

(Mr. Jessel, France)

specific proposals. In this way, by the end of this session, we should have a clear idea of what can be undertaken and accomplished by our Conference.

The French delegation, for its part, is prepared to participate fully in the Ad Hoc Committee's discussions. My country's interest in space is not recent. It has expressed this interest on numerous occasions, and made various proposals all aimed at achieving a use of space consistent with the general interest, security and peace. As far back as 1978, we had suggested the establishment of an international satellite monitoring agency, which could provide the international community with an essential element for verification of disarmament agreements and for crisis management.

In June 1984, in this very forum, we formulated a set of proposals and presented a memorandum, based on the following considerations. Because of their long-standing military presence in outer space, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics obviously have a particular responsibility with regard to seeking verifiable agreements for the limitation of military uses of space. However, this does not mean that the international space régime should be the result of bilateral negotiations alone. The Conference on Disarmament must therefore consider the different problems which arise, in particular, because of their possible implications for other countries.

It was in this spirit that France proposed, in 1984, that the international community should set itself a twofold objective, in addition to any possible results in the bilateral Soviet-American negotiations. This twofold objective should be the following:

- (1) To limit what can still be limited, and in particular to guarantee the safety of high orbits.
- (2) To consolidate and complete the existing legal régime, in particular with regard to immunity of satellites of other States and the confidence-building measures which could be implemented for space objects in general.

We have been discussing nuclear weapons for a long time and under different guises.

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(Mr. Voicu, Romania)

Considering that the elimination of the threat of nuclear war is disarmament's foremost priority, Romania resolutely supports the engagement of effective negotiations to end the nuclear-arms race and the implementation of specific disarmament measures designed to halt the development of nuclear weapons and to gradually reduce and ultimately eliminate them. This goal implies a particularly urgent need to ban all tests of nuclear weapons as an effective means of preventing their modernization. At least during the Soviet-American negotiations, a ban on the testing, production and deployment of new nuclear weapons and on the militarization of outer space would be particularly beneficial. At the same time, since both parties have agreed on the principle of a substantial reduction, of about 50 per cent in nuclear arms, the freezing and reduction of military budgets should already begin this year.