

will be totally

1. In this case, all of article 13 ~~is~~ ^{will be totally} inapplicable to the party concerned. Which is simply another way of saying that the interests of those who dislike even optional petitions are fully protected.

In these circumstances, Mr Chairman, the Canadian delegation finds it difficult to appreciate why article 13 should not in principle remain as an integral part of the convention. In our view it would be unnecessary and unwise to banish this relatively harmless concept to a separate protocol. Unnecessary because article 13 does not bind anyone who does not want to be bound. Unwise because it would be a slap in the face to the idea of a petitions system. By keeping article 13 prominently in the text before us we not only orient ourselves in the right direction but we remind ourselves that the petitioning technique, in one form or another, is the third essential implementing measure, complementary to conciliation and reporting. And our delegation, as I have said, would hope that a number of signatories would find it possible to file declarations under article 13, so that, slowly but surely, the committee will be able to build up a back-log of experience and generate an atmosphere of confidence. By keeping the idea before us we induce its acceptance in fact. *Committee will tend to take on a life of its own.*

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we have two specific points to raise. The first is of a substantive nature; the second is of a formal nature. The first point concerns the concept of the national committee and it really asks why we need a