

(Mr. Ekéus, Sweden)

Furthermore, in response to complaints by many delegations that the old presentational form with the annexes in the middle of the articles makes the draft convention almost unreadable in national capitals and for anybody who has not actually participated in the negotiations here in Geneva, the existing material has now been re-edited. In CD/CW/WP.167 you will find all the articles at the beginning of the document, followed by the various annexes. I am convinced that this new way of presenting the material will help all concerned.

There is good reason to look with satisfaction on the results of the work of the Committee during the two months and a half of negotiations since the beginning of the 1987 session. Many delegations have worked hard, and this has yielded some important progress in a short period of time.

Having said that, I feel obliged to remind the Conference about the work which remains.

Although there is a clear tendency of convergence of views between delegations with regard to some or most of the outstanding political problems, the task of negotiating solutions to those problems is a complicated and difficult one. Furthermore, the technical and legal problems to be addressed are indeed numerous.

If we are to make real progress towards the goal of a Convention within the foreseeable future, we must address the problems even more vigorously and with greater decisiveness. Delegations should by now, after 15 years of deliberation and more than 3 years of negotiations, be familiar with the problems. There is therefore no reason why delegations should not be in a position, when studying the "rolling text", to anticipate what solutions may be feasible for different problems. Thus the delegations should be able to prepare themselves for the next stage of negotiations, starting in June, and for acting with greater speed and resolve, without sacrificing the prudence which is the absolute prerequisite when dealing with issues of vital national security for States.

Many delegations have asked that no inter-sessional work be organized within the framework of the Committee during the period from now until we meet again in June. They have felt that this time is needed for inter-sessional work in their capitals. The outstanding problems are evident from the brackets, footnotes and blanks in CD/CW/WP.167. I now expect that these problems will be carefully worked on in capitals, so that when we meet again in June delegations will be equipped with sufficient instructions to negotiate generally acceptable solutions. All of the remaining issues, major ones and minor ones, will at one time or another be addressed during the summer part of the session.

As the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee I will make use of our recess for the month of May to consider in what ways our mode of operation can be improved upon so that from June on the Committee will be able to proceed more speedily with the many technical problems and more effectively cope with the limited but major outstanding questions.