

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

The problem of the prevention of an arms race in outer space is not less important, and it, too, has already been referred to today. Unfortunately events are developing in such a way that outer space is becoming more and more an arena for the arms race. It is for this reason that we ought without delay to start drafting an appropriate international treaty. The Soviet Union's concrete proposals on that question -- a draft treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space -- has been submitted for consideration to the Committee on Disarmament. We consider that the Committee should set up an ad hoc working group to draft the treaty, as well as to consider other proposals directed at preventing an arms race in outer space.

CD/PV.175

24

(Mr. Venkateswaran, India)

A third area of major concern to all is the prevention of an arms race in outer space. This subject is closely linked to the question of nuclear disarmament, including the prevention of nuclear war. A thorough consideration of this item is, therefore, essential, particularly in view of recent developments in space technology, many of which have far-reaching and significant military implications. Our delegation is prepared to be flexible as to the manner in which we deal with this problem. We could, for example, set up an ad hoc working group on outer space, which would in the first instance determine the scope of the problem and the precise area that negotiations in the Committee on Disarmament would cover. We could also explore the implications of several recent developments in space technology for the field of nuclear arms limitation and disarmament as well as for the prevention of nuclear war. The negotiation of an agreement to ban the development, testing and deployment of anti-satellite weapons would be a good starting point, in the view of my delegation, although it must be clearly understood that this again should be immediately followed by other far-reaching measures that would cover the development, testing and deployment of weapons of any kind in outer space.

CD/PV.176

11

(Mr. Vejvoda, Czechoslovakia)

Nowadays we can also witness yet another tendency, inspired by the Western military-industrial complex, that of the penetration of weapons to areas which were not used earlier for military purposes. We condemn resolutely any steps aimed at spreading the arms race into outer space. Outer space should remain forever free of any weapons so that it cannot become a new sphere of the feverish arms race and a source of further deterioration in the relations among States. Therefore, we support the establishment of a working group which would deal in full responsibility with the problem of prohibiting all types of weapons in outer space. We believe that a generally acceptable mandate for this group could be agreed upon without unnecessary delay so that we can start business-like negotiations on a number of existing proposals already made at previous sessions and at this session.