

(Mr. Dolgu, Romania)

work has begun under the Chairmanship of the distinguished Ambassador of Italy, Ambassador Pugliese, is called upon to make an effective contribution to the achievement of this objective of undoubted importance and urgency.

(Mr. Morel, France)

Mr. MOREL (France) (translated from French): Speaking as Co-ordinator for Outer Space of the group of Western countries, I wish to reply to remarks which were directed at this group during our last plenary session on Thursday, 9 April, about the mandate and the programme of work of the Ad Hoc Committee on our agenda item 5.

I wish at the outset to state that we do not want to prolong an argument about the word "measures", which can only have a negative influence on the quality of our substantive work, but since the Western position on the subject was described as inexplicable, I shall repeat here what you all know.

Firstly we have no objection to the consideration, in the course of our work, of proposals for measures relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Secondly, we find no difficulty with the word itself, and we have been the first to underline that it can be found more than a dozen times in the relevant part of last year's report of the Conference.

Thirdly, the Western group has agreed, on the occasion of the adoption of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee for 1987, to confirm that, as was the case in 1986, the consideration of proposals for measures relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space was part of the work of the Committee.

Bearing this in mind, therefore, if there is to be a debate on the subject, and we hope this will not be the case, it can only concern the place to be given to such "measures" in our work. There are, on this question, perfectly explicable and legitimate differences which should, however, not prevent us from proceeding with our discussions. We do not have a common final position on the subject at the Conference. Our sole concern, as the Western group, has been to avoid prejudging the question.