

(Mr. Morel, France)

As has been noted, we are indeed referring to another forum, that of the United Nations. Need I recall that the conditions in which consultations are conducted in the First Committee are different from those obtaining here? In New York there is no group which entrusts a co-ordinator with presenting a position defined by the group. There are only delegations which show goodwill and try to bring different viewpoints closer with a view to producing resolutions that enjoy the broadest possible measure of support from the international community.

It has, moreover, been suggested, in respect of the programme of work of the Ad Hoc Committee on item 5, that use has been made of a procedure to obstruct our work on the substance. We do not share this view, each group has submitted a draft programme of work. We do not believe that this type of comment is likely to facilitate the progress of our work, which is now based on a practical and concrete programme.

Finally, we wonder whether it is appropriate to refer here publicly to the informal exchanges which led to the drawing up of the single resolution on the prevention of an arms race in outer space within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly. Likewise, is it appropriate thus to question the outstanding work of a delegation, the Italian delegation, which played a special part in the consultations leading towards this resolution.

(Mr. Chňoupek, Czechoslovakia)

We expect from the Conference much more intensive endeavours also in the sphere relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. An analysis of the legal régime pertaining to outer space is being conducted at present. In our opinion, such analysis can be useful only if it produces as soon as possible practical conclusions on measures preventing the deployment of weapons in outer space. First of all, there should be a ban on anti-satellite weapons and offensive space systems. Their definition can be agreed upon at this forum. It is also possible to set up an international inspectorate that would verify that no weapons are placed on space installations, as is proposed by the Soviet Union. We are convinced that an energetic solution of those issues by the Conference would be greatly instrumental in the pursuit of the goals of star peace, which also constitutes a way towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. We believe that it would also enhance constructive effort to find a realistic solution to the problem of the so-called space defences, as embodied primarily in the SDI project pursued by the United States.