

(Mr. Qian Jiadong, China)

In the course of this month, under your leadership, further consultations on the establishment of a subsidiary body on this subject have been held; but regrettably, agreement still eludes us so far. As the spring part of our session is drawing to its conclusion, the Chinese delegation sincerely hopes that all delegations will, in the same spirit in which the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly adopted at its thirty-eighth session the resolution on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, seek common ground while reserving minor differences, so as to reach an agreement on the establishment of the said subsidiary body as early as possible during the summer part of the session, if not at the last moment of the present part of the session. The people of the world have entrusted this Conference with the important task of preventing an arms race in outer space. We must not let them down.

CD/PV.262

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(Mr. Erdembileg, Mongolia)

Allow me, Mr. President, to dwell for a moment on the question of establishing a subsidiary working body on agenda item 5.

During the 1982 and 1983 sessions, the socialist countries consistently adhered to their position of principle, namely, that the Committee on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body, should, in fulfilment of its responsibility, immediately begin negotiations and should for that purpose create a subsidiary body with an appropriate mandate. In keeping with that position, and with a view to carrying out a number of General Assembly recommendations, the socialist countries took further action, on the one hand, by putting forward proposals and specific drafts and, on the other, supporting the proposals and texts of other countries, in particular the non-aligned and neutral countries.

At the beginning of the 1984 session, a group of socialist countries proposed the following draft mandate, contained in document CD/434:

"The Conference on Disarmament decides to establish, for the duration of the 1984 session, an ad hoc subsidiary body with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in all its aspects in outer space, taking into account all relevant proposals, including consideration of the proposal for a treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the Earth. The ad hoc subsidiary body will report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work at the end of the second part of its 1984 session."

This draft mandate is in full accord with resolution 38/70, the only relevant resolution of the thirty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, adopted as a result of intensive and persevering efforts by interested States and as a result of the withdrawal of two other draft resolutions. The record of the voting shows that resolution 38/70 was adopted by the overwhelming majority of 147 votes. The United States voted against, while the United Kingdom abstained.

At the current session of the Conference on Disarmament, various consultations were held under the guidance of its Presidents for March and April with a view to reaching consensus on drafting the mandate of the ad hoc committee on agenda item 5. During those consultations we again, as happened last year, encountered the obstruction of the group of Western countries, or more precisely, of one or two members of that group, who seek by every means and insist as before on limitation of the mandate of the future ad hoc committee by including the words "to identify, through substantive examination, issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space".