

50. A number of delegations emphasized the need for the space powers to demonstrate the necessary political will, not only to avoid further militarization of outer space, but also to recognize that the pursuit of their interests in this sphere cannot take precedence over the interests of the international community.

51. Various delegations believed that, in view of the complexity and technical nature of the subject, the work of the Ad Hoc Committee would benefit greatly from the participation of experts. Accordingly, they suggested that at an early stage during the next session consideration should be given to ways and means of organizing that participation.

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52. Many delegations stressed that they had accepted the mandate because it expressly indicated that there would be a first exploratory stage and that "as a first step at this stage", it would be necessary to examine, "through substantive and general consideration, issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space". In their view, it was clear from the explicit reference in the last line in the mandate, that the stage referred to must end at the same time as the 1985 session of the Ad Hoc Committee and that next year negotiations should begin with a view to the "conclusion of an agreement or agreements", as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space, as specifically stated in resolution 39/59 approved by 150 votes in favour and none against.

53. Other delegations stressed that in their view, the accepted mandate was a relevant and realistic one that permitted a considerable amount of concrete work which would not interfere, undercut or in any way prejudice the bilateral negotiations under way between the United States of America and the USSR on this issue. Furthermore, those delegations made clear their hope that the mandate would not expire at the end of the 1985 session should the Committee not have completed the kind of exploratory work envisaged by those delegations in the mandate.

54. Delegations of the socialist countries, fully sharing the opinion expressed in paragraph 52 above, upheld the view that the Conference on Disarmament should re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee at the beginning of its 1986 session with an appropriate mandate enabling it to start negotiations on concrete