

(Mr. Vejvoda, Czechoslovakia)

The necessity of the prevention of an arms race in outer space has now become a question of high urgency. The socialist countries express satisfaction at the fact that the consideration of this problem has been inscribed on the agenda of the Committee on Disarmament. They maintain that, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 36/99 the Committee should start negotiations on a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space. The most effective approach to the fulfilment of this task would be the creation, at the second part of the 1982 session, of an appropriate ad hoc working group. The views of the socialist countries concerning the terms of reference of such a group were reflected in document CD/272 submitted by the delegation of Mongolia.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

The Soviet delegation notes with satisfaction that our proposals, together with the proposals of other States, concerning the need for the adoption of effective measures to prevent the spread of the arms race to outer space have aroused interest in the Committee and have formed the subject of constructive discussion. We intend to continue pressing for the establishment of an ad hoc working group on this topic.

(Mr. McPhail, Canada)

The threat of an arms race in outer space has concerned the international community for some time. Indeed, the United Nations General Assembly has acknowledged the Committee on Disarmament's responsibility to deal with this subject. As a beginning, we believe that the Committee should attempt to define the dimensions of this problem. To this end, it is our intention to participate actively in the consideration by the Committee at this summer session of the issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space.