

Mr. VEJVODA (Czechoslovakia)

Since we are now well into the summer part of our session for this year it would, unfortunately, seem safe to conclude that, apparently, we have again failed to establish subsidiary bodies on such priority items as prevention of nuclear war, nuclear test ban, nuclear disarmament and prevention of an arms race in outer space. Obviously it is not from negligence or lack of attention, since the Conference spent many weeks in consultations and in various contact groups trying to come to an agreement on the wording of mandates for the proposed subsidiary bodies. Unfortunately, this effort was from the beginning doomed to failure since a couple of delegations confronted us with an impossible task to solve -- to provide subsidiary bodies with nice mandates, while at the same time not committing themselves to negotiating on specific measures of disarmament. My delegation fully shares what has been said to this effect by Ambassador Carasales of Argentina in his statement of 19 June. In fact, these seemingly technical and procedural matters are often very good indicators of a Government's approach to a given problem. If there is a readiness on all sides to solve a problem and negotiate on it, terms of reference usually emerge quite naturally and without any difficulty. Experience of past disarmament negotiations fully confirms that. On the other hand, serious problems in establishing mandates undoubtedly indicate, and this is the case in our Conference now, that some countries represented here would like to believe they are not interested in solving the problems we are addressing. I have deliberately said "would like to believe", since it is our firm opinion that if any country is afraid that it would lose something by agreeing on measures to prevent nuclear war, to stop nuclear testing or undertaking gradual nuclear disarmament, then the leaders of that country must be the victims of illusions that are extremely dangerous for the whole international community.

However, it is not only the lack of interest in the process which is the main reason for the failure to establish subsidiary bodies. It is also the fact that the interests of the various countries are not always the same. Some countries are more interested in the prevention of nuclear war, some in the test ban, some in disarmament, and some in the prevention of an arms race in outer space. This is a natural result of the different national interests and policies of the various countries. It is therefore not surprising that the Conference has not been able to reach an agreement on the establishment of subsidiary bodies.

The problem of the prevention of nuclear war is a very important one and it is one which affects all countries. It is therefore not surprising that many countries are interested in this problem. It is also not surprising that many countries are interested in the test ban, in disarmament, and in the prevention of an arms race in outer space. This is a natural result of the different national interests and policies of the various countries. It is therefore not surprising that the Conference has not been able to reach an agreement on the establishment of subsidiary bodies.

Over the last two years, intensive efforts have been made to set in motion the Conference suitable machinery for undertaking the substantial consideration of this problem, with the results which we all know. At the same time, many countries have repeatedly expressed their interest in this issue which affects all States to a greater or lesser extent. On 12 June 1964, the representative of France summed up the situation when he said that the recent developments in this field "have direct implications for France, for her security and for that of Europe. It would also affect the balance of East-West relations and international security. It is therefore of relevance to the entire international community, if only because of its impact upon the prospects for co-operation and developing the peaceful uses of outer space".