



as a first step, of the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty and the Threshold Test Ban Treaty. This is the kind of step-by-step process which Canada has long considered as providing the most realistic path to progress in controlling, and eventually eliminating, nuclear tests. We earnestly hope that these negotiations will proceed as soon as possible to the second phase in this process, that is, further limitations on nuclear testing.

I agree with the points made by Ambassador Yamada of Japan that it is particularly important to see this development between the United States and the Soviet Union as presenting an opportunity for our work in this multilateral forum, rather than detracting from it. I also fully support his view that it is equally important for the two major nuclear powers to become constructively engaged in the multilateral process in order that progress in this area may be achieved.

In the search for ways to move forward on the CTB issue, we must rise above differences over how a mandate for the establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Committee should be defined so that discussions on the substance of the nuclear test ban question can finally get underway. Attempts to impose an approach which remains unacceptable to key nuclear weapons states are obviously doomed to failure. We must also give careful consideration to how we can best structure our work so as to support and complement the USA-USSR negotiation process.

Mr. President, one area of work on which we can all agree is the development of an international seismic network for the verification of an eventual CTB. The steady progress which has been made by the Group of Scientific Experts (GSE) is truly reason for satisfaction. We expect the GSE to continue this important work this year through further preparations leading to the international data exchange experiment for which a member of my delegation, Dr. Peter Basham, has been chosen as the coordinator.

Our discussion under the agenda item entitled 'Prevention of an Arms Race in

Outer Space' reflects our widespread appreciation of the fact that we are being confronted with what could potentially be a completely new battlefield. Often, however, our appreciation of that novelty is paradoxically both too much and too little. Too much in the sense that the desire of some to close the barn door of militarization before the horse escapes neglects the fact that for 30 years military-related activities have been carried on in outer space. This is not a fact that can be wished away. Nor, I would maintain, given the stabilizing role of many of these activities, should it be wished away. At the same time our appreciation of the novelty is too little. Too often our discussions reflect neither the innovative and evolving aspects of the legal regime in outer space, the elements of which are gradually being put in place, nor the incredible rapidity of changes in space technology.

I do not think I am overstating the case, Mr. Chairman, if I suggest that unless we all come to grips with the reality of the existing situation in outer space and the revolutionary nature of the task before us, the work of this Conference on the prevention of an arms race in outer space will not be truly consummated.

Mr. Chairman, when one looks at the actual practical work of the committee, it is clear that we are in somewhat of a hiatus. We do seem to be tramping over some already trodden ground. Yet our discussions of the legal issues, of verification and compliance and of definitions and terminology, to cite only a few, have by no means exhausted the current mandate.

We might try to give new impetus to our work in the committee by taking to heart some of the lessons we are learning in our discussions under other agenda items. I am thinking in particular of CW, where it has become evident that there are a whole range of issues that did not receive adequate attention from the Conference as a whole until the pace of the work forced everyone to focus on them. In the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Outer Space we should make an effort to avoid a similar situation.

Here too, we can try to enrich our work through interaction with the bilateral discussion between the two major space powers. A first order of priority of the Canadian delegation is to ensure that we do nothing to set back or interfere with the work that is being done in the bilateral space talks. We hope that the two major space powers might see advantage in promoting discussion in this forum of some of the practical and legal problems brought to light in the bilateral talks.

Mr. President, in the last several years, members of this Conference have put much work into enlarging our understanding of the issues involved in a treaty or treaties on radiological weapons. Under the able chairmanship of my British colleague, Ambassador Solesby, we are making another effort this year to move forward on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I do hope that we will make progress on this question. If in fact, despite the efforts of all concerned, we are not able to make any progress, I think our report to UNSSOD III should then reflect both that fact itself and the conclusions to be drawn from it regarding the agenda of our conference in the years to come.

Mr. President, an important event of this year will be the Third United Nations Special Session devoted to Disarmament. This, of course, will have significant implications for our work programme. Most specifically, it will be our responsibility to prepare a report on our work, to be put before the Special Session. Our report should be concise, factual and free from polemics. Important and useful work has been done in several areas. Moreover, as Foreign Minister Varkonyi of Hungary aptly observed in his recent statement here, this Conference reflects the international political climate and, even during a relatively unproductive period, serves as an important forum for dialogue. My delegation also agrees with Minister Varkonyi that we need to give more serious attention to how we might improve our own procedures. His suggestions in that regard merit careful study.