

efficient verification systems. It is out of place to suggest that some States are concerned with verification, are ready for it and open to it from every point of view, while others think of nothing but preserving loopholes and violating the future convention. Participants in the negotiations are well aware of the unrealistic demands of the United States of America in control matters, demands which are divorced from the requirements of the future convention. Today in the Conference on Disarmament we heard the statement of the Vice-President of the United States, Mr. George Bush. The United States presented its views on a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. The Mongolian delegation is prepared to study this document in order to determine its position concerning it.

We are forming the impression that certain western countries, under cover of a touching solicitude for commercial interests, are in fact trying to remove from the scope of control a potentially dangerous form of activity, namely, the production at commercial enterprises of the most up-to-date and dangerous varieties of chemical weapons. They claim that many hundreds of tons of the most super-toxic lethal chemicals, allegedly proposed for peaceful uses, can be freely traded on the market.

The socialist countries propose that the production of super-toxic lethal chemicals for any permitted purpose whatsoever should be limited, for any State party, to one metric ton a year and that such production should be concentrated in a specialized facility. Such activities would be placed under strict international control. And what do the western countries propose? They are in favour of permitting the production of one ton of super-toxic lethal chemicals for anti-chemical protective purposes, and of imposing no limitation on the production of such chemicals in all other cases.

The socialist countries, anxious to find a way out of the genuinely difficult situation conditioned on the one hand by the emergence of binary weapons and the possibility of producing their components at practically any chemical plant and, on the other hand, by the inadmissibility of interference in the economic affairs of States, have submitted appropriate proposals. These amount to the complete exclusion from peaceful chemical production of one highly specific category of chemical compounds, namely, those containing the methyl-phosphorus bond. It is this category which, as it were, sustains all the most dangerous super-toxic lethal chemical weapons, including binary weapons, and this category is practically not used for peaceful purposes.

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p.26

Australia/Butler

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Australia believes that, for an effective chemical weapons convention, special emphasis must be given to three essential elements: first, an uncompromising prohibition of the use of chemical weapons; second, provision for the destruction of existing stocks of chemical weapons and for the prohibition of the future development and production of such weapons; third, a verification regime that will ensure that these treaty commitments are being honoured.

Rigorous standards will be involved, particularly in the area of verification. There can be no security in such a convention unless the means of verification of compliance with the convention are effective and seen to be effective. We must negotiate the verification provisions with great care.

We are aware that there are differing views on what arrangements for verification would be required to ensure confidence that the obligations of the convention are being observed. The United States draft is particularly valuable in pointing to the standard of verification needed for this purpose.

We appreciated the statement by the Soviet Ambassador to this Conference on 21 February, with regard to verification of the destruction of stock-piles. That statement