

(The President)

To find much that is positive in other items of the CD's agenda would be a rather painful and time-consuming process. Let me therefore just note that the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space and the commencement of its substantive work in the spring session, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Pugliese, can be considered a step in the right direction. The threat of the spread of an arms race into outer space represents a vital danger to all nations, including those who seek military superiority by conquering outer space. It is my deep conviction that the elaboration of new, specific measures which would defend outer space and exclude it from all military scenarios is urgently needed. Let us hope that the work of the Ad hoc Committee in the summer will pave the way for this widely shared view to become, as soon as possible, a consensus opinion in this Conference, which has all the necessary potentialities and credentials to negotiate the new measures required.

CD/PV.411

4

(The President)

I also hope that the ad hoc committees on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, chaired by Ambassador Pugliese, the representative of Italy, on security assurances, chaired by Ambassador von Stülpnagel, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, and on radiological weapons, chaired by Ambassador Meiszter, the representative of Hungary, will succeed in achieving progress in their substantive discussions of the agenda items with which they are concerned, in order to compensate for the time lost in the discussion of procedural aspects during the first part of the session.

CD/PV.411

14

(Mrs. Theorin, Sweden)

Last year's deliberations in the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space produced results, though modest ones. It was noted that a gradual militarization of space has been taking place for close on 25 years. It was found that the legal régime for arms limitation in outer space raises certain barriers to the arms race in that environment, but that in some crucial areas this régime is far from complete.