

(Mr. Marín Bosch, Mexico)

have been cited showing how the predecessors of the Conference on Disarmament passed or transmitted various draft treaties or conventions to the General Assembly. And it is a good idea to mention the cases of ENMOD or the CCD, because regrettably the Conference on Disarmament has set no precedents on this subject. We hope that it will do so today. Allow me to cite another precedent: exactly 16 years ago, on 3 September 1976, the CCD discussed its draft report to the General Assembly. At least three of us who are here today doing exactly the same thing were also present at that meeting in 1976: the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, at that time representative of Argentina, Ambassador Vicente Berasategui, Mr. Ian Kenyon of the United Kingdom and myself. The report was approved on that day and appears in document CCD/520. In paragraph 375 the document says the following concerning the draft convention known as the ENMOD Convention, and I will quote it in English:

(continued in English)

"At [its] meeting on 3 September 1976, the [CCD] considered the report of the Working Group containing the draft convention" [on environmental modification techniques] ", as well as comments, dissenting views and reservations thereon, which is transmitted to the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Disarmament Commission" [as an annex to this report].

(continued in Spanish)

Then follow all the dissenting views and all the rest. But I think if we want to ensure that what is said is a faithful reflection of the facts we have to look for a formula which is neutral. What matters here is not to decide on things that we are all going to decide together, I hope, at the General Assembly. I am not arguing for wording similar to the 1976 wording, but I thought it relevant to draw the attention of the other delegates to another precedent with which, as I said, Ambassador Berasategui, Mr. Kenyon and myself are very familiar.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): We are going to find ourselves involved in a battle of quotations: this convention said this, that convention said that. That will not go very far in solving our problem. I see that the representative of Hungary, Ambassador Tóth, has asked for the floor. I give it to him, in the hope that he will give us the magic formula.

Mr. TOTH (Hungary): I am not a magician. I don't have the rabbit, or even the hat with me. I think that we might re-run the exercise we had when we adopted the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. At that time we had a lengthy discussion and I think the main elements on which we focused our efforts were those we tried to draft jointly besides the national contributions or national statements and the Chairman's statement. And these are the last three paragraphs in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. As a result of lengthy hours of discussion I think we could strike a balance between different interests. My suggestion would be not to re-run that exercise but to try to take over those elements which might be appropriate here in the report of the Conference. And I would suggest taking over paragraphs 41 and 43 with a