

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

At this final stage in our work, I should like to take the floor briefly to present to the Conference the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. It was my honour to preside over this body during the present session. The report is to be found in document CD/726.

The Ad Hoc Committee, having been re-established by a decision of the Conference taken on the day that the first part of its session ended, namely 24 April 1986, started its work the following day and, during the second part of the session, following an initial exchange of views, adopted on 24 June 1986 a work programme comprising the following points:

- "(1) Examination and identification of issues relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space;
- (2) Existing agreements relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space;
- (3) Existing proposals and future initiatives on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

In carrying out its task, the Ad Hoc Committee will take into account developments which have taken place since the establishment of the Committee in 1985."

To allow these subjects to be dealt with in a balanced fashion the Committee decided to allocate an equal number of meetings for each one. The Committee therefore held nine meetings to consider these three subjects and a final summing-up meeting.

Part III of the report reviews the various positions taken on these subjects. Although it does not give similar views concerning the future work of the Ad Hoc Committee, part IV of the report, entitled "Conclusion", indicates that a consensus was reached within the Committee recognizing the significant role of the legal régime applicable to outer space, the importance of paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to Disarmament, recognition of the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in space and the fact that the Ad Hoc Committee is ready to work to attain this objective. Lastly, the Committee decided that no effort should be spared in continuing to do substantive work on item 5 of the agenda, and to this effect recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee be re-established with an adequate mandate at the beginning of the 1987 session.

I hope that the Committee's endeavours have laid the foundations for the work of its future sessions, enabling it to fulfil faithfully the objective that has been set and the well-known recommendations by the General Assembly of the United Nations, contained more particularly in resolution 40/87, adopted at its fortieth session.