

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

Other proposals too, have been made for the solution of this problem, in particular, the inclusion in the convention of a provision or provisions extending the mechanism of verifications envisaged by the convention for unclear situations to cases of the use of chemical weapons. Ideas have even been put forward, although not here in the Committee on Disarmament, to the effect that the strengthening of the regime of the non-use of chemical weapons could be achieved through procedures suitable rather for the adoption of resolutions than for the elaboration of effective measures in the sphere of the limitation of the arms race and disarmament, and which would have practically no links either with the 1925 Geneva Protocol or with the future convention.

I am thinking of resolution 37/98 D of the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly. Soviet representatives have already had occasion to state their basic attitude to this resolution which provides, contrary to the principles generally recognized in international law for the drafting and review of international agreements, that the elaboration of a mechanism for the verification of compliance with the Geneva Protocol should be carried out not by States parties to the Protocol but by all the States Members of the United Nations, including, therefore, States which are not parties to the Geneva Protocol. Moreover, it is proposed that the adoption of the mechanism for the verification of compliance with the Geneva Protocol should be carried out, not after the reconciliation of the various viewpoints in the course of negotiations and on the basis of consensus, as is always done at disarmament talks, but through simple voting. It is clear that should we follow this resolution an unprecedented situation would be created. In short, one cannot but see that resolution 37/98 D, which was supported, by the way, by only approximately half of the States parties to the Geneva Protocol, can bring nothing but harm, and of course it will not solve the problem of strengthening the regime of the non-use of chemical weapons.

As you see, quite a number of proposals have been made on the question of the non-use of chemical weapons, but up to the present time no mutually acceptable solution has been found. It is clear that the time has come to tackle this problem seriously, the more so as, in spite of the fact that the use of chemical weapons was prohibited de jure long ago, de facto such weapons have been used, and more than once. We have no desire to turn back now to this unattractive page of history, but since we are on the subject, distinguished delegates, let us dot all the "i's".

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