

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

context of other measures aimed at the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and also take into account other comments made during this session, in particular by the delegations of India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.,

The Soviet delegation acknowledges the technical complexity of space problems, to which the representative of the United States referred in his statement at our plenary meeting of 10 August. In our view, however, this fact does not argue in favour of putting off the discussion of the question for ever but rather in favour of supporting the Mongolian delegation's proposal for the setting up of a working group on this subject before the end of the Committee's present session.

It must be said that statements made at the Committee's plenary meeting on 31 August, as also today's statement by the representative of France, show that material for negotiations exists.

We appeal to the United States delegation to reconsider its approach and we firmly urge the establishment of an ad hoc working group which would permit the Committee to begin serious negotiations on this exceptionally important problem with the participation of experts.

In conclusion, we should like to stress that one of the most important tasks of the Committee is to do everything in its power to help prevent the possibility of space becoming a source of military danger for States, which will inevitably happen if weapons of any kind are installed in outer space. We, for our part, are ready to engage in honest, equal and business-like negotiations with the aim of achieving constructive agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.