

(Mr. Dalman, Chairman, Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts)

The Group considers that the establishment and testing of the proposed experimental system which we refer to as GSETT-3 is a logical next undertaking. GSETT-3 will provide valuable information and experiences that continuously could be made available to the Conference on Disarmament and to the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban. The experimental system will also provide an infrastructure that might prove valuable in the establishment of the ultimate verification system.

The Ad Hoc Group has been serving the Conference on Disarmament for 17 years. When the CD now is focusing its efforts on a comprehensive test-ban treaty, the Group is ready to continue serving the Conference to the best of its ability and to carry out the tasks entrusted to it. To that end, the Group suggests that its next session be convened from 7 to 18 February 1994 in Geneva or at the date that is most responsive to the needs of the Conference on Disarmament. In addition, the Ad Hoc Group recognizes that, depending on the activities of the Conference on Disarmament, it may become necessary to meet more frequently than in the past.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Arabic): I thank Mr. Dahlman, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts, for the presentation he has given us of this valuable progress report. You will notice that the progress report contains in its paragraph 13, a suggestion to the effect that the next session of the Group be convened in Geneva from 7 to 18 February 1994, that is next year, or at a date that is most responsive to the needs of the Conference on Disarmament. This suggestion, of course, relates to the recent decision of the Conference to give to the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban a mandate to negotiate a comprehensive test-ban treaty. It is in that light that we should understand the last sentence of paragraph 13 by which the Ad Hoc Group recognizes that, depending on the activities of the Conference on Disarmament, it may be necessary for this Group to meet more frequently than has been the case so far and in the past. However, for the moment we should consider the dates recommended by the Ad Hoc Group, keeping in mind the possibility of adjusting these dates depending on the arrangements of the Conference. And therefore at our next plenary meeting on Thursday, 26 August, I will put to you a recommendation concerning the dates for the next session of the Group, with the proviso that those dates might be adjusted in order to respond to the needs of the activities of the Conference on Disarmament.