

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): It is my presumption that we are talking of section D, paragraphs 72 to 74. Paragraphs 72 to 74 of this document, CD/WP.428/Rev.1, contain language which has been drafted by the secretariat on its own and which, unlike other parts of this report, have not had a first reading or been negotiated among member States. This is an unusual departure from established practice, particularly because one of these three paragraphs, paragraph 74, contains substantive ideas. My delegation has some views which it would like to present, but before it does so, I would like to ask, Sir, whether you intend to have a first reading of these three paragraphs in an informal meeting for a discussion of those paragraphs before they are submitted to the plenary for adoption, or would you like discussion to take place in the plenary itself?

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I explained this morning in my opening statement that, given the time constraints, I would dispense with the informal consultations, on the basis of the well-known principle from the rules of procedure, well known to all legal scholars too, in view of the fact that pax major minorem ad se trahit, that the Conference on Disarmament is its own master, and decides on its own meetings. I will read you rule 19 in English because I have that version before me:

(continued in English)

"The work of the Conference shall be conducted in plenary meetings, as well as under any other additional arrangements agreed by the Conference, such as informal meetings with or without experts."

(continued in French)

It was on the basis of this rule 19 that I thought I could dispense with informal consultations, thinking that, as far as chemical weapons were concerned, since we had adopted the report, we could conduct the first and second readings simultaneously. As for the initiative you attribute to the secretariat, concerning the drafting of paragraphs 73 and 74, I should like to point out that, while the secretariat did indeed draft the report, it did so under my responsibility and I fully shoulder that responsibility. Having said that, I should like to call on the Secretary-General of the Conference, who might perhaps wish to throw light on the situation.

Mr. BERASATEGUI (Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations): Just very briefly, to make a point concerning the actual drafting of these provisions under section D of the draft report. It has always been the practice of the secretariat to assume responsibility for the first drafting of the report, irrespective of whether it deals with organizational or substantive matters. Therefore, for example, in the case of agenda items 1, "Nuclear test ban", 2, "Nuclear disarmament", and 3, "Prevention of nuclear war", the first draft is always prepared by the secretariat. Therefore, this is the usual procedure. Ambassador Kamal is right in making the point that normally we deal with the report in informal meetings, but as you pointed out this morning, after you made the announcement at the last plenary meeting we received indications that a number of delegations wished to conduct the