

(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

This year, for the third successive session, the Conference established an ad hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. My delegation would like to compliment Ambassador Pugliese of Italy for the efficient manner in which he chaired its proceedings. The results achieved in the Committee cannot, however, be regarded as satisfactory, considering the

urgency of the subject and the priority which most delegations attach to it. Statements made in the Committee on the first two items of its programme of work, namely, examination and identification of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space and relevant existing agreements, were largely repetitious and polemical in nature. A duplication of this exercise next year would not serve any purpose. These two topics have already been given exhaustive examination, and there seems to be broad agreement that, while current international law imposes some restraints, there is a need for further measures. The necessary groundwork has thus been done for a more focused discussion on measures which would promote the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space. We hope, therefore, that agreement will be reached at the beginning of our next session on an improved mandate for the Ad hoc Committee so that the task of elaborating concrete measures to supplement the existing legal régime may be taken up in earnest.

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(Mr. Beesley, Canada)

Outer space is an issue on which it is more difficult to document substantive progress over the past four years. None the less, we have not stood still, and we have not retrogressed. In 1983 the Canadian delegation urged the CD to begin as soon as possible its essential task of defining the legal and other issues necessary to build upon the outer space legal régime, and made clear Canada's intention to participate actively in this work, urging the establishment of a subsidiary body on this subject. We were, of course, not the only delegation to do so. Subsequently, we tabled a series of working papers intended to advance our work. The Ad hoc Committee was first established in March 1985. Its work since then has been always arduous, sometimes productive, often interesting and frequently frustrating.