

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

With regard to the statement today by the representative of the United States, I think that the Soviet delegation has given a more than sufficient assessment of the American draft convention — the assessment which it deserves. We shall not give any other. The draft has set the negotiations back, and we shall once again see this confirmed next week when the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons is adopted. I do not intend now to return to comment on the United States draft merely because there is no need whatsoever to do so. Perhaps the United States delegation would have liked the United States draft convention to have become, so to speak, the centre of the universe, the basis for all negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament. It will not be the basis of the negotiations. If it pleases anyone, in particular some allies of the United States, we have no objection. That group of States can sign among themselves whatever convention they please. But if you wish to have a multilateral, universal convention, then it is necessary to take account of the positions of other countries too. Generally speaking, the United States delegation gives the impression that it believes that it can expect a special attitude from other delegations to its proposals and to its draft, while it can pass over in silence and without comment the proposals and drafts of other States. I should like to ask through you, Mr. President, what was the reaction of the United States delegation to, and how often did it comment on, the Soviet draft treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon testing which was tabled in the Conference. They just said one sentence. I should like to ask the United States delegation through you, Mr. President, how often and in what manner it commented on the Soviet draft treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the Earth, which has been tabled in the Conference. I should like to ask the United States delegation through you, Mr. President, how often and in what manner it commented on the Indian draft convention on a nuclear-test ban. I should like to ask through you, Mr. President, how often and in what depth the American delegation commented on the Swedish draft treaty on the prevention of nuclear weapon testing. I should like to ask the United States delegation through you, Mr. President, how often and in what manner it commented on the Pakistani draft international agreement on strengthening the security of non-nuclear-weapon States. The United States delegation considers that it has the right to remain silent on the proposals of other States. But now that it has submitted a proposal, it considers that we must all devote our statements only to the United States proposal. By what right, I should like to ask