

(Mr. Qian Jiadong, China)

We are disappointed at this. It is indeed quite ironic, especially considering that the Soviet Union and the United States are talking bombastically about holding bilateral talks in Vienna on the question of outer space, while we here in this forum are unable to establish a subsidiary body on the subject which has been on our agenda for so many years.

As is well known, thanks to the accommodation and the co-operative efforts of the parties, the United Nations General Assembly, in its consideration of this subject last year, succeeded eventually in combining the three proposals into one and adopted resolution 38/70 by an overwhelming majority. This was a great success. We look forward to the development of this co-operative spirit here in this Conference too, so that the Conference may establish the relevant subsidiary bodies soon after the beginning of next year's session in order to start substantive work.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the distinguished representative of China for his statement.

If there are no other speakers wishing to take the floor at this point, may I now turn to document CD/529, also submitted under agenda item 5, which contains a proposal made by a group of socialist States?

Is there any objection to this proposal?

I give the floor to the distinguished representative of Italy.

Mr. ALESSI (Italy) (translated from French): The group of western countries on behalf of which I am taking the floor has examined document CD/529 and does not consider that it provides a basis for an agreement. Therefore, it cannot join in a consensus on this document.

Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): My delegation regrets what has occurred at this session of the Conference on Disarmament, which proves the truth of what the General Assembly stated in the penultimate paragraph of its resolution 38/62 of 15 December 1983. As you will recall, in that resolution the General Assembly deplored the fact that "due to the persistent obstruction of a very small number of its members", the then Committee and now Conference on Disarmament has been unable to initiate the negotiations on items of the utmost urgency and importance which are among the tasks which the General Assembly had in view when it established the Committee on Disarmament in 1978.

Today we have had two further examples: the case of agenda item 5, perhaps the most pressing item at the moment, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and that of item 2, perhaps the most important item in the long term, cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament. Earlier, there were two others: the case of agenda item 1, nuclear test ban, and that of item 3, prevention of nuclear war. This strengthens my delegation's belief that at the beginning of next year this Conference should give all due attention to the proposal submitted by the Group of 21 on 13 September 1982 in document CD/330, which is drafted in the following very brief manner: "The rule of consensus shall not be used either in such a way as to prevent the establishment of subsidiary bodies for the effective functioning of the Committee in accordance with the priorities established in the Final Document and in conformity with the provisions of rule 23."