

(Mr. Erdembileg, Mongolia)

arms race in outer space in all its aspects, taking account of all relevant proposals, including examination of the proposal concerning a treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the Earth. The Ad Hoc Committee will submit its report to the Conference on Disarmament on the results of its work.

Mr. President, I would ask you to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Conference can take a decision on document CD/529 as soon as possible.

In this connection I would like to state once again that the socialist countries support the draft terms of reference of the Group of 21 contained in document CD, 329, Rev.2.

(Mr. Hayden, Australia)

The arms-control agreements being observed by the United States and the Soviet Union rely on the national technical means of those two Powers, especially on information-gathering satellites. More than ever, information-gathering satellites make an essential contribution to the stability of the strategic balance between East and West and they do this by providing a basis for confidence in the observance of arms-control agreements which can lead to significant arms reductions. The preservation of that capability is vital to all. It is in fact a necessary prerequisite to arms reduction and disarmament. In this context I note, in particular, the section of the recent French initiative on outer space arms control which calls in part for "prevention of destabilizing military developments without affecting military activities (in space) that contribute to strategic stability, and those which may be instrumental in controlling disarmament agreements".

In similar spirit I would suggest today as an urgent item for the Conference on Disarmament, in its exploration of the issues relevant to arms control in outer space, consideration of the possibility of measures to protect from attack all satellites (early warning, communications and the like) which contribute to the preservation of strategic stability and which can be instrumental in monitoring disarmament agreements. I would also suggest that the same protection be extended to the ground stations which are essential to the operation of these satellites. For the present, I hope that the idea will commend itself to the Conference as a potentially important confidence-building measure. It directly supports the implementation of present arms-control agreements and future disarmament agreements, and above all, it will contribute to the maintenance of stability, until the required disarmament agreements are made and put into effect.