

The PRESIDENT: (translated from French) I thank Mr. Mashhadi for his statement. We are now in the situation that we feared. For my part, I find it difficult to imagine it being possible to delete article VIII of the draft convention, which contains the provisions concerning the organization for the prohibition of chemical weapons and its executive council. Document CD/1170 is an exact reflection of the discussions held and decisions adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons and the text is inviolable. Several delegations have already asked me here to modify certain parts of this report. That is impossible. This document has become as sacred as the Koran, the Bible or the Talmud. I have no power to change what the Ad Hoc Committee decided. At all events I shall have to consult the Conference if the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran maintains the proposal he has just made that article VIII of the draft convention should not be transmitted to the General Assembly. Does Mr. Mashhadi insist on that proposal? I give him the floor.

Mr. MASHHADI (Islamic Republic of Iran): As I said, my delegation rejects the inclusion of paragraph 23, page 29, on the composition of the executive council. I would also like to inform you, Mr. President, that some consultations are going on in order to address this question somehow. I don't know whether it will be advisable to suspend the meeting until those consultations bear fruit or not. But at the present juncture, my instruction is that we cannot agree to the inclusion of paragraph 23 as it stands now.

The PRESIDENT: The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, Ambassador von Wagner, has asked for the floor.

Mr. von WAGNER (Germany): I think the question and the concern of Mr. Mashhadi was whether we are now deciding upon the inclusion of the Ad Hoc Committee report in the CD report. If I understood you correctly, Mr. President, you are just deciding now upon the adoption of the Ad Hoc Committee report by the CD. This has nothing to do yet with the inclusion of that report in the CD report. So, let's go step by step - and this would be my recommendation - this report here as contained in CD/1170 has been adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee, is integral and is, as you said, accepted by the Ad Hoc Committee, and now it is being reported, as accepted by the Ad Hoc Committee, to the CD, and the only question which now has to be decided is whether the CD can adopt the report of the Ad Hoc Committee which was already adopted by that Committee. The question is not of including it in the CD report as yet - that might be the next step. So, on this understanding I wonder whether I may ask Mr. Mashhadi, through you, Mr. President, whether he can approve this report whose passage to the CD he has not blocked in the Ad Hoc Committee - whether he can approve this report here as something which has been reported to the CD, nothing more.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The delegations have heard the question, Mr. Mashhadi. I thought I was clear when I suggested to the Conference that we should adopt this report. Mr. von Wagner is quite right: this document was accepted as it stands now before you by the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, and the question of its inclusion in the report of the Conference is another matter. At the present stage the question is: do we