

I should like to make one comment concerning the work to be undertaken this afternoon by the working group on finance and technical questions, following the happy initiative of our Polish colleague. I think we should bear in mind that, whatever decisions are taken for the organization of the conference itself, the expenses involved will be relatively great. In my view, it is therefore advisable for the group to seek a solution which will be the simplest possible, both in theory and in practice, and which will be fair to all participating nations.

As to the date of the conference itself, my country sees no objection to holding the first stage in late June, provided we reach general agreement here on the agenda and the terms of reference for the committees and sub-committees, and on the report to be conveyed to our governments. For our part, we shall attempt to achieve this objective constructively and actively, as our resources permit. In aiming for late June as the conference date, we must avoid making this deadline into an obsession or using it to force a consensus.

In conclusion, I think that the "scenario" proposed by our French colleague at the end of Stage Three of our consultations will serve admirably as a framework for the final report to our governments. We trust that the report will be prepared as soon and as well as possible, subject to the wishes of all participants.