

President:

Mr. J. Allan Beesley

(Canada)

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Hungary for his statement and for his very kind comments to the President. That concludes my list of speakers for today. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor before we proceed to the adoption of the reports of the Ad Hoc Committees? If no one does, then we shall proceed to that part of our work. As I mentioned this morning the Conference has before it the following documents: Document CD/722, entitled "Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Radiological Weapons", Document CD/726, entitled "Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space", Document CD/727, entitled "Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons", and Document CD/728, entitled "Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament".

Mr. TORME (Hungary). As we approach the end of the 1968 session of the Conference on Disarmament, I would like to make a few remarks in my capacity as Co-ordinator of the Group of Non-Aligned and Neutral States, the Group of 77.

Yesterday, the Conference on Disarmament adopted, thanks to your ingenious guidance and the co-operation of delegations, several important elements of its report for 1968. Today, we have just adopted the entire report for the year. We say rejoice at what we have achieved, we say lament what we have left undone. It has not been all negative. We have achieved practically nothing in the areas to which the Group of 77 had, it must be said, the United Nations General Assembly, through its various resolutions, attach the greatest priority. We have nevertheless made some progress, which is discernible, for example, towards a chemical weapons convention.

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8

(Canada)

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President

Assessment of the results differ in my view, if they tell about our hopes, and even our expectations, some have been there as a widespread view that there were some positive and substantive developments which can be noted. There was also less antagonism, the atmosphere was healthier, and, as a consequence, there was more business-like work, more in-depth discussions, and greater clarification of words and control issues, even on such questions as outer space and a nuclear test ban. There are positive signs even on these last two issues, although not, I am sure, as much as we would all wish. On the unresolved nuclear disarmament issues, deep divergences remain, but we have at least begun to learn how to structure our work more successfully, which I hope can be further developed when next we meet. There is little, if any, disagreement that we have made significant progress in the negotiations on chemical weapons, and that we want not only to maintain but accelerate the intensity and pace of our work. We leave it in good hands, having left a part of the work with our present Chairman, Ambassador Gromyko, and he will have on the agenda, of course, for Ambassador Beesley.