

Mr. ERDEMBILEG (Mongolia) (translated from Russian): Mr. President, first of all may I extend to you a warm welcome on assuming the functions of President of the Conference on Disarmament during the month of August and wish you all success in your responsible task at this exceptionally responsible period of our work during the current session.

I should like also to express my sincere gratitude to the delegation of the USSR and to the head of the delegation, Victor Issraelyan, personally for the exceptionally important contribution which he has made to the work of the Conference on Disarmament during the past month.

I should like to submit on behalf of a group of socialist countries a draft mandate for an ad hoc committee on agenda item 5 of the Conference on Disarmament.

As you know, at the beginning of the 1984 session of the Conference a group of socialist States officially submitted a Memorandum contained in document CD/434 of 17 February 1984. This document included the following paragraphs:

"Emphasizing the character of the Conference on Disarmament as a negotiating forum, the group of socialist States expresses concern at the fact that this negotiating body is, in substance, failing to perform its designated function and tending to turn into yet another deliberative body in the disarmament field. The main cause of this abnormal situation, in the socialist countries' view, are attempts to convert the Conference into a forum for academic discussions and to put up a series of preliminary conditions for the holding of negotiations. Such an approach, in the socialist countries' view, runs counter both to the terms of reference provided for the Conference in the Final Document and to its own rules of procedure.

"The group of socialist countries proceeds from the fact that the subsidiary bodies of the Conference on Disarmament, a negotiating forum, must have the possibility to conduct the appropriate negotiations. Only technical groups or groups of governmental experts, mentioned in rule 23 of the rules of procedure, may form an exception.

"The question of the establishment of subsidiary bodies must be solved in a manner organically linked with the elaboration of an appropriate negotiating mandate. An artificial division between solving the question of the establishment of subsidiary bodies and reaching agreement on their mandate merely creates loopholes to conceal the unwillingness of certain States to conduct negotiations."

That is our firm position on the basis of which the socialist countries are submitting the draft terms of reference for the ad hoc committee on agenda item 5, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". Document CD/529 has now been distributed to participants in the Conference. It is virtually identical with the draft terms of reference contained in document CD/434.

It is therefore reasonable to suppose that the essential sense and content of this document are well known to participants in the Conference. The socialist countries again appeal to all concerned during the remaining period of the session to set up the Ad Hoc Committee on agenda item 5, in order to conduct negotiations on the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an