

CD/PV.75  
8 April 1980  
ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 8 April 1980, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. L. SOLA VILA

(Cuba)

## PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Algeria: Mr. A. BENYAMIN

Argentina: Mr. A. DUMONT

Australia: Mr. A. BEHM

Belgium: Mr. A. ONKELINX  
Mr. J.-M. NOIRFALISSE

Brazil: Mr. C.A. DE SOUZA E SILVA  
Mr. S. DE QUEIROZ DUARTE

Bulgaria: Mr. P. VOUTOV  
Mr. I. SOTIROV  
Mr. K. PRAMOV

Burma: U SAV HLAING  
U NGWE WIN

Canada: Mr. D.S. McPHAIL  
Mr. J.T. STIARD

China: Mr. LIANG Yu-Fan  
Mr. YAI<sup>7</sup> Hu-Shan  
Mr. LUO Ren-Shi  
Mr. LIANG De-Peng  
Mr. PAN Zhen-Qiang  
Mr. PAN Ju-Shen  
Mrs. GE Yi-Yun

Cuba: Mr. L. SOLA VILA  
Mr. F. ORTIZ  
Mrs. V. BORODOWSKY JACKIEWICH

Czechoslovakia: Mr. P. LUKEŠ  
Mr. V. ROHÁČ-ILKIV

Egypt: Mr. O. EL-SHAFEI  
Mr. H. EL-BARADEI  
Mr. N. FAHMY

Ethiopia: Mr. T. TERREFE

France: Mr. F. DE LA GORCE  
Mr. J. DE BEAUSSE  
Mr. H. COUTHURES

German Democratic Republic: Mr. G. HERDER  
Mr. M. GRACZYNSKI  
Mr. KAULFUSS

Germany, Federal Republic of: Mr. N. KLINGER

Hungary: Mr. I. KOMIVES  
Mr. A. LAKATOS

India: Mr. C.R. CHAKRACHAN

Indonesia: Mr. M. SIDIK  
Mr. D.B. SULEMAN  
Mr. H.M.U. SILABAN

Iran: Mr. D. AMERI

Italy: Mr. V. CORDERO DI MONTEZEMOLO  
Mr. F. DE LUCA

Japan: Mr. Y. OKAWA  
Mr. R. ISHII

Kenya: Mr. S. SHITENI  
Mr. G.N. MUNIU

Mexico:

Mr. A. GARCÍA ROBLES  
Mr. H. CÁCERES

Mongolia:

Mr. D. ERDEMBILEG  
Mr. L. ERDENECHULUUN  
Mr. L. BAYART

Morocco:

Mr. A. SKALLI  
Mr. H. CHERAIBI

Netherlands:

Mr. R.H. FEIN  
Mr. H. WAGENIAKERS

Nigeria:

Mr. O. ADENIJI  
Mr. T.O. OLUJOKO

Pakistan:

Mr. H. AKRAM

Peru:Poland:

Mr. D. SUJKA  
Mr. J. CIALOWICZ

Romania:

Mr. T. IIELESCANU

Sri Lanka:

Mr. I.B. FONSEKA

Sweden:

Mr. L. NORBERG  
Mr. S. STROIBÄCK

Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics:

Mr. V.L. ISSRAELYAN  
Mr. B.P. PROKOFIEV  
Mr. H.P. SHELEPIN  
Mr. V.H. GANJA  
Mr. V.I. USTINOV  
Mr. A.I. TIOURENKOV  
Mr. Y.P. KLIUKIN  
Mr. E.D. ZAITZEV  
Mr. B.I. KORNEYENKO

United Kingdom:

Mr. N.H. MARSHALL

United States of America:

Mr. C. FLOWERREE

Mr. A. AKALOVSKY

Mr. H. DALEY

Mr. S. FITZGERALD

Mr. H. WILSON

Mr. C.G. TAYLOR

Mr. J.W. MacDONALD

Venezuela:

Mrs. G. DA SILVA

Yugoslavia:

Mr. D. DJOKIĆ

Zaire:

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

Mr. R. JAIPAL

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): Today the Committee takes up consideration of agenda item 12 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament".

We hope that, with the holidays behind us, the Committee can resume its work with more spirit and that we can complete our outstanding business as soon as possible.

Mr. ERDEMBILEG (Mongolia) (translated from Russian): Mr. Chairman, allow me sincerely to welcome you, as the representative of the Republic of Cuba -- a country which plays an important part in the non-aligned movement -- to the office of Chairman of the Committee for the month of April. It is a particular pleasure for us to greet, through you, the heroic people of socialist Cuba with which Mongolia is linked by bonds of brotherly friendship and close co-operation, and to wish you great success in the accomplishment of this responsible task.

Two months have already passed since the Committee on Disarmament began its work for this year. However, we cannot fail to note that the Committee has still not embarked on a consideration of the substance of various issues, in other words, that concrete negotiations have not yet been initiated in this important body on the priority items which are on the agenda of the Committee's present session.

This is not to say, of course, that we underestimate the importance of the organizational and procedural aspects of the Committee's work. We consider, however, that this side of things should not be dwelt on to the detriment of our important task of formulating specific treaties and agreements in the vitally important sphere of the cessation of the arms race and disarmament.

The establishment of four Ad Hoc Working Groups, on security guarantees for the non-nuclear-weapon States, on the comprehensive programme of disarmament, on the prohibition of radiological weapons and on chemical weapons, makes it possible for the Committee to proceed to practical negotiations aimed at harmonizing the positions of the sides on individual important aspects of the disarmament problem. It is, we believe, essential at the present stage to make an effort to resolve the remaining organizational problems as quickly as possible, and in particular the question of the distribution of the chairmanships of the Working Groups.

We think that the Committee ought to take an initial decision on the distribution of the chairmanships of the Working Groups bearing in mind the general agreement that in the future the Committee will settle this matter on the basis of the principle of rotation.

A great deal of time has been wasted in the Committee on fruitless discussions of various artificially created issues which are less a matter of organization and

(Mr. Erdembileg, Mongolia)

procedure than of provocation. In our view this approach will in no way help to achieve or to consolidate positive results in the work of this single multilateral disarmament negotiating body but may well, on the contrary, seriously undermine the basis of its activities. We should like once again to stress this view, which represents our position of principle, as reflected in particular in the joint statement of the group of socialist countries, including Mongolia, set out in document CD/83 of 25 March 1980.

At its thirty-fourth session the United Nations General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions connected either directly or indirectly with the work of the Committee on Disarmament.

I should like, at this stage, to refer to resolution 34/72, in which the General Assembly expressed its regret that agreement on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction had not yet been reached. In that resolution the General Assembly also urged the Committee on Disarmament to undertake negotiations to that end at the beginning of its 1980 session as a matter of high priority, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives.

Members of the Committee are well aware of the consistent and active efforts made by the socialist countries to bring about the achievement of a generally-acceptable agreement on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

Mongolia, as one of the authors of the draft convention on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons which was submitted to the Committee in 1972, is ready to continue taking an active part in the elaboration of an international instrument on this subject, which should embody suitable control measures.

At this stage of the Committee's work, when it has already been decided to set up an Ad hoc Working Group and the terms of reference of that Working Group have been settled, namely, that it should examine the substance of the problem of determining what questions should be covered by the negotiations on the convention, we believe that it is essential to remove those obstacles that have been deliberately created by certain persons to the detriment of a constructive consideration of the pressing problem in that Working Group.

The Mongolian delegation considers that this authoritative international body -- the Committee on Disarmament -- is not the place for statements containing unfounded assertions. We should like to advise those who are still trying to use the Committee for the purpose of fomenting a concerted antisocialist campaign to remember, among other things, the indisputable facts set forth in document CD/82, which was distributed by the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam as an official document of the Committee on Disarmament. In this connexion I should like to ask a

(Mr. Erdembileg, Mongolia)

question: what is the end sought by the instigators of this campaign against the socialist countries? We can answer this question quite unambiguously: they want in every way possible to deflect the work of the Committee from its proper course. Like many other members of the Committee, the Mongolian delegation cannot agree with such acts and it will henceforth resolutely oppose them.

I should like now briefly to dwell upon the question of the prohibition of new types of weapons of mass destruction and, in this context, on the prohibition of radiological weapons.

As you know, the approach of the socialist countries to the question of the prohibition of new types of weapons of mass destruction is based primarily on the idea of a comprehensive solution. The efforts of the socialist countries in this sphere are supported by the overwhelming majority of States. At the same time, the socialist countries admit the possibility of reaching agreement on certain individual new types of weapons of mass destruction.

With a view to achieving a comprehensive agreement on the prohibition of new types of weapons of mass destruction, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries earlier proposed the establishment, under the aegis of this Committee, of an ad hoc working group of qualified governmental experts for the consideration of this question. As you know, on the initiative of the socialist countries, the Committee has already engaged in a useful exchange of views, which confirmed the need for the Committee seriously to concern itself with this problem at once, so as to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction.

The establishment of a group of experts within the framework of the Committee on Disarmament, as proposed by the Soviet delegation at the Committee's meeting on 1 April of this year, would constitute an important practical step in the implementation of the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session in which, inter alia, it requested the Committee actively to continue negotiations, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts, with a view to preparing a draft comprehensive agreement on this subject.

The Mongolian delegation considers it important to note the new element in this proposal of the Soviet Union, in that the responsibilities of the group of experts would include not only work on the preparation of a draft comprehensive agreement but also consideration of the question of the conclusion of special agreements on individual new types of weapons of mass destruction.

In addition to the need for consideration of the question of a comprehensive agreement, we believe that there is a real possibility of reaching a generally-acceptable agreement on the prohibition of radiological weapons. We therefore welcome the establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group entrusted with the task of drafting an agreed convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons.

(Mr. Erdembileg, Mongolia)

In the opinion of the Mongolian delegation, the joint USSR-United States proposal on major elements of a treaty prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons will provide a useful basis for the drafting of the final text of the agreement in our Committee. The draft text reflects clearly and explicitly the main purpose of the future treaty and the scope of the prohibition, and provides for adequate measures of verification and control. We note with satisfaction the constructive additions to the major elements of the treaty put forward by the delegations of the Hungarian People's Republic and the German Democratic Republic (documents CD/40 and CD/42). We are ready to examine any other proposals on this question which may later be put before the Committee for its consideration. We believe that agreement on the text of the draft of this treaty would in practice be facilitated by a comprehensive solution of the problem of the prohibition of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction.

I should like, finally, Mr. Chairman, to say a few words about the comprehensive programme of disarmament which will be discussed in detail by the Ad hoc Working Group that has been set up.

The views of the Mongolian People's Republic on the fundamental purposes and principles which should constitute the basis for negotiations and decisions on questions of curbing the arms race and achieving disarmament were set forth in the joint document of the socialist countries (CCD/552) on the comprehensive programme of disarmament, which was put before the Committee on Disarmament on 21 February 1978. It should be emphasized that these views remain pertinent and valid to this day.

The Mongolian delegation would like to stress that, among the fundamental principles on which disarmament negotiations should be based, particular importance attaches to strict observance of the principle of equality and equal security. This most important principle of disarmament negotiations is of particular relevance and pertinence today when efforts are being made to brush it aside and to achieve unilateral military superiority by a steadily increasing build-up of armaments and the preparation of long-term military programmes.

The Mongolian People's Republic in no way underestimates the leading role and the force of the example of the great Powers which, as permanent members of the Security Council, have a special responsibility as regards the maintenance of world peace and especially in the matter of curbing the arms race and achieving disarmament. We believe that it is fundamentally wrong to maintain that certain Powers should disarm while others need do nothing until such time as they themselves decide that it is expedient for them to participate in disarmament negotiations.

Such are the observations which the Mongolian delegation wished to make at this stage of the Committee's work.

Mr. KÖMIVES (Hungary): At the outset I would like to congratulate you warmly on your assumption of the office of the Chairman of the Committee for the month of April and to express my conviction that the Committee on Disarmament will make substantive progress in its work under your able guidance. The Hungarian delegation will do its utmost to help you in attaining this goal. I hope that the Committee, under your chairmanship, will be able to solve the outstanding issues before it, including the urgent question of completing the setting up of the four Working Groups by reaching a consensus on the problem of their chairmanship. The Hungarian delegation attaches the greatest significance to the beginning of effective work by these Groups as soon as practically possible.

In my present statement I am going to deal with the subject of the prohibition of the development and production of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons.

The rapid scientific and technological progress of our days makes it increasingly necessary and timely that the most authentic forum for this purpose, the Committee on Disarmament, should pay increased attention to this issue. In accordance with the Final Document of the special session devoted to disarmament and several resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on this subject at its regular sessions make it an urgent duty for the Committee to prevent the achievements of science and technology from being used for military purposes.

The Committee has been dealing actively with this issue since 1976 in the framework of formal and informal meetings with the assistance of qualified governmental experts. The valuable materials and expertise accumulated make it possible, on the one hand, and a must, on the other, that the Committee should now continue the consideration of this subject on a qualitatively higher level. The Committee, with the help of experts, has made considerable progress in defining the areas of science and technology where the direction of progress may or is likely to lead to the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction if the scientific results achieved in these fields are used for military purposes.

The experts participating in the work of the Committee, however, had to take into account the fact that the Committee is composed mainly of persons who are not scientific, technological or military experts, as well as the character of the discussions taking place in the plenary meetings, which in itself set a limit to the scientific and technological depth of their discussions. It seems to my delegation that possibilities for further and deeper discussions provided for by

(Mr. Kömives, Hungary)

the organizational framework of formal and informal plenary meetings are almost about to be exhausted. It therefore becomes necessary to establish a forum for further and scientifically and technologically deeper discussions, the results and recommendations of which are likely to facilitate the work of the Committee a great deal and make it more purpose-oriented.

There is a long-standing proposal to that effect made by the delegation of the USSR in document CCD/564, which may be well known to all delegations. This proposal was reiterated in the statement made by the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union at our meeting on 1 April. The renewed and modified proposal takes into account the considerations expressed and adhered to by another group of delegations in order to facilitate progress in this field. My delegation supports this initiative by the delegation of the USSR.

The Hungarian delegation in its earlier statements expressed strong preference for a comprehensive approach to this complex issue, namely, the achievement of a general ban on the development and production of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons. Keeping this preference unchanged does not mean, however, that we attach less importance to working out specific agreements on particular types of weapons which may be identified. A practical manifestation of this position of ours was the submission by my delegation of working paper CCD/575 on infrasound weapons or the efforts we made for the early conclusion of a convention banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons.

The Hungarian delegation is of the opinion that, from the point of view of having further, more concrete and effective discussions on this issue, the most important step would be to set up a special group of qualified governmental experts for the consideration of the question of the prohibition of the development and production of new types of weapons of mass destruction and to entrust it with a task flexible enough so that various views, ideas and approaches could be accommodated.

From an organizational point of view it could be constructed on the pattern of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts on seismic events. Its main task could be to consider the question of a comprehensive ban, as well as to keep under continuous surveillance possible areas of the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction and to make recommendations to the Committee on the initiation of action to ban particular types of such weapons whenever it seems necessary to do so.

(Mr. Kömives, Hungary)

The group could also be entrusted with the task of further considering and refining the definition of new types of weapons of mass destruction and their classification criteria in the light of the scientific and technological developments which may have taken place in recent years. On this basis the group of experts could identify particular trends in the scientific and technological progress which should be brought under the scope of a comprehensive ban without impeding research efforts for peaceful purposes.

These are the ideas the Hungarian delegation would like to contribute to enable the Committee on Disarmament to give fresh consideration to the proposal for the establishment of a group of qualified governmental experts for the consideration of questions concerning the prohibition of the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons.

One of the immediate tasks of the Committee, namely, the elaboration of the convention banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons, is an integral part of the complex issue of banning new types of weapons of mass destruction. I am not going to dwell on it in detail in this statement, since I have already done so in my statement of 13 April. However, I would like to put on record the wish of my delegation that the Ad Hoc Working Group on radiological weapons should embark upon concrete work in the immediate future.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): Today the Committee on Disarmament is taking up the question of the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.

The Soviet delegation attaches particular importance to a constructive consideration of this extremely urgent question. This is not by accident, for there is no more important or urgent task for mankind today than the cessation of the arms race and elimination of the threat of a world-wide nuclear war. It can be said without exaggeration that on its solution depends the future of all peoples.

History shows convincingly that the road to ensuring genuine security lies not through the stockpiling of destructive weapons but rather through a lowering in the level of military confrontation, and the limitation, reduction and, finally, complete liquidation of the means of waging a nuclear war.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

During the three and a half decades since the development of atomic weapons, nuclear arms have progressed from primitive -- in modern terms -- devices to nuclear warheads, many of them of a power greater than that of all the explosive substances used in the Second World War. Enormous amounts of nuclear weapons have been stockpiled in the world, and they are sufficient to destroy every living thing on Earth several times over.

Ever since nuclear weapons first made their appearance, the Soviet Union has consistently advocated and continues to advocate their comprehensive and unconditional prohibition and destruction.

Since the main danger for the world lies in the growing nuclear arms race, attention should be concentrated on active efforts in favour of measures aimed at halting and then reversing the arms race.

To this end, the Soviet Union in 1978 proposed at the special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament that the matter should be placed on a practical level and negotiations begun with a view to halting the production of all types of nuclear weapons and gradually reducing stockpiles of such weapons until they have been completely eliminated.

The ultimate goal of this process is clearly specified in the Soviet proposals on nuclear disarmament. The USSR puts the question in the following manner: the aim is to achieve not merely the prohibition but also the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and the use of nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes.

At the same time, we realize that the problem has many aspects and embodies a whole set of interrelated elements. What is important now, therefore -- and I would stress this point -- is to place the matter on a practical level.

In its Final Document, the special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament very clearly stressed the fact that the achievement of nuclear disarmament will require urgent negotiations with a view to reaching agreements providing for, in particular, cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems and cessation of the production of all types of nuclear weapons.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

Resolutions on this question were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions, and are well known to the members of the Committee on Disarmament.

Numerous resolutions have therefore been adopted in the United Nations calling on all the nuclear-weapon Powers to enter into consultations with a view to the initiation of negotiations on the entire range of questions connected with nuclear disarmament.

In order to place the matter on a practical level, the Soviet Union, together with other socialist countries, in February 1979 submitted to the Committee on Disarmament specific proposals for negotiations on nuclear disarmament with the participation of all nuclear-weapon States as well as of a certain number of non-nuclear-weapon States. I am referring to Committee document CD/4.

Unfortunately, these negotiations have not yet been initiated. The USSR delegation expresses the hope that the Committee on Disarmament at its current session will expedite matters and come out in favour of the early initiation of the preparatory consultations leading to negotiations and the nuclear disarmament negotiations themselves. The recent aggravation of the international situation, far from having the effect of removing this important question from the agenda, makes it even more urgent and necessary.

Last year the Soviet delegation set out in detail and on many occasions its approach to this problem and gave the necessary clarifications regarding specific provisions of document CD/4.

All the nuclear-weapon Powers must, of course, participate in the negotiations on nuclear disarmament. Such a complex problem with so many aspects cannot be resolved on a selective basis. The necessary conditions for this purpose have now been created in the Committee on Disarmament: all the nuclear-weapon Powers are participating in its work and all the main groups of States -- socialist, Western, non-aligned and neutral -- are represented in it. This does not mean that the number of participants will be restricted to only five. It would be useful if a number of non-nuclear-weapon States also took part in the negotiations.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

As we pointed out last year, it would be possible, within the framework of the Committee on Disarmament or its appropriate preparatory subsidiary body, to decide on the subject of the negotiations, their agenda and the specific questions to be discussed and resolved.

The Soviet delegation notes with satisfaction that a useful discussion was held last year on the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament. In the course of that discussion, the USSR delegation gave a detailed explanation of its approach to the problem. During the discussion considerable attention was also given to the working paper submitted by the socialist countries -- CD/4. Various aspects of the preparations for negotiations on the problem of nuclear disarmament were considered, questions were raised and clarifications given.

In addition to the document of the socialist countries (CD/4), a paper submitted by the Group of 21 countries was also discussed. However, the main problem, namely, that of the initiation of consultations on such negotiations, was not resolved. It is important that the other nuclear-weapon Powers should adopt a positive attitude to the negotiations as well. We are looking forward with interest to their statements on this question.

The importance of the problem of nuclear disarmament is undeniable. Its urgency and the need for a prompt solution are universally recognized. The basis for making progress and for initiating specific negotiations exists. The only things required are goodwill and the demonstration of a high sense of political responsibility by all States, and above all those possessing nuclear weapons.

It is time to make headway in this matter in which all peoples and States in the world have a vital interest. In his recent message to United States scientists -- the authors of the declaration "Danger: Nuclear War" -- L.I. Brezhnev stressed that humanitarian and generous activities aimed at preventing a nuclear war are met with understanding and support in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet delegation calls on all States members of the Committee on Disarmament to present their specific proposals and comments on the item of the Committee's agenda now under consideration and is prepared, for its part, to make a constructive contribution to the search for an immediate solution to this problem.

Mr. TERREFE (Ethiopia): Mr. Chairman, first of all, my delegation would like to join others in congratulating you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Committee on Disarmament for the month of April. It gives me great pleasure both personally and as the head of the Ethiopian delegation to see you occupying the Chair and also discharging your difficult task with an exemplary efficiency and sense of duty.

My appreciation also goes to Ambassador Yu Pei-Wen of the People's Republic of China and Ambassador McPhail of Canada, both of whom guided the work of this Committee during the past two months.

Thanks to hard work and the sense of responsibility that has prevailed during the past two months, we have now established four Ad Hoc Working Groups of the Committee on Disarmament. These Groups should immediately embark, respectively, on the tasks of: (a) defining substantive issues for the negotiation of a multilateral convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction; (b) continuing the negotiations on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; (c) initiating negotiations on the comprehensive programme of disarmament; and, finally, (d) initiating negotiations on a convention prohibiting radiological weapons.

Our immediate task, therefore, is to agree on the chairman for each of these Ad Hoc Working Groups in the co-operative spirit that has so far prevailed in the Committee and with due regard to equitable distribution of the work and responsibilities of this Committee among its members and taking into account the many useful proposals and the joint draft agreements submitted by member States in this Committee.

The Ethiopian delegation, without in any way prejudging the consultations you and the various groups are undertaking, and after a careful study of the proposals and interests expressed by the various groups and members of this Committee, wishes to propose that, for this year, the following States should provide the chairmen of the Ad Hoc Working Groups we have established:

- (a) Chemical weapons: Sweden
- (b) Comprehensive programme of disarmament: Nigeria
- (c) Radiological weapons: Hungary
- (d) Negative security guarantees: Continuation, for this year, of Egypt, or Egypt and Belgium could share the chairmanship.

(Mr. Terrefe, Ethiopia)

In making this proposal, the Ethiopian delegation is motivated solely by the desire to arrive at just and effective working arrangements for the Committee with a view to expediting its work, so that we will have something to report to the thirty-fifth session and the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly, in accordance with the Committee's mandate and the desire of most members of the Committee.

Having made these observations concerning the chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Working Groups, the next important task that we should tackle is the question of the participation of non-member States. In this regard, the Ethiopian delegation takes the view that we should handle the matter in a cool and dispassionate manner. A major criterion for deciding should be the chronological order in which the requests were submitted to the Committee.

According to our programme of work, this month we shall again consider the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, the nuclear test ban, new types of weapons, as well as radiological weapons. The Ethiopian delegation has always advocated the cessation of the arms race and the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons. We reiterate our view that substantive negotiations should start on a CTBT and urge the three nuclear-weapon States to make every effort to bring about the early and positive conclusion of the negotiations they have started, and to submit to the Committee the results of their negotiations.

As soon as the four Ad Hoc Working Groups start their work, the Ethiopian delegation will make its observations on some of the topics under discussion. Suffice it to say that the importance of nuclear disarmament continues to be primordial in view of the current world situation, in which the continued escalation of the arms race and the confrontation of the major nuclear-weapon Powers presents an immediate threat to peace and international security. My delegation stands ready to co-operate in considering substantive negotiations on any of the proposals or draft conventions that are before the Committee, provided that an equal and genuine political will is displayed by the nuclear-weapon States to make real progress in the work of the Committee.

The Ethiopian delegation has on many occasions supported as a matter of high priority the elaboration of an international agreement prohibiting the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and the destruction of existing stockpiles of such weapons.

(Mr. Terrefe, Ethiopia)

The Committee has made a good start on treating the subject more substantially. The efforts made both last year and this year by the delegations of the Netherlands, Poland and others can provide the Ad Hoc Working Group with a basis for the kind of questions which are involved in the preparation of a draft convention on the subject. The Ethiopian delegation supports the proposal submitted last year by the Group of 21 in working paper CD/11. The information contained in other working documents and the compilations by the Secretariat (CD/26) will also be useful to the Ad Hoc Working Group.

The proposal presented by the group of socialist countries on the cessation of the production of all types of nuclear weapons and the ultimate destruction of such weapons has and will continue to receive the full support of the Ethiopian delegation. This proposal was also supported by the Group of 21 in document CD/36.

Last year, the Committee did not have sufficient time to initiate concrete negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. The report of the three negotiating parties submitted to the Committee last year now requires careful examination by the Committee during the current session. The Ethiopian delegation hopes that further efforts will be made in this field.

The Ethiopian delegation has supported, both in the CD and in the General Assembly, the idea that the nuclear-weapon States should provide effective international security guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of the use of nuclear weapons. For this reason we attach great importance to the continuation of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

The draft convention submitted jointly by the United States and the USSR on the prohibition of radiological weapons, and further proposals for negotiations on new types and systems of mass destruction deserve careful study and examination by the Ad Hoc Working Group established for this purpose.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): Thank you very much, Ambassador Terrefe, for your statement and your kind words about my country and myself. We have no more speakers on the list. Does any delegation wish to take the floor? I see that that is not the case.

During the past few days the Chairman has been in contact with a number of delegations in connexion with the possibility of reaching a consensus on the chairmanship of the Working Groups established by our Committee. We have viewed the results of these talks with optimism and are very confident that, in the next few days, we will be able to achieve a consensus and that the Groups already established will begin their work.

(The Chairman)

We hope that, over the past few days when the Committee suspended its work for the holidays, all members gave thought to the future work of our Committee, mindful of our need to make progress and to work with the utmost efficiency. If believers and non-believers see eye to eye on anything, it is on the need for peace on earth for men of goodwill. But before this peace on earth can be attained, the work of our Committee must be set on a positive course. We appeal to all delegations to think seriously about the co-operation offered to us by all delegations, with a view to taking concrete decisions by consensus in designating the chairmen of the Working Groups.

The next plenary meeting of the Committee on Disarmament will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, 9 April, at 3.30 p.m. I intend then to submit to the Committee the requests made by non-member States to participate in the consideration of certain items on the Committee's agenda.

The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.