

(Mr. Tóth, Hungary)

to the text in paragraph 41. In paragraph 43 we would have the following formulation: "The Conference on Disarmament agreed to transmit this report and its appendix to the General Assembly of the United Nations".

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Does this proposal meet with the approval of the delegations? I give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): No, Sir, and I hope that it will not be the effort of anybody in this body to test the patience of the Pakistani delegation or its commitment to the fact that we would not like a divisive idea to come in. Paragraph 41, to which Ambassador Tóth has referred, is not part of the conclusions and recommendations of the report. All that we can agree with is a formulation on the lines of the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. If there is an effort to bring in the concept of wide support of one type, then there would have to be a counterbalancing by a phrase, "despite the reservations and concerns expressed by many delegations". And I do not think it is in the interest of the CD to come forward with a formulation which uses a sentence of that type. But if that is the desire, one can sit in a drafting exercise and draft a balanced paragraph which talks of the reservations and concerns of many delegations and the wide support of others. And then go on to the agreement part on which hopefully there will be total consensus, which is the agreement to transmit. But if we can just refrain from that, then there is no problem; we'll just stick to that part on which hopefully, as I said, there is an emerging consensus.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank Ambassador Kamal. It is not only his patience which is being severely tested, but the patience of everybody here. I hope he will forgive me for saying so, but I cannot refrain from making an observation: on listening to him one really has the impression that the convention was adopted by a few delegations rather reluctantly and that the vast majority opposed it. That is not what happened, after all. I think that, to be perfectly objective it was rather the opposite that happened - the great majority of delegations approved the convention, despite their reservations, and nobody really opposed it. Hence the roles should not be reversed. However, when Mr. Kamal seeks to assert his point of view in the interests of balance, I fully agree with him and we are going to try to find a solution. I give the floor to the representative of Canada, Mr. Robertson.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Canada): I agree with your last remark, but that's not what I wanted to speak to. I think there's a different sort of problem posed by Ambassador Tóth's suggestion of repeating essentially what is said in paragraph 43, because that action of transmitting the report of the chemical weapons Ad Hoc Committee is already subsumed, I believe, in paragraph 119. We've just finished putting the Ad Hoc Committee report into this report. We've added its appendix to it, and in 119 we adopt the totality of the CD report and we transmit it; so that I think that it's causing not only duplication but it might also cause some additional later confusion.