

intrusiveness that inspections can imply;

Fourthly, at the present juncture, all technological prerequisites exist to solve the verification problems inherent in the destruction of chemical weapons.

The failure or success of any workshop depends largely on the contributions that come from the participants themselves. I should like to express our gratitude to all those delegations who enhanced the effect of the workshop by their valuable participation.

Few will dispute that workshops of this nature -- and aside from the visit to Munster, I would equally like to mention the workshop in Tooele, Utah, of late last year -- provide interesting insights and learning experiences. But what is the direct relevance to our negotiating tasks in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons? I realize that this question has frequently been asked, and the question certainly deserves an answer. Obviously, it is nobody's intention to write into a future chemical weapons convention norms which oblige the parties to the treaty to embark on particular technical processes, or to buy and employ specific apparatuses of particular brands. But the link is there, and it is direct. Workshops of this kind demonstrate both the necessity and the feasibility of certain technical processes. They thus show how planned prescription can be translated into law-abiding action, and at what cost. The obligation the parties are to undertake in the future treaty will be simple. They will be expressed in abstract legal language. But behind the normative language, knowledge looms. Negotiators, with the aid of such technical experience as the workshops have given them, have assured themselves that it is possible to translate treaty obligations, such as are now envisaged, into effective action, and that the most practical and least costly and intensive approach has been chosen in defining obligations and selecting legal language.

If we attempt to digest the negotiators' lessons out of the Tooele and Munster experiences, the usefulness of the exercises is amply born out. On the basis of a general consensus that is forming on the subject matter in the field of the verification of destruction of stocks, formulations like the one in Article V (1) (f) of the draft convention contained in document CD/326, now prove themselves to be so drafted that, if accepted, they would stand the test of eventual implementation with the assistance of current-state technology, and at low and adequate cost levels.

If satisfaction and, indeed, a measure of accomplishment derive from the recent technical workshop in Munster, my delegation is much less optimistic with regard to the general level of progress in the chemical weapons negotiations. Although the negotiating process is manifold -- if somewhat over-complicated in its structure -- the general state of negotiations is hardly encouraging and leaves much to be desired.

This is all the more deplorable because this year we should have been particularly concerned about making progress rapidly. The findings of a team of experts charged by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in conformity with the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions, revealed that chemical weapons had been used in the conflict between Iraq and Iran. However, not even the actual use of chemical weapons in an ongoing conflict and the unfortunate likelihood of further proliferation of these barbaric weapons have prompted the Conference on Disarmament to speed up negotiations and to produce decisive results. Yet, the 1984 Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons was placed under the skilful and competent guidance of its Chairman, Ambassador Ekeus of Sweden. Mr. Akkerman of the Netherlands, Mr. Duarte of Brazil and Dr. Thielicke of the German Democratic Republic have once again proved their high abilities in chairing their respective Working Groups. Many delegations have introduced important working papers or initiatives.

In spite of these favourable conditions, the positive momentum that had marked previous years of work is about to peter out. My delegation has no explanation for this unfortunate state of affairs. It cannot but urge all delegations to contribute fully to the