Mr. Krasovskiy, Ukraine

At the working group on agenda item 1 aroused the hope of the Ukrainian delegation that it would be possible to begin concrete negotiations on this question. However, in view of the new circumstances, doubts arose as to the sincerity and reality of the intentions of certain nuclear-weapon State members of the Committee and their willingness to embark on genuine negotiations.

This applies in the first place to the recent decision of the United States administration not to resume the trilateral negotiations on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, which they had broken off, as well as to another of its decisions — the decision not to ratify the bilateral Soviet-American agreements signed in 1974 and 1976 on the limitation of nuclear-weapon tests and nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. It is perfectly evident that the United States does not wish to show willingness to negotiate with a view to drawing up an international legal instrument on a total nuclear weapon test ban. This is the only explanation for the position of the present United States administration on this question.

The recent tests declarations by France and China, of which China is a participant in negotiations in the new Ad Hoc Working Group have caused general concern. The positions adopted on this issue by certain nuclear States are also well known to us. Thus, on this question a situation is emerging which is quite familiar to us from the past.

We would like to believe that the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Nuclear Test Ban will be able to do some useful work during the short time that remains of this session. We consider that in future this group should deal seriously with all questions of substance. In this connection, the practical and unconditional participation of all nuclear-weapon States without exception is necessary.

It is well known to all that the Soviet Union and other socialist States, as well as many non-aligned and neutral countries are in favour of the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests by all States, in all environments and for all time.

We take as a starting point that it is not quite important to amend the 1963 Moscow Treaty, by making it more universal, but also urgently necessary to elaborate and conclude a comprehensive solution in this field.

The Ukrainian delegation shares the opinion of the majority of the members of the Committee, including a number of observer delegations, that the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Working Group on questions of verification and compliance should not focus mainly on the technical side of the issue, but should be aimed at achieving a political and legal solution in order to facilitate the drafting of an international agreement on a complete and general nuclear test ban. This is the main task on the agenda of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

Allow me now to make some comments on behalf of the Ukrainian delegation on agenda item 4.

During the second part of the current session, the Committee on Disarmament is paying particular attention to the problem of the prohibition of nuclear weapons, one of the most pressing issues in the sphere of the limitation of the arms race and disarmament. First of all, I should like to refer to the vigorous activity of the Working Group under the able and competent guidance of the ambassador of Poland, Comrade Z. Rurarz. A considerable number of formal and informal meetings and many consultations have been held and in addition eight working subgroups have been