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available to all delegations through the secretariat a compendium of all chemical weapons documentation of this conference during the period 1983-1985 inclusive.

Another important item on our agenda is the prevention of an arms race in outer space, a subject on which there is widespread and legitimate public anxiety. Last year, an important step forward was taken when we were able to agree on a mandate for an *ad hoc* committee on this item. I pointed out at the time that it was a realistic mandate which takes into account and both complements and accurately reflects the realities concerning the bilateral negotiations already then under way between the US and the USSR, but does not undermine or undercut or prejudice or in any way interfere with those negotiations. At the same time, I expressed the hope that this mandate would not expire at the end of 1985 bearing in mind the wishes of some delegations who would like something more and something better. The view I then expressed continues to be the view of the Canadian government. The mandate has enabled us to make a beginning, but it has by no means been exhausted. It was attained only with great difficulty, skill and perseverance. Any attempt to negotiate it or re-negotiate it would almost certainly involve further lengthy discussion at the expense of substantive deliberation, with little prospect of agreement on a new mandate. Moreover, the political and negotiating context in which the mandate was agreed has not appreciably changed. Indeed, to the extent that the US and USSR are seriously coming to grips with the negotiating objectives they have set for themselves, including the prevention of an arms race in outer space, our need to ensure that our deliberations are complementary to, and not disruptive of, those negotiations is enhanced. Finally, I would note that, due to regrettable procedural delays, our substantive discussions on this item last year were seriously curtailed and as some delegations have pointed out we were able to have only nine meetings. Nevertheless, those discussions, in the Canadian judgement, got off to a reasonably good start. They were substantive. They were for the most part objective. They went some way toward elucidating the complexities and intricacies — technical, legal and political, and we have heard some of them today — involved in this process. However, they remain incomplete. The importance and difficulty of the subject demand that we discharge our last year's mandate with determination and dispatch before we embark on a new one. The reputation of the conference would not be enhanced by procedural wrangles on this item. As was the case last year when we submitted a broad survey on the existing international legal regime in outer space, the Canadian delegation intends to make concrete contributions to substantive discussions. In the process, we will be making available to all delegations, through the Secretariat, a compendium of the 1985 CD documentation on the subject.

The question of a comprehensive nuclear test ban remains an especially important item on our agenda. It has, unfortunately, become one of the more contentious issues. The intensity of feeling it generates reflects both the inherent importance of nuclear weaponry as a core element of the strategic policies of both the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Warsaw Pact, and the profound public anxieties arising from an awareness of the massive and relatively indiscriminate destructive power of such weapons. Because the use of such weapons on any significant scale would have serious repercussions not only for combatant states but, almost certainly, for all others as well, the active interest in this item shown by all delegations of this conference is legitimate and understandable. In these circumstances, there may be a consequential need to take care that the strength of our views and concerns, and the vehemency with which they may be expressed, do not become a hindrance to rational discussion of the central issues involved. Here or elsewhere, polemics will not lead the way to better understanding.

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