

Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic)

Last year, quite a few initiatives were undertaken in terms of more concrete work on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. A considerable number of proposals are on the table. What matters now, as we see it, is to explore all avenues in the course of structured discussions in order to proceed to negotiations. My country is prepared, together with the Mongolian People's Republic, to further elaborate on the proposal advanced in the previous year on basic provisions of a treaty prohibiting ASAT weapons and guaranteeing the immunity of objects in outer space, and I think that, together with the Swedish proposals on ASAT problems referred to by Ambassador Theorin, there will be sufficient substance for a serious approach to these questions. We also endorse the Soviet proposal for the establishment of an outer space organization and the setting up of an inspectorate to verify outer space activities. Given the complexity of this subject, we suggest that a meeting of experts should be organized on scientific and technological aspects of the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

President: Mr. Aldo Pugliese (Italy)

I am happy to inform you that the informal consultations concerning the mandate and chairmanship of the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space have concluded successfully, and that I intend to take up the relevant decisions at our next plenary meeting on Tuesday. We shall then also invite those non-members wishing to participate in the work of the Ad hoc Committee to do so.