for disarmament and for the prompt attainment of practical results of those negotiations, including the negotiations in the Geneva Committee on Disarmament".

This is the purpose of the whole range of proposals advanced by the socialist countries on a broad spectrum of questions in the field of disarmament, primarily of nuclear disarmament. Among these questions the participants at the meeting considered it essential to lay particular stress on the question of complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon testing, given its significance for

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

the halting of the nuclear-arms race and the fact that negotiations on it were close to completion. The States represented at the Moscow meeting resolutely advocated the immediate resumption of the negotiations on this question that were suspended by the United States, and urged all interested parties, acting in a spirit of good will and political responsibility, to strive for the speediest conclusion of the appropriate treaty.

"The main characteristic of the work at the meeting of the Committee of Foreign Ministers", as the communiqué points out, "is the common determination of their States consistently to apply a policy of peace, détente and international security. This policy is designed to remove the threat of a nuclear catastrophe and to improve relations between States and bring about the development of a constructive dialogue for mutually advantageous trade, economic, scientific, technological and other peaceful relations in keeping with the aspirations of all peoples".

The consideration this year of questions of arms limitation and disarmament makes it essential for us to dwell in particular on the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. There are some very good reasons for this.

On 4 October this year, the whole world observed the twenty-fifth anniversary of the launching of the first artificial earth satellite in history which opened up the space age for mankind. The citizens of the Soviet Union are justifiably proud that "Sputnik" was the product of their hands. Soviet man began the conquest of space in the interests of advancing science and of mankind as a whole, in doing so pursuing peaceful purposes. The next epoch-making event of the space age following the launching of the first Sputnik was the launching of the "Vostok" space craft piloted by the first cosmonaut of all time, Uri Gagarin. That flight demonstrated the fundamental possibility of man's safe presence and work in space. Today, as we sit in this Committee, 167 whole days of fruitful work have taken place in orbit with the valiant Soviet cosmonauts Anatoly Berezovoi and Valentin Lebedev.

The Soviet Union regards the accomplishments of Soviet cosmonauts as being the general accomplishment of the human mind and actively participates in international co-operation in the peaceful conquest of outer space. Working

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

together with Soviet cosmonauts, there have been on Soviet spacecraft daring space explorers from Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Romania, Viet Nam, Cuba and France. At the present time a similar flight is being prepared by representatives of India who will be together with Soviet cosmonauts. It is with satisfaction that we recall our co-operation in the peaceful exploration of space with the United States, a manifestation of which was the joint "Soyuz-Apollo" flight. We wish to pay all due tribute to the contribution made to the peaceful conquest of space by the astronauts of the United States who were the first to set foot on the surface of the moon as well as to the scientists and specialists of France, India, Japan, the Chinese People's Republic, Austria and other countries.

One can really say that man is now beginning to move into space. In a quarter of a century, 111 cosmonauts and astronauts have been in space and the total duration of man's presence in a weightless state amounts to eight-and-a-half years. Today space technology is an important instrument for enhancing work in fields such as telecommunications, weather forecasting, the study of earth-based natural resources and the protection of the environment.

From the very first days of this space age, the Soviet Union has persistently proceeded from the notion that space and peace are inseparable and that outer space must serve the progress of mankind and be used for creative and not destructive ends.

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

As was emphasized by the Chief of the Soviet State, Mr. Brezhnev, the Soviet Union has been and remains a convinced advocate of the development of business-like international co-operation in space. Let the boundless ocean of space be clean and free of weapons of any sort. What we want is the attainment, through joint efforts, of the great and humane goal of prevention of the militarization of space. It is to be noted with satisfaction that, thanks to the joint efforts of many States, certain progress has been made towards this common task of mankind.

On 10 October it had been 15 years since the adoption of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which, as one of the most important attainments in the sphere of limitation of the arms race, was designed to protect space from the deployment of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and, together with the 1963 Moscow Treaty, from nuclear-weapon testing.

If we add to that the provisions of the 1977 Convention relating to this matter - the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques - as well as the Soviet-American SALT Agreements of 1972 to 1979, the conclusion of the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, and the Additional Protocol thereto, it is no exaggeration to say that at the present time space is, in many instances, a symbol of the attainment of the human intelligence, not only in the scientific and technological sphere, but also in the political sphere.

Seeking to consolidate and develop this positive trend, the Soviet Union, as is well known, advocated the consideration by the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly of an initiative the essence of which was to prevent the further militarization of space and to preclude the possibility of its being turned into an arena for the arms race, an additional source of tension in relations among States.

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

The Soviet Union has proposed the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space. The purposes and content of that proposal have been stated in detail in the letter of 10 August 1981 from the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, Mr. Gromyko, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/36/192) and in the annexed draft treaty, as well as in statements of Soviet representatives at the last regular and twelfth special sessions of the General Assembly, in the Committee on Disarmament and in the recent Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in Vienna.

One need not be a prophet to assert that an arms race, if it were to get into orbit, would accelerate to astronomic levels, and the associated military threat would assume even more global dimensions, not to mention the truly astronomic amounts of money that would be diverted in that case from the terrestrial needs of peoples.

As is well known, the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly requested the Committee on Disarmament to hold practical negotiations on the elaboration of urgent measures to prevent the spread of the arms race to space, and an appropriate item was included on the agenda of the Committee. However, it has proved impossible to translate the will of the majority into specific acts. We agree with the opinion of the representative of Mexico, Ambassador Garcia Robles, to the effect that the refusal to set up a working group on this question in the Committee on Disarmament is a blatant example of obstruction of efforts to limit the arms race and achieve disarmament.

What lies behind the sabotaging of attempts to draft measures for the prevention of an arms race in space? One can easily imagine what those reasons are, and a hint is provided by the stepped-up activities of the United States aimed at the establishment of means of waging war in and from space, which involves the danger of turning space into another arena for the arms race.

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

As the American press itself has pointed out, despite the spirit of the 1967 Treaty, which was designed to preclude an arms race in space, the United States has in the recent past been working extensively to militarize space in keeping with special directives of the present Administration. During the past fiscal year, more money has been appropriated in the American budget for the Pentagon space programme - \$6.4 billion - than the \$5.5 billion that has gone to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In addition, according to the assessment of the situation offered by David Ritchie, author of Space war, a book recently published in the United States, the Pentagon is now "the boss" of NASA because it controls the shuttle, which constitutes the main purpose for NASA's existence.

In Washington, honours are lavished on the father of the American hydrogen bomb, Mr. Teller, who quite openly proposes that weapons based on the use of nuclear energy be launched into space, in disregard of obligations assumed by the United States under international agreements. In the next five years, the United States intends to increase its military space budget by 10 per cent per annum.

The New York Times has quoted the utterances of Pentagon generals who have said that they view space as a proper place for the deployment of weapons and as a potential theatre for military operations. Indeed, projects are under way for the establishment and deployment of missile and laser weapons in space, and intensive work is being done to set up means of destroying space objects. Pentagon plans, agreed upon in keeping with deadlines in order to step up the production of strategic offensive weapons and the deployment of anti-missile and anti-satellite weapons, are designed to complete the creation, in the 1980s, of a so-called first-strike potential.

Washington's military thrust into space is obviously intended to achieve military supremacy and to implement its position-of-strength policy on earth. As The New York Times states, there is a link between military space systems and the preparation, in the form of the Rapid Deployment Force, of an instrument of military interference in the affairs of various parts of the world.

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

As a pretext for building up military muscle in outer space, the representatives of the military frequently talk about the existence of some sort of Soviet military threat in outer space. But the following question arises: why was it the United States which broke off negotiations with the Soviet Union on anti-satellite systems, and why is it avoiding the resumption of such negotiations? Why did it not seize upon the idea of preventing an arms race in outer space as a way of eliminating the notorious "Soviet threat"? The answer is clear: the "Soviet military threat" in outer space is just as much a malicious fabrication as the "Soviet military threat" on earth. But the threat posed to the militarists by the Soviet Union's peaceful proposals is a very real one.

The Soviet draft treaty provides that States parties will undertake not to place in orbit around the earth objects carrying weapons of any kind, to install such weapons on celestial bodies, or to station such weapons in outer space by any other means, including reusable manned space vehicles.

The conclusion of such a treaty would place obstacles in the way of using outer space as a theatre for military operations.

In the draft treaty, States parties would undertake not to destroy, damage, disturb the normal function of, or change the flight trajectory of, space objects of other States parties, if such objects were placed in orbit in strict accordance with the purposes of the treaty.

The draft treaty provides also for the appropriate system of verification that would be needed, in accordance with the current technology and with generally recognized practices.

In submitting its draft treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space, the Soviet Union is in no way claiming any monopoly in the search for solutions to this problem. As we all know, several States have made proposals regarding the prohibition of anti-satellite systems. As a matter of principle we do not object to the consideration of their proposals as well; it will already have been noted that our draft treaty embodies such a prohibition. But to reduce this whole question to a matter of anti-satellite systems would be to restrict the nature of the task in an artificial manner.

The substance of the problem is the prevention of the arms race in outer space as a whole, and the question of anti-satellite systems can be considered within the context of the adoption of effective measures to resolve that problem.

My delegation proposes that we approach this goal from all directions. The Soviet delegation considers it essential to spur on the work in the Committee on Disarmament on the drafting of an international agreement on the prevention of the spread of the arms race to outer space. At the same time, I am empowered to confirm the Soviet Union's readiness to resume negotiations with the United States on anti-satellite systems. Thus, it is now for the United States side to respond.

Many States have advocated preventing an arms race in outer space. In the work of our Committee this year alone, the representatives of Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Mexico, Yugoslavia, India, Austria, Brazil, and a large number of other countries have spoken along those lines. The representative of Argentina, speaking recently in this Committee, clearly expressed a general concern, in wondering whether mankind was to be doomed to an arms race in outer space as well: it is important to see quite clearly that there is no malign Fate at work here, merely an absence on the part of some easily identified States of the political will to renounce militaristic programmes in outer space.

The Soviet delegation calls upon this Committee and the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly to oppose this dangerous trend and, by expressing a clear determination, to prevent space from being used as an arena of confrontation in the arms race. For its part, the Soviet Union is absolutely determined to do its utmost to prevent that happening.

The meeting rose at 12 noon