

(The President)

beyond a quarter of an hour. This state of affairs is extremely distressing and, I believe, rather unusual in the annals of the Conference. The entire meeting of the Conference is held up because of the internal problems of one regional group. That group cannot reach agreement, and at the rate things are going it is not my impression that a solution is in sight. In the circumstances, I submit to the Conference for approval the annual report to the United Nations General Assembly contained in document CD/WP.428/Rev.1, as amended. Are there any objections? I give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. YAMAMOTO (Japan): Mr. President, apparently the Ambassadors of the Asian countries are not present, and the way you press us to adopt the report, its impossible for us to accept that. It's clear for us.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Have the other delegations any observations to make on this problem? I give the floor to the representative of Nigeria.

Mr. AZIKIWE (Nigeria): Obviously, my delegation would like us to conclude our work as soon as possible, but the observation made by our colleague from Japan is very pertinent. If you don't mind, Mr. President, could you extend the deadline by another 10 minutes, hopefully? - as we are all working towards achieving a common goal.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): These extensions of 10 minutes at a time are becoming very elastic, and there is a risk that they will carry us well beyond midnight. I give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Mr. CALDERÓN (Peru) (translated from Spanish): My delegation just wishes to point out that we are awaiting the results of the consultations among the delegations in a regional group. However, I should like to mention that here we are also awaiting the adoption of the final report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly, and that it is the wish of my delegation that, so far as possible, the problems of one region should in no way jeopardize the entire report.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Mr. Calderón's wish has been granted. All he had to do was mention the subject, and the delegations in question returned to the meeting. May I ask the members of the Asian Group whether they have managed to reach agreement on the problem which required such a lengthy suspension of our meeting? I give the floor to Ambassador Tanaka, who will speak on behalf of the Asian Group.

Mr. TANAKA (Japan): I'm sorry for keeping all of the delegations here for so long, but now I shall make a statement. On behalf of the Asian Group of countries, I wish to comment on the operation of article VIII provisions on the executive council allocation of seats. It is the intention of the Asian Group that the allocation of seats be done through regional groups, in accordance with the criteria laid down in article VIII. Papers setting out the subregional groupings and allocation of their seats have been prepared and have been distributed to all Asian regional States of the CD for their consideration. This process will continue.