

contributed to a better understanding of questions relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, there were fundamental divergences with respect to all the subjects covered by the mandate. In their view, therefore, it was necessary to continue the examination and identification of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to reaching a common understanding and definition of the scope and objectives of the work of the Committee. Some delegations also noted that there was no record of an informal paper of the Chairman, dated 23 August 1988. These delegations insisted that such a paper did not exist. Many delegations recalled that there were precedents in the Conference of informal documents submitted by presiding officers which have contributed to the consideration of the issues under discussion and have been referred to in relevant reports. Therefore, the fact that some delegations refused to acknowledge the existence of one such document does not diminish its usefulness for the work of the Committee.

15. A number of delegations considered that the participation of experts would contribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and mentioned a number of areas where it would be desirable to have technical expertise and guidance, among them, problems of definition, questions relating to ASATs and the protection of space objects, verification and data exchanges. Some delegations favoured the establishment of a group of governmental experts and various possible mandates for such a group were suggested. Other delegations, sharing the view that experts made a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee, believed that such contribution could be made through their inclusion in delegations. In their opinion, however, the work of the Committee had not yet reached the stage where the establishment of a group of experts would be useful.

16. One delegation made a detailed presentation at the expert level of the basic principles of operation of observation satellites and the fundamental techniques of interpretation of satellites data. This presentation was highly appreciated.

17. One delegation belonging to the group of Socialist States had prepared with the help of experts and submitted for consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee a systematic analysis of major proposals, submitted by delegations of various countries in the Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. This set of exposés referred to the problems of ensuring immunity of satellites; prohibition of ASAT weapons; verification and monitoring issues; as well as "partial measures". That delegation pointed out that it sought to give an overall picture of submitted proposals and to identify their common points so as to ensure the best preparation possible for the future multilateral negotiations within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament on the subject of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. It held that comparative analysis of such major proposals, views and approaches of delegations made it possible to identify general approaches to solving the problems facing the Conference. This delegation stated that the Committee had accumulated a wealth of ideas and proposals and that a good basis had been established for concrete and goal-oriented work. It noted that delegations belonging to all groups of countries had presented such proposals and ideas. Thanks to the discussions it was possible to reveal the positive potential of every introduced proposal. In its view, should the proposals, that had already been introduced, be put into effect, taken as a whole they