

Mr. ROSE (German Democratic Republic): On behalf of the Group of Socialist Countries, I wish to make a statement concerning the chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space for the 1986 session of the Conference on Disarmament. The socialist countries reaffirm their position already stated in connection with the adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons that the Chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space should rotate, as is the case with other Committees of the Conference on Disarmament. That is the reason why the socialist countries put forward their suggestion to include in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, for its 1985 session, and contained in document CD/641, a recommendation concerning the chairmanship of that Committee in 1986. We consider this a normal practice for which precedents already exist. With this in mind, and in conformity with the principle of rotation, the socialist countries gave their consent to including in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, the recommendation for the candidature put forward by the group of Western countries, in connection with the chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, next year. We did this, however, on the assumption that the same principle would be applied to the chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. I informed the Conference already that Ambassador Bayart of Mongolia would be the candidate of the Group of Socialist Countries for the chairmanship of that Committee for the 1986 session.

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(Mr. Belaid, Algeria)

Within the context of its mandate, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space has made possible an exchange of views from which it appears that there is a widely shared belief that this environment should be reserved for exclusively peaceful purposes for the benefit of all States and all peoples.

It is to be hoped that the difficulties encountered in the adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee will not turn out to be an advance indication of difficulties in the commencement of substantive work on the drafting of an agreement or agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space.

