

(Mr. Turbanski, Poland)

In another top-priority agenda item, prevention of an arms race in outer space, we join those speakers who have spoken this week, namely, the representatives of France and Italy, in urging that we embark on a serious, concrete dialogue in the framework of an appropriate working body. The General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Konstantin Chernenko, has pointed out recently that given a real interest in finding effective solutions, all issues of this highly complex and dangerous problem could be successfully resolved in the course of the talks proposed by the Soviet Union, both on anti-satellite weapons and on the prevention of the militarization of outer space in general. In view of the test carried out by the United States on 10 June last, this appeal and constructive proposal of the Soviet leader to freeze anti-satellite-weapon tests is unreservedly supported by Poland. For, to quote Konstantin Chernenko: "agreement on these questions must be sought without delay while space weapons have not yet been deployed and while a breakthrough in the race of space weapons, unpredictable in its consequences, has not yet been made. Tomorrow may be too late".

In view of what I have just said, it is urgent to come to negotiations, without deviating this Conference's activities to endless, artificial debates in seeking limited or vague mandates. Such an approach would mean open obstruction of the work of subsidiary bodies. In other words, let me emphasize it again, we are strongly for a sincere, straightforward approach. This refers not only to the prevention of nuclear war but equally to the activities with respect to the nuclear test ban and prevention of an arms race in outer space. Ad hoc committees with negotiating mandates should be established for these agenda items as soon as possible, in accordance with the proposals put forward by numerous delegations of the Group of 21 and socialist countries, including my own delegation. As a matter of fact, any progress in these items would constitute progress in preventing the threat of nuclear war, as all these problems are inseparable.