

(Mr. Ekeus, Sweden)

Mr. Busby of the United States delegation undertook to act as co-ordinator of Group A, while Mr. Nazarkin of the Soviet delegation assumed the same task for Group B. Mr. Nazarkin was succeeded as co-ordinator in the second part of this year's session — what we normally call the summer session — by Mr. Prokofiev of the same delegation.

The time available in the first part of this session was, as we all know, short, but the two Groups began over-all consideration of the two issues allotted to them. This more general discussion continued in the Groups for a short time at the beginning of the second part of the session. But after that they successively entered into three-week-long periods of intensive discussions. Group A began, followed by Group B.

The Working Group has discussed in plenary the question of linkage between the so-called traditional radiological weapons and the prohibition of attacks against nuclear facilities. This issue was debated only after both Groups had completed their intensive work periods.

All other issues of substance were considered in the two Groups. It would be going too far to enter into all the details, but it may be mentioned that Group A had to deal with questions like "definition", "peaceful uses" and "compliance and verification". Group B particularly discussed the "scope" of a prohibition, also in a broader sense of that term. The report of the Ad Hoc Working Group (CD/414) reflects the particulars of these discussions.

Groups A and B reviewed very thoroughly the subjects that fell within their respective mandates. These are complex, which, no doubt, is one of the reasons that progress towards consensus was limited in both Groups. However, it is the impression of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group that knowledge of the issues, including their details, and also of the positions of delegations has increased considerably during this year's session. A good basis has been laid for further work in the 1984 session of the Committee. If the Committee now follows the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Working Group, it will, at the beginning of its 1984 session, re-establish the Working Group and in that context consider the prospects for progress in the work of the Group.

Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to the co-ordinators of Groups A and B, Mr. Busby for the first-mentioned Group, and Mr. Nazarkin and Mr. Prokofiev for Group B. They have devoted themselves to their tasks with admirable skill and, not least, patience. They have contributed decisively to the great utility of the deliberations of their respective Groups. On behalf of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group I express deep gratitude to these three outstanding diplomats. I venture to suggest that the Committee on Disarmament also stands in debt to them for their tireless efforts, ultimately on its behalf.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I will certainly not neglect to express thanks to the staff of the Secretariat. It has become customary to do so because of the outstanding quality they manifest year after year: skill, devotion to duty and judgement. Special mention must be made of Mr. Lin, who, as secretary of the Working Group, with his knowledge and experience, greatly contributed to the successful conclusion of its work.