

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

Our delegation will continue to make its contribution to the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts on problems of the seismic monitoring of the observance of the future treaty.

The question of the general and complete prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests is closely linked with that of the development of new types of nuclear weapons. An example of this gloomy prospect is the decision of the present United States administration to start production of nuclear neutron weapons. In endeavouring to resolve this issue, we ought not to be put off by artificial excuses, such as the argument that neutron weapons are not basically a new type of weapon and that there is therefore no need to consider them separately.

It is important that we should embark at once on negotiations for the elaboration of a convention prohibiting this type of weapon, for many specialists categorically affirm that it lowers the "nuclear threshold."

Another question which is closely bound up with the nuclear weapons issue is that of strengthening the security assurances given to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Our delegation's interest in this matter is well-known. Together with the delegations of other socialist countries we have been taking an active part in the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group concerned. Our aim continues to be the conclusion of an international convention, taking into account, also, other proposals in this direction. In this connection, we believe that it is time to begin negotiations on the non-stationing of nuclear weapons on the territories of States where there are no such weapons at present.

Our delegation is convinced that the Committee should concentrate its attention on and contribute to the elaboration of a treaty for the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space. We fully support the proposal made by the head of the Soviet delegation, Ambassador Israelyan, concerning the setting up of an ad hoc working group to negotiate with the aim of reaching agreement and the text of such a treaty.

The progress of negotiations on chemical weapons is an example of how the Committee's efforts lag behind the development and deployment of new and yet more dangerous types of such weapons. Together with other socialist countries and the vast majority of members of this Committee, we are in favour of the intensification of negotiations within the framework of a mandate which would open the way to the drafting of the actual provisions of the future convention.

We supported the General Assembly's appeal for a speedy resumption of the bilateral negotiations and we consider that the Committee, for its part, ought to pay particular attention to binary and other new types of chemical weapons, and also to the matter of non-stationing of chemical weapons in countries where there are no such weapons at present.

Our delegation attaches great importance to the question of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons. We would urge the setting up of a group of qualified governmental experts, bearing in mind the development of the question at the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly. It is our belief that the setting up of such a group would permit an in-depth study to be made of the question within the framework of a permanent and purpose-oriented organizational structure.