

Union. Further, we note that the Soviet Union and certain other states have a network of bilateral defence agreements which would largely enable their military interdependence to continue with or without the formalized existence of the Warsaw Pact Organization. This is not the case for the group of states with whom Canada co-operates for military security. My final point on this subject, Mr. Chairman, is to note, as others have before me, the sovereign right proclaimed in the Final Act for each state to be or not to be a party to treaties of alliances. We understand this principle to mean that this part of the Soviet proposal does not belong in this forum.

I would like now, Mr. Chairman, to turn to the subject of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament next year and to the question of a world disarmament conference, and more particularly to the proposal submitted by Bulgaria. As a co-sponsor of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly that called for the convening of the special session, Canada too considers that it is of great importance and we have high hopes that it will enable progress to be made in this most vital effort. When this working body enters the drafting stage, we believe that texts that have been submitted that deal with this subject are most suitable to enable us to find common ground for our concluding document.

We do not, however, regard the special session as being a preparation for the convening of a world disarmament conference. Such a conference could be productive but, in the view of my delegation, success will not be possible unless all militarily-important states participate — in particular, all nuclear-weapon states.

In a previous meeting, my Bulgarian colleague alluded to the agenda item for the special session in connection with the subject of a world disarmament conference. I should like to read out that agenda item. It calls for, and I quote, "review of the role of the United Nations in disarmament and of the international machinery for negotiations on disarmament, including, in particular, the question of holding a world disarmament conference". We regard this, therefore, as being exactly what it states, a "question" placed on the agenda for the special session. We would not, therefore, feel that at this stage our conference can go any further than that.

The final item that I would wish to address, Mr. Chairman, is the Romanian proposal to freeze military budgets at current levels. This is a most essential goal for all of us in light of the ever more urgent need to control the arms race. The fact is, though, that to reach this goal states must, as a first step, disclose their expenditures in detail and with common criteria as to just how these expenditures are to be categorized. Until this has been achieved,