

III. Substantive work during the 1985 Session

6. Following an initial exchange of views, the Ad Hoc Committee, at its sixth meeting, adopted a programme of work for the 1985 session (CD/OS/WP.5) containing the following points:

- (a) Consideration of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space;
- (b) existing agreements relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space;
- (c) proposals and future initiatives on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

In order to give equal treatment to those subjects, the Committee further decided to allocate three meetings to each.

7. In accordance with the programme of work, delegations exchanged views regarding issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

8. Some delegations stressed that outer space was the common heritage of mankind and that, consequently, the exploration and exploitation of outer space should be preserved for exclusively peaceful purposes to promote the scientific, economic and social development of all countries. Some of the above delegations noted that up to the present, outer space had been an area free of weapons but that there was a growing threat of the emergence of "active" space systems, mainly for anti-ballistic and anti-satellite warfare. In their view, such developments posed an imminent risk that the military competition between the two major nuclear-weapon States would extend into outer space. All the above delegations expressed concern at the extensive use of outer space for military purposes that was already taking place. They pointed out that the majority of space objects now in orbit, while not meant as weapons or as weapons platforms, served military functions and constituted integral parts of weapons systems on earth and of strategic doctrines associated with the use of nuclear weapons.

9. Some delegations emphasized that the development of new space weapon systems will lead to an acceleration of the arms race, both horizontally and vertically, at the cost of existing legislation relating to outer space, arms limitation agreements and the disarmament process as a whole; amplify prevailing military asymmetries between the two major space Powers and their allies, on the one hand, and the non-aligned and neutral States, on the other; and will lead to the