

(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherlands)

It is encouraging to note that the five declared nuclear-weapon States have stated that they will engage in consultations here in Geneva parallel to the work in the CD and on the same subjects as addressed by the CD. In the CD, such consultations could well result in a coordinated effort and input in the CD negotiations, allowing these to move swiftly and expeditiously. Although setting precise time-frames for the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament does not seem appropriate today, we would expect them to be brought to fruition in not too distant a future.

Through its breakthrough of 10 August, the Conference on Disarmament reached a landmark. We witness the beginning of a new process which will, within a short period of time, lead to full-fledged negotiations, unconditional if you prefer that qualification, on a nuclear test ban. We are at a starting point. Let us not make a false start!!

Mr. SEMICHI (Algeria) (translated from French):

... I will begin by expressing the relief felt by the entire international community at the agreement just reached on the negotiation of a comprehensive test-ban treaty, agreement made possible by the nuclear Powers' courageous decisions to extend the moratoriums on nuclear tests. The urgency of concluding a test-ban treaty is becoming ever greater with the approach of the

(continued)