

(Mr. Imai, Japan)

If we can imagine ourselves in the process of writing a convention on a nuclear-weapons ban after the style of a CW convention, we may be able to see more clearly the place of a test ban within the comprehensive structure of nuclear disarmament. We would, of course, need to have definitions, and this would require clarification of the respective national positions regarding laboratory-scale examinations of the nuclear explosion phenomena. Then, one may have to deal with "permitted activities" or "protective purposes", which

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may be no more than a contradiction in terms. Initial declarations of weapons stocks will be followed by their verification and then elimination. One should also talk about non-production, in which the experience of the International Atomic Energy Agency on nuclear safeguards may be pertinent.

I mention these as matters we would be investigating if we were to be writing a convention to ban nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, it looks to be a rather remote possibility as a disarmament objective. Nothing, however, prohibits us from engaging in such an exercise as a means of setting up an ultimate goal as a criteria against which we may make assessment of various test ban possibilities. When Japan made a test-ban proposal, I do not think that we had any illusions about what could be meaningfully achieved in the short term. At the same time we did not feel constrained in insisting on the basic logic of the subject matter.

I have had a number of opportunities in the past to discuss our CW work and have no intention of repeating myself today. I would rather like to point out the following.

Because of the difficulties which the Conference is encountering in the negotiation of other agenda items, there is a distinct interest in CW as the only available subject for negotiations. This in itself may be a welcome sign, especially with the increasing interest in various capitals. At the same time, since the major part of the work is conducted at the working group level, which meets five or six times a week, it is not easy for anyone to have a good grasp of all the technical and legal details of the current work. It