

(Mr. Erdembileg, Mongolia)

The mandate proposed by the Western group, as we have repeatedly stated earlier, in particular on 30 August 1983 at the 238th plenary meeting, "does not take account of the interests and position of the group of socialist countries, since it makes no mention of the need for negotiations directed at the conclusion of an agreement or agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space" (CD/PV.238).

The socialist countries continue to support the draft mandate contained in document CD/434.

Nevertheless, the socialist countries demonstrated flexibility during the consultations and expressed their readiness to take into account some of the views of representatives of Western countries. That is what happened when the Mongolian delegation was prepared to consider the draft of the Western countries with the amendment proposed on 20 March by the Group of 21 which contained the following provision: "With a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in all its aspects in outer space".

Continuing its efforts to arrive at an agreed solution, the Mongolian delegation proposed an amendment to the first paragraph of the proposed mandate, so that it would read as follows: "The Conference on Disarmament decides to establish an ad hoc committee with a view to undertaking negotiations on agenda item 5, entitled 'Prevention of an arms race in outer space'".

To our deep regret, however, our proposal was not accepted by the group of Western countries. It should be added that the delegations of the Group of 21 were agreeable to the adoption of that amendment.

The Mongolian delegation considers that the draft mandate proposed by the Western countries is limited in that it fails to mention the principal objective, namely, negotiations with a view to preparing an appropriate agreement or agreements for preventing an arms race in outer space. That draft mandate which is inherently bogus, can in no way contribute to achieving the principal task of proceeding to negotiations on the substance of the matter.

In this connection I should like to return to what I said at the 251st plenary meeting on 20 March:

"The negative experience of the work in this forum, when its subsidiary body was set up with a deliberately restricted and narrow mandate, must not be repeated. If some delegations of the Western countries again insist on their obstructionist position, such an approach can only be seen as a pretext to avoid a businesslike solution of the problems facing the Conference."