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PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

Report of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. **Kazimierz TOMASZEWSKI** (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space: report of the Conference on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-second session in accordance with General Assembly resolution **41/53** of 3 December 1986.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1987, 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 1 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely, items 48 to 69, followed by statements on specific disarmament agenda items and a continuation of the general debate, as necessary. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 31st meetings, from 12 October to 3 November (see **A/C.1/42/PV.3-31**).
4. In connection with item 56, the First Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/42/27).

(b) Letter dated 19 December 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/59-S/18534) ;

(c) Letter dated 19 January 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/93-S/18620);

(d) Letter dated 17 February 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/132-S/18701) ;

(e) Letter dated 5 March 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/167-S/18741) ;

(f) Letter dated 15 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/231-S/18816) ;

(g) Letter dated 28 May 1987 from the 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 joint statement dated 22 May 1987 of the President of Argentina, the Prime Minister of Greece, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Mexico, the Prime Minister of Sweden and the First President of the United Republic of Tanzania (A/42/319-5/18894);

(h) Letter dated 12 June 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/346-S/18922);

(i) Letter dated 15 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the final statement of the fifth session of the InterAction Council, held at Kuala Lumpur from 19 to 21 April 1987 (A/42/407) ;

(j) Letter dated 9 October 1987 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 joint statement issued on 7 October 1987 by the President of Argentina, the Prime Minister of Greece, the Prime Minister of India, the President of Mexico, the Prime Minister of Sweden and the First President of the United Republic of Tanzania (A/42/652-S/19201) ;

(k) Letter dated 23 October 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-second session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 5 to 7 October 1987 (A/42/681) ;

(l) Letter dated 2 November 1987 from the Permanent Representative Of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué and the document entitled "Towards Increasing the Effectiveness of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva", issued at the session of the Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty, held at Prague on 28 and 29 October 1987 (A/42/708 and Corr.1);

(m) Letter dated 5 November 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/715-5/19252 and Corr.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.11

5. On 22 October 1987, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, 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.1/42/L.11). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of France at the 35th meeting, on 6 November, and 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,

"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,

"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, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding,

"Emphasizing also the importance of article IV 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 stipulate 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 the importance of respect for existing disarmament agreements relating to outer space and, in general, for the existing legal régime relating to the use of outer space,

"Bearing in mind that outer space has been used for national security activities for 30 years,

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

"Recognizing the importance of the bilateral negotiations being conducted by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms with the declared objective of formulating effective agreements aimed, inter alia, at preventing an arms race in outer space,

"Convinced of the importance of the role of the Conference on Disarmament in regard to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

"Noting the work undertaken to date by the Conference on Disarmament and by its Ad Hoc Committee to examine and to identify issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and convinced that this multilateral process and the bilateral negotiations are complementary,

"1. Recalls the obligation of all States to refrain from the threat or use of force in their space activities in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

"2. Expresses its satisfaction regarding the agreement reached in 1987 at the Conference on Disarmament on the re-establishment of an ad hoc committee on the specific topic of the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

"3. Notes that the work accomplished in 1987 by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament has contributed to a better understanding of a certain number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions;

"4. Considers that the examination and identification of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space needs to be advanced and

further developed, with a view to reaching a Level of agreement which would permit joint definition of the scope and specific objectives of the multilateral efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space;

"5. Considers that no effort should be spared to ensure that the substantive work on the agenda item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" continues during the 1988 session of the Conference on Disarmament;

"6. Recommenda that the Conference on Disarmament, at its 1988 session re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space with an adequate mandate)

"7. Expresses the hope that the progress achieved in relation to intermediate-range nuclear weapons will lead the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to intensify their bilateral negotiations so as to arrive at effective and verifiable agreements designed to effect major reductions in their nuclear weapons, strengthen international stability and prevent an arms race in outer space;

"8. Stresses the need to prevent the erosion of the treaties in force regarding this matter!

"9. Requeste the Conference on Disarmament to report on the work it has devoted to this question to the General Assembly at its forty-third session!

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

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

6. At the request of the sponsors, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C. L/42/L. 11.

B. Draft resolution A/C. 1/42/L.14

7. On 23 October, Rulgarfa, 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.1/42/L.14), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"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, 40/87 of 12 December 1985 and 41/53 of 3 December 1986,

"Recalling the provisions of articles XII and IV 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, 3/ as well as paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 4/

"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,

"Considering that there is a need to unite the efforts of the whole international community and to develop and intensify comprehensive co-operation for the peaceful exploitation of outer space, which would be facilitated by the establishment of a World Space Organization,

"Noting the great significance of confidence-building measures relating to the space activities of States for the development of international co-operation in the peaceful exploitation of outer space and the strengthening of international security,

"Convinced that specific measures are needed for the prevention of an arms race in outer space and, in the first instance, for the banning of offensive space weapons,

"Convinced also that a strengthening of the mutual and complementary relationship between multilateral efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space and the bilateral negotiations on nuclear and space weapons 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 paragraphs 27 and 114 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

"Desiring that the negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America should lead as soon as possible to concrete results regarding the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the cessation of the arms race on Earth,

"Emphasizing the great significance for the prevention of an arms race in outer space of the ABM Treaty of 1972,

"Acknowledging the importance of ensuring strict verification of the observance of obligations with respect to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and of creating for these purposes a system of international verification to preserve peace in outer space,

3/ Ibid,

4/ Resolution S-10/2.

"Convinced that the spread of the arms race to outer space would entail, among other negative consequences, the waste of enormous resources acutely needed for development purposes, including the provision of tangible material assistance to developing countries,

"Taking note of the conclusion in the report of the Conference on Disarmament that the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the course of its 1987 session advanced and developed further the examination and identification of various issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, 5/

"1. Recall5 the obligation of all States to refrain from the threat or use of force in their space activities)

"2. Reaffirm5 that general and complete disarmament under effective international control warrant5 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 concrete measures with appropriate and effective provision5 for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space should be adopted by the international community;

"4. Calls upon all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to comply strictly with existing legal restrictions, both bilateral and multilateral, aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space, in the first instance the ABM Treaty of 1972

"5. Emphasizes the urgent need for the prohibition, halting of the development and destruction of anti-satellite weapons, and for the prohibition of the deployment of weapons in outer space;

"6. Calls upon all States engaged in space activities to facilitate the development and strengthening of an international inspection system for the maintenance of peace in outer space, whose functions would include the inspection of every launch of space objects, and to transmit to representatives of the inspectorate in good time the necessary information about such launches, including their location, type of launch vehicle, general information about the object launched and relevant dates;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to invite States Member5 that have not yet done so to submit their views on the possibility of developing international co-operation for the prevention of an arms race in outer space and for the peaceful exploitation of outer space, including the establishment of a World Space Organization which would become an important component part

Of the machinery for internationalizing the efforts of States to ensure security and co-operation and would fulfil the functions both of verifying the prevention of a space arms race and of co-ordinating the peaceful exploitation of outer space, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

"8. Notes that the study on disarmament problems relating to outer space and the consequences of extending the arms race into outer space, which was requested by the General Assembly in resolution 41/53, has been prepared by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, and that following a final meeting of the group of experts in September 1987, a report on the work on that study was completed and prepared for publication in the autumn of 1987;

"9. 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;

"10. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an ad hoc committee at the beginning of its 1988 session in order to initiate without delay negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of 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-third session:

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

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

8. At the request of the sponsors, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.14.

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.20

9. On 26 October, China submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/42/L.20), which 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 interest 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, 6/ 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 7/ and its relevant resolutions since 1981,

"Especially bearing in mind its resolution 41/53 of 3 December 1986,

"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,

"Affirming the need to consolidate and reinforce the legal régime applicable to outer space and recognizing that this legal régime, as such, is not sufficient to guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

"Also recognizing that, with a view to achieving the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, measures may be considered in the following aspects, simultaneously or separately: completely prohibit 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; prohibit the use or threat of force and any other hostile actions or threat of such actions in outer space, against outer space from the Earth or from outer space against the Earth,

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

"Taking note of the consideration of the question by the Conference on Disarmament, 8/

"Welcoming the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space by the Conference on Disarmament during its 1987 session,

6/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

7/ Resolution S-10/2.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/42/27), sect. III.E.

"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 outer space capabilities, to contribute actively to the realisation of the objective of the peaceful use 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 the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects as a matter of priority and urgency, taking into account all relevant draft resolutions and proposals;

"3. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish immediately an Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space with an adequate mandate at the outset of its 1988 session, with a view to initiating negotiations 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 in, to or from outer space;

"4. Urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, the two major space Powers, to refrain from developing, testing and deploying outer space weapons, 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;

"5. 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-second session;

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

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

10. At the request of the sponsor, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.20.

D. Draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.43 and Rev.1

11. On 27 October, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Xndonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe submitted a draft resolution entitled 'Prevention of an arms race in outer space'

(A/C.1/42/L.43). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative Of Egypt at the 25th meeting, on 29 October.

12. On 12 November, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/42/L.43/Rev.1), which was later also sponsored by Ireland. The revised draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Egypt at the 44th meeting, on 16 November, and contained the following changes:

(a) The twelfth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Recognizing that the legal régime applicable to outer space, as such, is not sufficient to guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space,",

was deleted;

(b) After the eighteenth preambular paragraph, (now the seventeenth preambular paragraph) a new preambular paragraph was added, reading:

"Noting that the work accomplished in 1987 by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament has contributed to a fuller identification of issues and a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,"

(c) Operative paragraphs 5 and 6, which had read:

"5. Invites all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to declare that they have not deployed weapons in outer space on a permanent basis;

"6. Affirms the need to consolidate and reinforce the legal regime applicable to outer space in recognition of its significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment and the importance of strict compliance with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;",

were replaced by a new operative paragraph 5, reading:

"5. Recognizes, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament, that the legal régime applicable to outer space, as such, is not sufficient to guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the significant role that régime plays in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, the need to consolidate and reinforce that régime, to enhance its effectiveness, and the importance of strict compliance with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;"

and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(d) Operative paragraph 11, which had read:

"11. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to thoroughly examine various proposals and initiatives before it on all aspects of the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to identifying specific measures in respect of the question,"

was deleted and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(e) In operative paragraph 14 (now operative paragraph 12) in the penultimate line, the word "being" before the word "finalized" was deleted and was inserted before the word "prepared".

13. At its 44th meeting, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/42/L.43/Rev.1, as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 9 was adopted by a recorded vote of 116 to 1, with 10 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, 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, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

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

(b) Draft resolution A/C.1/42/43/Rev.1, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 127 to 1 (see para. 14). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, The 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**, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, **Côte d'Ivoire**, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, **Democratic Yemen**, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, **Ecuador**, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, *France*, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, **Germany**, Federal Republic of, **Ghana**, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, **Hungary**, **Iceland**, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, **Kenya**, Kuwait, **Lao** People's **Democratic Republic**, **Lesotho**, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, **Luxembourg**, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, **New Zealand**, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, **Oman**, Pakistan, Panama, Papua **New Guinea**, **Peru**, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, **Romania**, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, **Singapore**, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian **Arab Republic**, Thailand* 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, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

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, 9/ 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, 10/ 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, 40/87 of 12 December 1985, and 41/53 of 3 December 1986 and the relevant paragraphs of the Political Declaration adopted by the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986, 11/

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

9/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

10/ Resolution S-10/2 .

11/ See A/41/697-S/18392, annex, paras. 36-39.

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 12/ made to the competent organs of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, and also to the Committee on Disarmament, 13/

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, 14/ 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, 15/

Welcoming the re-establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space during the 1987 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,

12/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2), para. 426.

13/ The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

14/ A/40/1070, annex.

15/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/42/27).

Noting that the work accomplished in 1987 by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament has contributed to a fuller identification of issues and a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

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. Recognizes, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament, that the legal régime applicable to outer space, as such, is not sufficient to guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the significant role that régime plays in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, the need to consolidate and reinforce that régime, to enhance its effectiveness, and the importance of strict compliance with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

6. 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;

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

8. 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 the 1987 session of the Conference and at the forty-second session of the General Assembly;

9. Further requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an ad hoc committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of its 1988 session, 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;

10. 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;

11. 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;

12. Takes note that the study on disarmament problems relating to outer space and the consequence of extending the arms race into outer space, called for in resolution 41/53, has been prepared by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and that, after a final meeting of the group of experts held in September 1987, the report was finalized and being prepared for publication in autumn 1987;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to invite the views of Member States on all aspects of the question of: the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

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

15. 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-second session;

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