

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): If I understand rightly, consultations are to continue in the Asian Group. However, this should not prevent the Conference from adopting its report to the General Assembly: I think that for other regional groups the problem is not fully resolved either, and that they are continuing their negotiations - that is indeed in the spirit of article VIII. The Conference has taken good note of the statement of the Asian Group. I give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. MASHHADI (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation has referred earlier to the shortcomings and problems which are inherent now in the text, but because of these shortcomings we have worked hard along with other delegations to remedy them, particularly in the Asian Group. We acknowledge with thanks and appreciation the efforts rendered by Japan and particularly Ambassador Tanaka in the direction of solving the problems of the EC composition in Asia. And with this understanding, that these efforts will be continued until we arrive at a definite result, my delegation will agree to the transmission of the text to New York.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I propose that the Conference should now proceed to adopt the annual report to the United Nations General Assembly, contained in document CD/WP.428/Rev.1, as amended. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the annual report of the Conference to the General Assembly is adopted.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I now propose to make my statement closing the session in my capacity as President of the Conference.

We have finally reached the end of our work. Thanks to our joint resolve to succeed and the constructive spirit of each of the delegations, we can transmit to the United Nations General Assembly a positive report on the efforts we have made throughout the present session. This report is the faithful reflection of our hopes, our joys and our disappointments. It is an example of what in my introductory statement I called "the art of the possible". In certain areas in our agenda, the results achieved, it is true, are rather meagre - we should not hide that. In others, however, and I am thinking particularly of the convention on chemical weapons, we may legitimately congratulate ourselves on the result achieved. I was right, I think, in formulating the hypothesis that we would succeed in the formidable task facing us in such a short time. I was right to believe that we could prove to the international community our credibility and our ability to deal with all the disarmament problems to be dealt with following the next session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. And finally, I was right to rely firmly on the spirit of cooperation of each of the delegations in the Conference on Disarmament.

It would be futile to try to mention all those who contributed actively to the success of our enterprise, because I would have to mention the 39 members of our Conference and the great majority of those I cannot bring myself to call the "non-members" and prefer to call the "observers", until we