

(Mr. Ramaker, Netherlands)

One item on our agenda over the years has certainly matured to a point where fruitful negotiations have become a real possibility. I am referring to efforts of this Committee to bring about a treaty prohibiting radiological weapons. We will have to solve in one way or another the problem of the linkage between the two main elements of the subject-matter, radiological weapons in the traditional sense of the word and a prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities, aimed at releasing huge quantities of radioactive material. My delegation continues to attach much value to this important linkage. During this session we have seen that negotiations on the former element--traditional radiological weapons--seemed to make headway. The Committee owes this in particular to the untiring efforts of the co-ordinator of contact group A, Mr. Busby, who systematically and relentlessly, through a process of intense consultations, tried, where possible, to accommodate the views of delegations, and where this turned out to be impossible, to reflect accurately and truthfully the remaining divergences.

In my delegation's view--and this is without prejudice to our position as to the substance of this issue--the proceedings in sub-group A clearly indicated that this Committee can function efficiently. It is therefore a source of great disappointment to my delegation that the end-product of all these efforts, as contained in a conference room paper, document CD/RW/CRP.20/Rev.1, gained no status other than that of a Chairman's paper. My delegation does not doubt the sincerity of the concerns and aims of those delegations which did not wish to associate themselves with a different and more positive outcome, but it feels strongly that these concerns were quite out of place in the context of a radiological weapons treaty. Unless these delegations proceed in the coming months to a fundamental reassessment of their position on this point, it is difficult for my delegation to imagine in what way this Committee can usefully continue its efforts in this field next year.

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The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I thank the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Nuclear Test Ban for his statement introducing the report of that Group. I now give the floor to the representative of Sweden, Ambassador Ekéus, who will introduce the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Radiological Weapons on behalf of its Chairman, Ambassador Lidgard.

Mr. EKEUS (Sweden): Thank you very much for giving me the floor. As you mentioned yourself I will introduce the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Radiological Weapons on behalf of the Group's Chairman, Ambassador Lidgard, who has had to leave early in order to take up other duties.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Radiological Weapons decided this year, at the suggestion of the Chairman, to establish two subgroups called Group A and Group B. Group A was to consider the subject of radiological weapons in the so-called traditional sense, while Group B would deal with the question of prohibition of attack against nuclear facilities.