

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

basic issues. The foregoing does not necessarily imply that nothing has been achieved recently. One positive example in the area of technical details is the adjustment of the schedules of chemicals covered by the convention on the basis of limiting the radicals of alkyl and o-alkyl fragments in the respective chemicals, undertaken by the Chairman of Group 4. In the realm of political problems the efforts undertaken by Ambassador Morel on the composition of the Executive Council and challenge inspections (article IX) are highly commendable.

However, we can and must move ahead faster than we are now doing. Many representatives, in giving their analysis of the state of negotiations, stressed that any loss of time or momentum now is extremely dangerous and that the impetus generated in Paris would fail to be a long-term factor if not supported in Geneva. The Soviet delegation fully shares this opinion. Delay in the negotiations is all the more unacceptable in that it takes place against a background of dangerous trends in chemical weapons proliferation. Being decidedly opposed to the spread of chemical weapons, we lend our support to international efforts to counteract this threat and we are improving our national measures in this field. In doing so, we are fully aware that the only thoroughly effective solution to this problem is a comprehensive convention concluded at the earliest date and without any linkage to other disarmament measures.

Negotiations are not the only way we use to pursue this goal. In the USSR the appropriate agencies are preparing recommendations on the order and time of construction of chemical weapons destruction facilities, including their location. Their capacity will ensure the destruction of our entire CW stock in the Soviet Union in the time period set by the draft convention. This will demand the solution of a whole set of problems related to the transport of the weapons, their disassembly and destruction. Priority attention is given here to environmental protection.

We are also engaged in active bilateral discussions with a whole range of countries on the problem of a chemical weapons ban. In particular, during the recent visit of Mikhail Gorbachev to Bonn, a statement on a chemical weapons ban was adopted at the level of the ministers for foreign affairs. At the request of the delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany and the USSR, this statement, together with the joint statement of the leaders of the two countries on the results of the visit, are being distributed as official documents of the Conference on Disarmament (CD/930 and CD/931).

In June, beginning right on the very first day of this summer session, the eleventh round of Soviet-United States discussions on a chemical weapons ban took place here in Geneva. This has been one of the most productive rounds since we began meeting with the United States delegation in pursuance of the agreement reached in Geneva in November 1985 by Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan. Substantial progress was made as a result of intensive work at the plenaries, restricted meetings between the heads of delegations, and meetings of experts. This relates in the first instance to the draft paper on procedures for challenge inspections, which we believe might soon be submitted