

(Mr. Cromartie, United Kingdom)

The Committee has agreed to recommend that the formal session of the Committee in January consider issues under Articles III, IV, V, VI and IX and under those parts of Article II relevant to Articles V and VI. Experience this year suggests that these Articles are interdependent, and that progress on one may depend on progress on others. This is particularly true of Articles III, IV and V, on which work has been continuing very actively since Working Group B submitted its report. The first fruit of this work was seen in the draft Article IV added only last week to the rolling text by agreement of the Committee at its last meeting on 20 August. We should be prepared to consider any or all of these topics at our open-ended consultations in late November and December and the promising areas will be identified by the consultations that Mr. Rowe, Mr. Poptchev and I will be holding in the meantime. We will prepare the ground with a view to making the open-ended consultations in November and December as fruitful as possible and to making a further decisive step forward in the report of our formal session in January to the 1987 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

Finally, the Committee recommends in paragraph 10 (d) that it be re-established at the outset of the 1987 session with its 1986 mandate and that Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden be appointed as its Chairman. I would like to say how pleased I am that I shall be passing on the Chair of the Committee in February into his able and experienced hands for what may prove to be the decisive year of its work.