COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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INDONESIA

Some Views of the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

1. Definition of Chemical Warfare Agents, and their Classification

Indonesia holds the view that under the term of single purpose warfare agents is understood agents used solely for military purposes; the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925 prohibits their use in war or in armed conflict. In this respect, as far as Indonesia is concerned, for purposes of study on necessary protective measures, on health aspects of personnel as well as on general laboratory work, a few hundred milligrams per annum per type of chemical warfare agent may be allowed.

On the other hand, as regards dual-purpose agents the question is more complex. Many such agents, particularly phosgene and hydrocyanic acid, are widely used by some sectors of the chemical industry. Concerning these agents, the treaty should contain a definition based on general purpose criterion. Chemical substance that is used as chemical warfare agents should be prohibited. Its civilian use as raw material should be subject to negotiation in order to find agreement on its development and application in industry. Since in certain circumstances such chemical substances, instead of being stored in that condition, could be converted into chemical weapons by a special process and stockpiled as such, special attention should be given in the relevant discussion. The Indonesian delegation suggests that the general purpose criterion should be complemented by criteria of toxicity in relation to its lethality and other properties, and supplemented by structural formulae of chemical substance. Accordingly, it is suggested that the definition should be as follows:

> "A chemical warfare agent is any chemical substance or any combination of chemical substances, which, due to its toxic properties, may cause severe casualty effects on human being, animal or plant whether by direct contact or through other forms of contamination."