

(The President)

the Asian Group. In the meantime, I propose that we turn to the last question to be examined during this plenary meeting before the formal adoption of the annual report, one that I referred to last week: the question of the dates of the three parts of the 1993 annual session. In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure,

"The Conference shall have an annual session divided into three parts of 10 weeks, 7 weeks and 7 weeks respectively. The first part shall begin the penultimate week of the month of January. The Conference shall decide the actual dates of the three parts of its annual session at the close of the previous year's session"

- which is today. The opening date of the 1993 annual session would normally be Tuesday, 19 January. The first part of the annual session would conclude on Friday, 26 March. The second part would begin on Monday, 10 May and end on Friday, 25 June. Finally, the third part would begin on Monday, 19 July and the annual session would end on Thursday, 2 September. For reasons with which we are all familiar - for the record: the possibility that the date of the resumption of our session might coincide with that of the signature of the chemical weapons convention - I have suggested to the group coordinators that, in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure, the President should be authorized to modify the opening date, if necessary, during the inter-sessional period. It is understood that all members would be duly informed as appropriate, and that if the opening of the annual session was delayed, we would offset the lost working days by extending the first part of the annual session. In other words, if the signature of the convention on chemical weapons were to take place on 19 January, we would begin our session only on 22 or 23 January, on the understanding that we would extend the first part of the session correspondingly at the end of March so that it would last the full 10 weeks. When I consulted the group coordinators in this regard, they raised no objection. I propose that the Conference should give the President latitude to alter the opening date of next year's session, if, of course, the need arises. Is there any objection? There is none. I thank the delegations for their understanding.

I see that the delegations are still consulting one another on the text of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran which is of such concern to us. I find myself in the distressing situation of the broadcaster who has to fill the airwaves while talks continue. I will continue to soliloquize, unless Mr. Mashhadi has a text to submit to us.

Mr. MASHHADI (Islamic Republic of Iran): I think 10 minutes' recess will help all of us. A 10-minute recess.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Is there any objection to our suspending the meeting for 10 minutes?

The meeting was suspended at 8.30 p.m. and resumed at 9.20 p.m.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The 10 minutes specified became 20, then 30. I went back to see the members of the Asian Group, who asked for a further 10 minutes. I granted them that and now we have gone