

(Mr. Frøysnes, Norway)

Further measures should be taken to prevent an arms race in outer space. The decision taken by the Conference on Disarmament to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Outer Space in 1985 was, therefore, a welcome initiative.

Norway followed closely the Committee's deliberations in 1985, when it began an examination of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. In our view it is of great importance that further concrete work be done on this issue also in 1986. The deliberations in the Conference on Disarmament on this issue represent an important supplement to the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on space arms. In the view of my Government, the work to prevent an arms race in outer space should continue along both a bilateral and a multilateral path. We believe further multilateral measures to prevent an arms race in outer space will be necessary.

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(Mr. Clerckx, Belgium)

With regard to outer space, Belgium is in favour of continuing the work begun last year under the excellent chairmanship of the Ambassador of Egypt, Mr. Alfarargi. We believe that a detailed examination of the subjects dealt with and a continued exchange of views would enable us to identify the areas which might be the subject of negotiation.

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(The President)

At yesterday's final session, of informal Presidential consultations, on the Conference's agenda items for the month of February, I said that I would present to the Conference today, a summary report of the outcome of those consultations.

During this opening month of our 1986 session the Conference established ad hoc committees on items 4 (chemical weapons) and 8 (comprehensive programme for disarmament) in accordance with the recommendations contained in the 1985 Report of the Conference on Disarmament. Work is now underway in both of those Committees. The Conference requested that the President carry out intensive informal consultations on all other agenda items.

Accordingly I carried out, during the month of February, intensive informal consultations individually with delegations, with Group and Subject Co-ordinators, and on an open-ended basis with all members of the Conference on items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 of our agenda.