

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 15 April 1986, at 10.30 a.m.

President:

Mr. C.A. de Souza e Silva

(Brazil)

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

<u>Algeria:</u>	Mr. A. BELAID
<u>Argentina:</u>	Mr. M. CAMPORA
<u>Australia:</u>	Mr. R. BUTLER Ms. M. LETTS
<u>Belgium:</u>	Mr. C. CLERCKX Mr. P. NIEUWENHUYS
<u>Brazil:</u>	Mr. C.A. de SOUZA e SILVA Mr. S.M. THOMPSON FLORES Mr. F.J. de CARVALHO LOPES
<u>Bulgaria:</u>	Mr. V. BOJILOV Mr. R. DEYANOV
<u>Burma:</u>	U MYA THAN DAW AYE AYE MU U HLA MYINT
<u>Canada:</u>	Mr. J.A. BEESLEY Mr. A. DESPRES
<u>China:</u>	Mr. QIAN Jiadong Mr. SHA Zukang Ms. WANG Zhiyun Mr. TAN Han Mr. LIU Zhongen Mr. LI Daozhang Mr. YANG Mingliang Mr. SOU Keiming
<u>Cuba:</u>	Mr. C. LECHUGA HEVIA Mr. P. NUNEZ MOSQUERA Mrs. A.M. LUETTGEN DE LECHUGA
<u>Czechoslovakia:</u>	Mr. M. VEJVODA Mr. A. CIMA Mr. B. BEDNAR
<u>Egypt:</u>	Mr. S. ALFARARGY Mr. M. BADR
<u>Ethiopia:</u>	Mr. F. YOHANNES
<u>France:</u>	Mr. J. JESSEL Mr. H. RENIE

<u>German Democratic Republic:</u>	Mr. H. ROSE
<u>Germany, Federal Republic of:</u>	Mr. J. DEMBSKI Mr. H. WEGENER Mr. W. BOLEWSKI Mr. W.N. GERMANN
<u>Hungary:</u>	Mr. D. MEIZSTER
<u>India:</u>	Mr. S. KANT SHARMA
<u>Indonesia:</u>	Mr. S. SUTOWARDOYO Mr. A.M. AKBAR Mr. S. SARBINI
<u>Islamic Republic of Iran:</u>	Mr. A. SHAFII
<u>Italy:</u>	Mr. R. FRANCESCHI Mr. F. PIAGGESI Mr. M. PAVESE Mr. R. DI CARLO Mr. G. ADORNI BRACCESI
<u>Japan:</u>	Mr. M. KONISHI Mr. K. KUDO Mr. T. ISHIGURI
<u>Kenya:</u>	Mr. D.D. AFANDE Mr. P.N. MWAURA
<u>Mexico:</u>	Ms. Z. GONZALEZ Y REYNERO Mr. P. MACEDO RIBA
<u>Mongolia:</u>	Mr. L. BAYART Mr. S.O. BOLD
<u>Morocco:</u>	Mr. O. HILALE
<u>Netherlands:</u>	Mr. J. RAMAKER Mr. R. MILDERS
<u>Nigeria:</u>	Mr. B.O. TONWE
<u>Pakistan:</u>	Mr. M. AHMAD Mr. Z. AKRAM
<u>Peru:</u>	Mr. J. GONZALES TERRONES
<u>Poland:</u>	Mr. J. RYCHLAK Mr. J. CIALOWICZ
<u>Romania:</u>	Mr. G. CHIRILA Mr. DOGARU

Sri Lanka:

Mr. J. DHANAPALA

Sweden:

Mr. R. EKEUS
Mr. H. BERGLUND
Mrs. E. BONNIER

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

Mr. V. I. ISSRAELYAN
Mr. B. P. PROKOFIEV
Mr. S. B. BATSANOV
Mr. E. K. POTYARKIN
Mr. G. VASHADZE
Mr. O. A. KROKHALEV
Mr. V. S. MIKOYAN
Mr. A. A. TITARENKO
Mr. G. BERDENNIKOV

United Kingdom:

Mr. R. I. T. CROMARTIE
Mr. R. J. S. EDIS
Mr. I. P. CHALMERS
Mr. D. SLINN
Mr. B. G. WHITESIDE

United States of America:

Mr. D. LOWITZ
Mr. R. GOUGH
Mr. P. CORDEN
Mr. R. BOWEN
Mr. R. LEVINE
Mr. R. NELSON
Mr. R. MACKENEN

Venezuela:

Mr. A. R. TAYLHARDAT
Ms. J. CLAUWAERT GONZALEZ

Yugoslavia:

Mr. M. MIHAJLOVIC

Zaire:

Mr. O. N. MONSHEMVULA

Secretary-General of the Conference
on Disarmament and Personal
Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Mr. M. KOMATINA

Deputy Secretary-General of the
Conference on Disarmament

Mr. V. BERASATEGUI

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 356th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

In accordance with its programme of work, the Conference will start today its consideration of item 7 on its agenda, entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons". However, in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure, any member wishing to do so may raise any subject relevant to the work of the Conference.

As announced at our informal meeting last Thursday, I intend to convene today, immediately after the plenary meeting, informal open-ended consultations of the Conference to consider how to deal with the question of the improved and effective functioning of the Conference. On that occasion, I also intend to raise other questions, some of them relating to how to proceed in connection with substantive items on the agenda. Furthermore, as soon as we have finished the plenary meeting, I intend to convene an informal meeting before the open-ended consultations to deal with different matters, namely items 2 and 3 of the agenda and the statement made by the Secretary-General concerning the financial situation.

I have on my list of speakers for today, the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Bulgaria and Romania.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, His Excellency Ambassador Issraelyan.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): The Soviet delegation has asked for the floor today in order to introduce document CD/690, which comprises the statement issued by the Soviet Government in connection with the new nuclear explosion conducted by the United States on 10 April, containing a fundamental appraisal of this irresponsible act by the United States.

I should like briefly to recall some basic events connected with this issue. From 6 August of last year the Soviet Union unilaterally discontinued all nuclear explosions until 1 January of this year and called on the United States to follow its example. The American side did not do so, and continued testing. Nevertheless, we extended our moratorium until 31 March. In reply, Washington, as was reported in the press, changed its test programme only to strengthen it, and brought forward the date of its next nuclear test from mid-April to the end of March.

Even in these circumstances the Soviet Union endeavoured to use every possibility to convert its unilateral moratorium into a bilateral one, and thus pave the way for the conclusion of a new test-ban agreement. It responded positively to the appeal by the leaders of the six States authors of the Delhi Declaration to the leaders of the USSR and the United States to refrain from nuclear explosions during the period until the next Soviet-American summit meeting. We stated that we would not conduct nuclear explosions even after 31 March until the first nuclear explosion in the United States.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

In twice extending our moratorium, despite the directly provocative challenge of the United States, we took account of the aspirations of many peace-loving States, and the hopes of the peoples of the entire world. The Soviet Union's good initiative met with understanding and deep approval throughout the world. In recent months the Soviet Government has received tens of thousands of letters and messages expressing support for the moratorium on nuclear explosions. I may say that many such messages were sent to our delegation. The Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions received full support at the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, in particular in resolution 40/88. Not surprisingly, the moratorium became a major factor in world politics, however much those who would have liked to give the impression that they were oblivious to it tried to assert the contrary.

By refraining from all nuclear testing at a time when the United States has continued to modernize its arsenal of nuclear weapons and implement major military programmes, including within the framework of the "Strategic Defence Initiative", the Soviet Union has clearly demonstrated its desire to try out every possibility of influencing Washington's position by the force of example. If the American Administration had responded to the Soviet initiative, if it had taken the step the peoples of the world expected of it, the possibility of halting nuclear testing on Earth would have become an entirely real one. At the same time, the Soviet Union has repeatedly warned that it cannot endlessly show restraint unilaterally in this field. The Soviet leadership has openly declared that if the United States continues its nuclear tests after 31 March, we shall be forced to renew our own nuclear testing.

It is therefore perfectly clear to everyone that by recently conducting a new nuclear explosion the American leadership has sought not only to take a new step in building up its military might, but also above all to strike a blow against the efforts aimed at solving the problem of the discontinuance or prohibition of nuclear tests, and the cessation of the nuclear arms race as a whole. The deep disappointment and general indignation which this new underground nuclear-weapon test caused in the world, carried out in the face of protests and the will of the peoples of the world, in the face of the voice of reason, is therefore natural.

It would seem that, knowing the reaction they would come up against, the American Government has recently leaned over backwards to prove the unapprovable to the people of the United States and to the whole world, namely, the necessity and usefulness of continuing testing. The Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Kenneth Adelman, for example, stated that as a result of testing nuclear weapons will become safer than before. Is this not a mockery of common sense? According to this logic, the MX missile is safer than the Minuteman missile, and Trident is safer than Polaris: in that case, why does the United States make such a row over the introduction of new Soviet missiles since they, according to Mr. Adelman's thinking, must also be safer than their predecessors? There is a lack of consistency in government thinking in Washington.

Some supporters of an unbridled nuclear-arms race claim that the continuation of nuclear testing would allow the United States to reduce its

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

nuclear arsenal. I should like to make a point in this connection. During the 1970s, thanks to continued testing the United States carried out a steady build-up of its offensive strategic armaments, primarily through a larger quantity of nuclear munitions, which more than doubled, and a considerable increase in accuracy.

We are also told that the cessation of tests will benefit only the Soviet Union. Why? Because allegedly the United States is an open, democratic society and the USSR is a closed society. With regard to the so-called democratic nature and openness of society in the United States, these have recently been reaffirmed once again through the American Administration's disregard for the aspirations of millions of Americans, the resolutions of the United States Congress on the cessation of nuclear tests and the arrest of dozens of its citizens who have taken part in demonstrations only because they came out against nuclear testing. But what relationship is there between the cessation of tests and differences in the social and economic structure of States? It seems that in the event of a bilateral renunciation of nuclear testing the American nuclear arsenal will grow obsolete, while the Soviet arsenal will not.

In past years we have already witnessed attempts by the American side to observe world affairs through the ideological spectacles of anticommunism. But I must confess that we could not imagine that this could reach the point of asserting that, as a result of the differences in our societies, so simple an arms-limitation measure as a test ban could have a differing effect on the composition of the Soviet and the American nuclear munitions. In addition, in Washington some officials themselves provide the explanation for this nonsense: the United States nuclear tests are necessary to obtain a position of force, to achieve an awe-inspiring nuclear position. This, as a matter of fact, is also what the current arguments of the American Administration in favour of tests, and their practical effects, also amount to.

The nuclear explosion carried out by the United States has once again clearly shown that Washington's references to its commitment to the goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons in fact hide the intention of further threatening mankind with the nuclear sword, and of keeping the world in the trap of terror of general annihilation. The selfish imperial ambitions of the military-industrial complex in the United States have once again been placed above the interests of mankind.

A new, flagrant demonstration of these ambitions was the barbarous attack on Libya by the American armed forces -- a barefaced act of State terrorism which the Soviet Union has firmly condemned. The United States has begun to speak its characteristic language -- the language of bombs, missiles and shells.

In view of the fact that, regardless of the repeated warnings from the Soviet Union, the United States has conducted a fresh nuclear test, the Soviet Government is obliged to declare that it is henceforward free from its unilateral commitment to refrain from conducting any nuclear explosions. We cannot forgo the security of ourselves and of our allies.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

I should like to assure you that in taking this necessary step the Soviet Union is not abandoning its endeavours to achieve a nuclear-weapon test-ban. As before, we believe that such a ban is a really practical step towards the elimination of nuclear arsenals and we are prepared at any moment to revert to the question of a mutual moratorium on nuclear explosions, if the United States Government declares that it will refrain from conducting such explosions.

At the same time, as stated in the Soviet Government's statement, we reaffirm our proposal to commence without delay talks on a complete ban on nuclear-weapon tests. For us, any form of talks, provided matters advance towards the achievement of accord, is acceptable. In particular, I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate the Soviet Union's unswerving position in favour of the immediate start of multilateral negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament. The proposal by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, M.S. Gorbachev, to President Reagan to meet in the immediate future in one of the European capitals in order to reach agreement on the halting of nuclear tests, still stands.

Thus, the solution to the question of ending nuclear tests depends, as before, on the United States, on whether the American Administration displays a sense of realism and responsibility. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it will continue to strive persistently for the solution of this problem in the interests of ensuring international security and durable peace free from nuclear weapons.

Mr. BOJILOV (Bulgaria) (translated from Russian): Mr. President, on 10 April the United States conducted a new nuclear weapon test at the Nevada test site. According to press agency reports, this nuclear explosion was intended to test the effect of nuclear radiation on the new nuclear warhead for the MX intercontinental missile, the new missile for the Trident-2 strategic submarines and the new Midgetman missile, and also to simulate the effect of the X-ray laser being developed under the SDI programme. In other words, this is not a question of testing the military readiness of the United States's existing nuclear arsenal, to which the American side usually refers when attempting to justify its refusal to join in the Soviet Union's moratorium. This is a test of a qualitatively new nuclear first strike weapon. This once again confirms the view expressed repeatedly by the delegations of the socialist, non-aligned and neutral States members of the Conference that nuclear testing serves to a large degree to modernize nuclear weapons and develop new types of such weapons.

We fully share the deep disappointment and widespread indignation which this explosion has caused throughout the world. It vividly illustrates the fact that in the United States the interests of the American military-industrial complex and the desire to achieve military superiority come before the interests of the survival of mankind. It is evidence that the United States Administration's references to the desirability of eliminating nuclear weapons are not merely not confirmed, but directly contradicted, by its deeds.

The present American Administration is the first Administration since the time of President Eisenhower to come out against the solution of this priority

(Mr. Bojilov, Bulgaria)

problem of nuclear disarmament and to refuse to conduct any negotiations at all on the cessation of nuclear testing. The nuclear explosion conducted on 10 April is a severe blow to the hopes of the international community that a joint Soviet-American moratorium would be declared on such tests, as a first step towards achieving agreement on their complete and general prohibition through a treaty. It is an act of provocation to world public opinion, an act which ignores the repeated appeals of the overwhelming majority of States, expressed in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in United Nations General Assembly resolutions, and in the joint appeals of the leaders of Argentina, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Sweden and Greece.

As you know, on 6 August 1985 the Soviet Government unilaterally declared a moratorium on all nuclear explosions, for military and for peaceful purposes. Despite the lack of a positive response from the American side, the USSR extended this moratorium until 31 March of this year. Furthermore, in his reply to the message from the leaders of the "six nations", the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, M.S. Gorbachev, stated that the Soviet Union's moratorium would remain in force even after 31 March until the first nuclear test in the United States. For eight months the Soviet moratorium offered excellent conditions for beginning negotiations on a nuclear test ban.

The Conference on Disarmament has been a witness to the political goodwill displayed by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has expressed its readiness to conduct negotiations on this issue on any basis, bilateral, trilateral or multilateral. It has also expressed its readiness to discuss any verification measures, whether national or international, including on-site inspection.

Unfortunately, the United States has continued to follow the path of spurring on the nuclear-arms race. David Brenner of the Columbia University Department of Radiation Oncology, in a letter to the New York Times, pointed out that the latest test, was "a political, not a scientific act". And it can hardly be doubted that its political significance was its notification to Moscow that the Reagan Administration intends to continue its nuclear build-up and the strategic arms race. And the reasons why all this is necessary for the United States are illustrated, inter alia, by the American armed forces' attacks on Libya, which are unquestionably an act of State terrorism. It is, therefore, not at all surprising that the Conference on Disarmament is in an impasse over the first item on its agenda, despite the flexibility displayed by the group of socialist countries, the Group of 21 and the People's Republic of China.

The statement by the Soviet Government concerning the discontinuance of its unilateral moratorium is absolutely logical. It is entirely and fully justified. It is absolutely obvious that the Soviet Union cannot endlessly remain under the threat to its safety and that of its allies. It is fully understandable that the Soviet Union has no other course than to declare an end to its moratorium. This is a just step taken in accordance with the legitimate interests of the socialist countries. At the same time, the Soviet Union has not slammed the door on agreement. It has expressed its

(Mr. Bojilov, Bulgaria)

readiness at any time to revert to the question of a mutual moratorium on nuclear explosions if the United States declares that it will refrain from conducting such tests. Thus, as before, it is up to the United States.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Bulgaria for his statement and for his kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Romania, Mr. Chirila.

Mr. CHIRILA (Romania): Mr. President, in its last intervention in the plenary of the Conference, the Romanian delegation presented some considerations on the current situation of international relations directly related to the continuation of the arms race, of deploying new nuclear weapons in Europe and other continents, of developing existing armaments and continuing nuclear tests, of the actions aimed at the weaponization of outer space, and on the need for the definitive elimination of force and the threat of force in international relations, in any form or manifestation.

On that occasion I said that for our delegation to make an analysis of the situation and take a position was not a difficult task because -- as in many other important situations -- Romania, through President Nicolae Ceaușescu, took a clear and proper position with regard to this very particular and serious momentum.

Very recently, on the occasion of the opening of the spring session of the Romanian parliament -- the Grand National Assembly -- our representative body adopted a special document concerning the International Year of Peace.

We have already heard in this hall, including in the Message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, many references to the significance of the International Year of Peace, to the hope that our Conference will be able to offer its own contribution to the success of this event.

Our delegation has been entrusted with the task of introducing and circulating in the Conference on Disarmament, to all delegations and participants, a document entitled "Declaration of the Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania on the International Year of Peace".

A very large and important part of the above-mentioned declaration concerns the number one problem of our time, namely, the necessity of halting the arms race and achieving disarmament, first and foremost nuclear disarmament.

One can find in this document the clear-cut position of the most important Romanian representative forum, of the Romanian people, concerning the imperatives of this serious momentum in international relations. The declaration calls for working out a complex programme of general disarmament, with nuclear disarmament at its centre, which should also be aimed at the substantial reduction of all conventional armaments, of military forces and budgets, those of the strongly armed countries in the first place.

In order to illustrate the up-to-date position taken by our parliament, allow me, Mr. President, to make a special reference to the paragraph of the declaration of the Grand National Assembly on the necessity that everything

(Mr. Chirila, Romania)

should be done for reaching an agreement on banning nuclear tests. In this respect, the declaration appeals to the Soviet Union to continue its moratorium on nuclear tests, and calls on the United States to join in this moratorium. The declaration salutes the Soviet Union's proposal on convening a Soviet-American summit to discuss the question of halting nuclear tests. The declaration stresses that no reason or question of procedure can or should be advanced to delay such a meeting called to ban nuclear tests. World public opinion demands that an end be put to nuclear tests which constitute a factor that spurs on the arms race and has a negative bearing on the climate, contributing to the general pollution of environment. The declaration calls for a general agreement prohibiting nuclear tests by all States.

This document, which we have the honour to introduce to the Conference now, has the merit of expressing essentially, in a very condensed and clear-cut form, Romania's stand on the present international situation, particularly in the field of disarmament, and the need for concrete steps in this direction, which are all issues of direct concern to our Conference.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Romania for his statement. That concludes my list of speakers for today. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? I recognize the representative of the United States of America, His Excellency Ambassador Lowitz.

Mr. LOWITZ (United States of America): I very much regret the necessity to respond to the remarks made concerning the recent nuclear test by the United States. These remarks made today seem to imply that my Government has gone back on its word by undertaking such a test, that it has somehow either violated a commitment under an international agreement, or has reneged on a pledge that it had made to the world community.

Neither of these notions are correct. My Government has made very clear, including in statements made by my delegation here in this Council Chamber, what our position on nuclear testing is. The recent test, as well as all the United States' tests, was fully consistent with that position. We have not misled the Soviet Union. Knowing our position, they have waged a carefully calculated public relations programme to shift the focus of attention from the facts that make nuclear deterrence a necessity. Instead of arguing for the questionable benefits of an unverified moratorium on nuclear testing, the Soviet Union should now engage in serious negotiations to reduce significantly offensive nuclear arsenals. Such reductions can be a significant step towards a time when a test ban will be possible. Meanwhile, practical and constructive work in the area of a test ban is necessary and possible.

On the other hand, such work is impeded by public relations campaigns that impede real solutions to problems surrounding the complex issue of nuclear testing. For the solution of such problems I again recall the President's invitation to the Soviet Union to seek adequate verification arrangements, including his most recent invitation to share our knowledge about the hydro-dynamic yield measurements technique, so that we may move toward ratification of the threshold test ban and peaceful nuclear explosion test ban treaty. And I again recall that the Conference on Disarmament can

(Mr. Lowitz, United States)

agree now on the Ad Hoc Committee for agenda item 1, and continue the kind of practical and necessary work begun by the Conference in 1982 that is so sorely needed in this area.

I think it is hardly necessary to point out that certain points in Ambassador Issraelyan's statement are not correct. The United States did not advance the date of the nuclear test recently carried out. Of course, the United States does not view the moderate level of underground nuclear testing as a direct provocation or challenge to any State. We regret the arrest of United States' citizens at the Nevada test site, but we would be interested in learning of similar expressions of freedom of movement in the Soviet Union -- God help us from such Governments! I regret the notion that in an attempt to suppress terrorist actions that strike at the fabric of Western civilization, the United States is somehow to be tarred with the same brush.

In conclusion Mr. President, I would like to quote from the statement made by President Reagan last night to the American public.

"On March 25, more than a week before the attack, (referring to the attack in West Berlin) orders were sent from Tripoli to the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin to conduct a terrorist attack against Americans to cause maximum and indiscriminate casualties. Libya's agents then planted the bomb on April 4. The People's Bureau alerted Tripoli that the attack would be carried out the following morning. The next day they reported back to Tripoli on the great success of their mission." The President continued, "our evidence is direct, it is precise, it is irrefutable, ...". He further continued, "we have solid evidence of other attacks Ghadafi has planned against United States installations and diplomats, and even American tourists, thanks to close co-operation with our friends, some of these have been prevented. With the help of the French authorities, we recently aborted one such attack, a planned massacre, using grenades and small arms, of civilians waiting in line for visas at an American Embassy ...". And I further quote, President Reagan said, "Today we have done what we had to do. If necessary we shall do it again. It gives me no pleasure to say that, and I wish it were otherwise".

Mr. BERDENNIKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): The statement which we have just heard by the representative of the United States only goes to confirm the words of Mikhail Sergeyevitch Gorbachev that, and I quote, "the Government of that country cannot renounce the habits of former times". The politics of force, "gunboat diplomacy" -- that is what underlies the United States' conduct in the world. Under the cloak of words about the battle against terrorism and its desire for security and peace, the United States in fact has taken upon itself the role of the world's policeman, without considering anybody else, including its own allies.

While carrying out a comprehensive build-up of its military might under the pretext of an alleged Soviet threat, the United States uses this force for aggressive imperialist purposes against non-aligned States. The banditry of the United States in Viet Nam, in Lebanon, in Grenada and finally against Libya shows the complete disregard of the United States for the sovereignty of other States, and for the generally accepted rules of international law, including those set forth in the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Berdenniko, USSR)

With regard to the United States Government's efforts to justify its policy on a nuclear-weapon-test ban, I think they cannot make an impression on anyone. Everyone knows who is blocking the negotiations on this issue, including in the Conference on Disarmament. The American side does not want to conduct negotiations anywhere. It has even said "No" to our proposal for bilateral talks. The United States also did not respond positively to our proposal for a meeting of Soviet and American experts to consider problems relating to the verification of the fact that nuclear tests are not conducted -- I repeat, not conducted. With regard to the notorious United States proposal to go to the United States to observe nuclear tests, it is a proposal which may be compared with inviting a person opposed to the death penalty to attend an execution.

Mr. LOWITZ (United States of America): I do not intend to prolong this morning's meeting by any extensive intervention at this time, I would just suggest to the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union that his most recent intervention does not in any way indicate anything new that the Soviet Union might have to say on the subject. I would respectfully request that perhaps in a similar intervention, at some point, the Soviet Union would then discuss the question of Afghanistan, so that we could be brought up to date on that issue as well.

Mr. ROSE (German Democratic Republic): In referring to the statement just made by the distinguished delegate of the United States I would like to say that my delegation rejects any attempts to connect terrorist activities with the capital of the German Democratic Republic, and I would like to take this opportunity to join in the condemnation of the act of State terrorism which was conducted by the United States against the people of Libya.

Mr. BERDENNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): In connection with what the representative of the United States has just said, I should like merely to point out that everyone, I trust, can see in this manoeuvre an attempt to divert attention from the United States' own conduct. I doubt whether such a device can impress anyone.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for his statement. Is there any other delegation that wishes to take the floor? If this is not the case, as I announced at the beginning of our plenary, we shall now convene an informal meeting to deal specifically with items 2 and 3 and the financial situation of the United Nations, according to the statement of the Secretary-General. After the informal meeting, which I hope will be a brief one, I shall call informal open-ended consultations concerning the efficiency of the Conference.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 17 April, at 10.30 a.m. The plenary meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.