

(Mr. de la Gorce, France)

conversations on a problem which, as the French delegation stressed on 12 June, is for varying reasons of interest to the entire international community. The purpose of such conversations should be to organize the requisite discussions with a view to facilitating such negotiations as would appear useful.

We therefore hope that an important role will be assigned to the Conference on Disarmament and we cannot but regret all the more the failure to agree on setting up an ad hoc committee. Even with a mandate limited to exploring and identifying the issues involved, such a body would have performed an essential task. It is the French delegation's firm hope that next year the Conference will give itself the working tool that its responsibilities require.

