

III. SUBSTANTIVE WORK DURING THE 1988 SESSION

7. Following an initial exchange of views and consultations held by the Chairman with Members of different groups, the Ad Hoc Committee, at its 3rd meeting on 22 March 1988, adopted the following programme of work for the 1988 session:

- "1. Examination and identification of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space;
2. Existing agreements relevant 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 work, the Ad Hoc Committee will take into account developments which have taken place since the establishment of the Committee in 1985."

With regard to the organization of work, the Committee agreed that it would give equal treatment to the subjects covered by its mandate and specified in its programme of work. Accordingly, the Committee agreed to allocate the same number of meetings to each of those subjects, namely, issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, existing agreements and existing proposals and future initiatives. It was noted that in accordance with rule 30 of the Rules of Procedure any member wishing to do so may discuss any subject relevant to the work of the Committee.

8. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee was governed by the mandate only.

9. The Ad Hoc Committee continued the consideration of the subjects covered by its mandate in the light of the positions and views previously set forth by delegations. 2/

10. In the course of the work, delegations discussed or referred to a number of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, such as: the determination of the scope and objectives of multilateral work under the agenda item, the status of outer space as the common heritage of mankind which should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, the need to prevent an arms race in outer space, the absence, at present, of weapons in space, the identification of the functions performed by space objects, the identification of the threats confronting space objects, the relationship between the prevention of an arms race in outer space and arms limitation and disarmament measures in other areas, the relationship between bilateral and multilateral efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space, questions relating to verification and compliance and the need for information on how outer space is being used and on national space programmes of military significance. A working paper was submitted presenting a retrospective review of the evolution of some of the primary issues relevant to outer space during the period 1982-1987 (CD/OS/WP.26).