

(Mr. Solá Vila, Cuba)

Since the last session of the Committee on Disarmament we have been considering the item on the prevention of the arms race in outer space. The time has come to set up a working group on this subject so that it can be guaranteed that no type of weapon, however it may be called, will be installed in outer space.

My delegation supports the proposal made in the Committee concerning the setting up of such a working group and considers that any mandate for the group should recognize that outer space is part of the heritage of mankind and must be used solely for peaceful purposes, and that the introduction of weapons into that region and its militarization must be prevented.

(Mr. Vrhunec, Yugoslavia)

Fourthly, our Committee has before it the proposal for the creation of a working group on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the prohibition of anti-satellite systems, based on two resolutions tabled at the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly to the effect that it is imperative to take timely steps to prevent the possible taking of such actions. We have listened to the arguments presented by some States which consider that there is no room for the creation of this group before many uncertainties have first been elucidated, since only two States are so far capable of transferring the arms race into outer space and that many members of the working group would be incapable of understanding the technical aspects of the problem. Admitting to a certain extent the validity of these arguments, we think that we are primarily dealing with a political issue and the decision to adopt an international instrument that will prevent certain activities in outer space, without entering into complicated technical details at all.