

(Mr. Berasategui, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations)

discussions on the report today at the plenary meeting, since this was an historic and very important opportunity. Accordingly, under rule 19 that the President has just mentioned, in order to have an informal meeting one has to have the agreement of the whole Conference. There was, at this point, the wish expressed by a number of delegations to continue in plenary, and therefore there was no agreement on holding the informal meeting. In the case of plenary meetings, there is no difficulty for the very simple reason that we have adopted a principle, which is reflected in document CD/1036 containing a decision on the improved and effective functioning of the Conference, whereby we hold one plenary meeting per week at certain stages and, as indicated in that document, preferably on Thursdays.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Does Ambassador Kamal find these explanations satisfactory? He has asked for the floor, and I give it him.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): I am not challenging the right of the secretariat to prepare the first draft of the report - that is what the secretariat is for. Nor am I challenging the right of the President and the Conference to discuss things in plenary. I was only bringing to your notice that these three paragraphs have not undergone a first reading and that we are going straight into a second reading in plenary. But if that is the intention to do it in plenary, do I have your permission then to present the views of my delegation in plenary on these paragraphs?

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Mr. Kamal can certainly do so. I think we can combine the first and second readings, that is, conduct a single reading. In any event these three paragraphs should not give rise to major difficulties. But it goes without saying that delegations are free to give their views on the content of these paragraphs; I am not imposing dictatorial rule and I would be happy to hear the comments of the representative of Pakistan on paragraphs 73 and 74, to which he referred.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): My delegation has views which it would like to present, essentially on paragraph 74. Our understanding of paragraph 73 is that paragraph 73 annexes document CD/1170 to the report which is contained in CD/WP.428/Rev.1. Document CD/1170, which is annexed as a result of paragraph 73, is a document of 193 pages which consists of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons and its annexes, and this report and its annexes it is my understanding we have just adopted in plenary. Having adopted it, and having inserted it in paragraph 73, the appendix to CD/1170, which is the draft text of the convention, is already now a part of paragraph 73. In other words, the draft convention, known as document CD/CW/WP.400/Rev.2, is already a part of paragraph 73.

We come now to the first sentence of paragraph 74, which says "The appendix to the report ... referred to in paragraph 73.42 is attached as appendix I to this report." In other words, we are now re-attaching the same appendix once again to CD/WP.428/Rev.1. The result is that CD/WP.428/Rev.1 will now have the draft convention which is CD/CW/WP.400/Rev.2 twice - once as