

(Mr. García Robles, Mexico)

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): Thank you Mr. President. It is a source of special pleasure for me to take the floor in a meeting during the month in which you are presiding over the proceedings of the Conference. We are all aware that you have thorough knowledge of the subjects which we are here to analyse. We are also fully aware of your impartiality, and, what is more infrequent, that you have faith in the task which we have to discharge. You may be assured, Sir, in carrying out your important functions, of the unreserved co-operation of the delegation of Mexico.

On 22 May 1984 the leaders of six States from different parts of the globe issued a joint statement in which, after noting that their countries differed in religion, culture and political systems, they underlined that they were united in "the conviction that there must not be another world war", adding that

"on this, the most crucial of all issues, we have resolved to make a common effort in the interests of peace. Agreements which merely regulate an arms build-up are clearly insufficient. The probability of nuclear holocaust increases as warning time decreases and the weapons become swifter, more accurate and more deadly. The rush towards global suicide must be stopped and then reversed."

Two of these leaders, the heads of Government of India, Indira Gandhi, and Sweden, Olof Palme, were to fall victim to assassins' bullets, the first in 1984 and the second in 1986, and be replaced by those who are currently discharging the functions of prime ministers in their respective countries. The six heads of State or Government -- Raúl Alfonsín, President of Argentina, who just a few days ago made an outstanding statement to this very Conference; Andreas Papandreu, Prime Minister of Greece; Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India; Miguel de la Madrid, President of Mexico; Ingvar Carlsson, Prime Minister of Sweden; and Julius Nyerere, First President of Tanzania -- who have frequently reiterated the appeal made in 1984 not to jeopardize the chance of initiating a process of nuclear disarmament, and who held a second summit meeting in my country last August (you will recall that the first took place in New Delhi in 1985), wished to commemorate the third anniversary of the appeal to which I have just referred.

Accordingly, on 22 May this year they issued a joint statement in which, after noting that they welcomed the resumption of the dialogue on nuclear and space issues between the two super-Powers, as well as the fact that, at the summit meeting held in this city of Geneva in November 1985, between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev declared that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought", they highlighted the importance of