

(Mr. Kostov, Bulgaria)

As has been stated on many occasions, the Group of Socialist Countries is in favour of speeding up the efforts of the Conference on all items on the agenda. We attach special importance to the item on a chemical weapons convention, as was stressed by our country's representative at the Paris Conference. Of course we applaud the results of the Paris Conference, which we think was a clear success for the whole international community. We

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consider that the declaration of the Paris Conference concerning the redoubling of the efforts of the Conference on Disarmament should find adequate expression in the mandate of the Committee on Chemical Weapons. On the other hand, we wish to express our opinion that your efforts, Mr. President, should make it possible to resolve the question of procedure speedily in order not to take up much time on this point and to begin substantive work in the Conference. In that sense we support the statement of the Group of 21 and we hope that speedy consultations will be taken up in order to find a solution to this problem. We also think that the mandate of the Committee on outer space should be improved, and we are looking forward to discussing this question with you, Mr. President.

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Mr. CÁMPORA (Argentina)

The prevention of an arms race in outer space remains a matter of the highest importance in the view of the Argentine delegation. It is clear that the climate of international détente should also exert a positive influence on the work of the Conference in this field. There are no reasons to prevent the Ad hoc Committee - which we hope will soon be re-established - from moving forward in the consideration of concrete measures aimed at the prevention of an arms race in space.