

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

negotiations, contained in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and confirmed at the second special session, is an important indicator of their true attitude regarding the solution of this urgent disarmament problem.

The attitude shown towards the discussion of the question in the Ad Hoc Working Group on agenda item 1, set up by the Committee on Disarmament at the first part of the session, gives rise to serious fears that the Committee may be used as a screen for the policy of the United States of continuing nuclear weapon tests.

The delegations of the socialist countries share the view of the majority that in order to hold negotiations on agenda item 1 on a constructive basis, it is necessary to broaden the mandate of the Working Group so that its functions include that of elaborating the scope of the future agreement. They also express regret at the refusal of the delegations of two nuclear-weapon Powers to participate in the Working Group and hope that they will reconsider their position in this respect in the near future.

The delegations of the socialist countries note with satisfaction the progress made in working out the elements of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. The draft basic provisions of a convention submitted by the delegation of the USSR played a decisive part in the achievement of that progress. To consolidate the results achieved, all delegations must participate constructively and show flexibility. The socialist countries continue to consider it very important that the future convention should take account of new developments in the field of chemical weapons, including all aspects connected with binary or multi-component types of such weapons.

The success of the negotiations on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons can be ensured only through the speediest possible achievement of political agreements on the key problems of the convention, and not by making the solution of those problems dependent on the settlement of certain technical questions. The group of delegations of socialist countries will further and support all proposals and initiatives aimed at the speedy achievement of agreement on the question of the prohibition of chemical weapons.

One positive result of the 1982 session is the increased attention given by the Committee to the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The proposal submitted by the delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic on the establishment of an ad hoc working group on this question and the draft mandate it contained met with a positive response in the Committee.

It is to be regretted that the opposition of the United States of America has made it impossible to undertake concrete negotiations with a view to preventing the extension of the arms race to outer space.

The delegations of the socialist countries will continue their efforts towards the solution of this urgent question. They note with satisfaction the awareness of its importance shown by the delegations of the Group of 21, which submitted a draft mandate two days ago, and some western States.

The socialist countries still believe that the prohibition of new types and new systems of weapons of mass destruction is one of the most important prerequisites to general and complete disarmament. Concomitant with the lack of progress in the