

Mr. ERDEMBILEG (Mongolia) (translated from Russian): Mr. President, as you know, at the plenary meeting on 2 August the Mongolian delegation, on behalf of a group of socialist countries, formally submitted document CD/529 which contains a draft mandate for an ad hoc committee on item 5 of the Conference's agenda, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

I requested you then, Mr. President, to have a decision taken as rapidly as possible on the draft mandate. We intended to request you to have a decision taken on it at today's plenary meeting.

This morning, however, I understood from a short conversation with you that you intend to hold consultations on this matter with the Co-ordinators of the groups. The Mongolian delegation is prepared, on behalf of the group of socialist countries, to take part in these consultations. But in the event of the failure of the consultations, the Mongolian delegation requests that the Conference should take the corresponding decision on document CD/529 at the next plenary meeting on 9 August 1984.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the secretariat for reissuing the English-language version of document CD/529 for technical reasons.

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The PRESIDENT: In view of the statements that we have heard I have to note that there is no consensus at present on the proposal contained in paragraph 7 of document CD/526.

We have concluded our consideration of the proposals made for draft mandates under item 2 on the agenda. I suggest that we now take up those proposals submitted under item 5 entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". The first proposal before the Conference is contained in document CD/329/Rev.2, submitted by the Group of 21. Is there any objection to this proposal?

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Italy, Ambassador Alessi.

Mr. ALESSI (Italy) (translated from French): Mr. President, the Group of Western Countries has considered the draft mandate contained in document CD/329/Rev.2 with all the attention it deserves. I regret to have to state that the Group is not in a position to join in a consensus on the document for the reasons which were advanced during the consultations which you and your predecessors have held on this subject as well as in the plenary meetings of the Conference.

Mr. ERDEMBILEG (Mongolia) (translated from Russian): I should like to state on behalf of a group of socialist countries that our Group endorses the ideas contained in document CD/329/Rev.2, submitted by the Group of 21.

Mr. QIAN JIADONG (China) (translated from Chinese): Mr. President, since the commencement of the spring part of this session, the parties concerned have been engaged in prolonged and frequent consultations on the question of establishing a subsidiary body on the prevention of arms race in outer space. The Group of 21 presented, at the outset, its draft mandate, which the Chinese delegation has consistently considered could serve as a basis for reaching agreement. However, because of broad differences of view, it has not been able to break through the deadlock so far, although various solutions have been proposed by some delegations.