

(Mr. Zemskov, Russian Federation)

I would now like to set out in more detail our views on the most appropriate and productive way of building the negotiating process in order to produce a test-ban treaty.

First, we believe that from the very outset it would be appropriate to bring into operation parallel machinery for elaborating such a treaty, that is to say, during negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, and for that purpose to draw up and adopt a negotiating mandate for the Ad Hoc Committee, and also within the context of consultations among the five nuclear Powers. These two forums should interact closely, reinforcing each other. In no circumstances should there be confrontation between them. An important precedent for such parallel work, as we know, can be found in the elaboration of the chemical weapons convention, which was conducted both within the Ad Hoc Committee within the Conference on Disarmament and also in the bilateral consultations on this topic between the USSR (later Russia) and the United States of America. Such machinery for the talks will, we believe, be important to ensure that from the very outset they involve not only the nuclear Powers but also other States, including the "threshold" countries. By using this machinery we could also count on greater impact in terms of the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Thus we are proposing well-balanced decisions, on the one hand giving the Conference on Disarmament a substantive role in elaborating a draft treaty from the very outset, and on the other hand providing the nuclear Powers with the opportunity, as was rightly noted in the statement made by the distinguished representative of Australia at the last plenary, of making a "significant contribution" to the elaboration of such a draft.

Secondly, we expect that the distinguished Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, Ambassador Tanaka, will, with his customary drive, get down to consultations in order to produce by the end of this session a generally acceptable negotiating mandate for his Ad Hoc Committee so that, on the basis of this mandate, we can begin multilateral negotiations in January 1994, when our Conference meets again, or earlier if so decided. It would seem appropriate to take as the basis of our work the draft treaty on a comprehensive nuclear test ban which was tabled by Sweden.

It is our belief that agreement on a negotiating mandate for the Ad Hoc Committee would be a major accomplishment of the Conference on Disarmament in 1993. There would be no shame in providing information on this in our annual report to the General Assembly, which, I hope, will adopt a consensus resolution supporting efforts by the Conference in this field.

Thirdly, concerning the consultations among the five nuclear Powers, in our view they could begin as early as September 1993, right here in Geneva. Of course the "five" would continue to meet after the multilateral negotiations began, and work closely with them. We do hope that these comments will find understanding on the part of our distinguished colleagues. I would like to stress the special importance of beginning negotiations on a nuclear test ban in the context of the preparations for the conference on the