

(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherland)

My delegation wishes to avail itself of this opportunity to express our appreciation and respect to Ambassador Hyltenius and his team for the invaluable services they have rendered to the CWC negotiating process. We are confident that Ambassador Batsanov will push on in the same vein.

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Mr. SHANNON (Canada): May I, at the outset, Mr. President, offer you my congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of this Conference and wish you every success, and may I also welcome our new ambassadorial colleagues among our ranks?

The report we are presenting today on the joint Canada/Netherlands trial CW challenge inspection comes at a time of great international crisis. World attention is focused on the conflict in the Persian Gulf and on the danger that chemical weapons might yet again be used, in violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol. The spectre of possible chemical weapons use in the Gulf highlights the importance of our work, as we seek to rid the world of these weapons of senseless mass destruction. We must respond to this challenge with redoubled effort.

Last year Canada welcomed the Netherlands proposal to conduct a joint inspection and, in fact, to create a binational inspection team. We felt that this would exemplify many of the characteristics of an international team dispatched by the Director-General of the Proposed Technical Secretariat. Our first collaboration with the Netherlands in a CW trial inspection capacity took place in June 1990, and was reported in CD/1030/Rev.1. In this first endeavour, Canadian officials conducted a practice "routine" inspection at a Canadian pharmaceutical facility. An observer from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended. However, the full integration of officials from both countries in carrying out the joint Canada/Netherlands trial challenge inspection at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Lahr in Germany went further, in a multinational sense, than our earlier national practice inspection. And, as the trial inspection took place on German territory, we had an additional multinational feature: the presence of German observers throughout the inspection.

I would like to draw attention to another aspect of this inspection and its procedures. The Canadian in-country escort team had been trained to receive inspections in relation to quite a different set of treaty obligations, namely, those of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. We found that the escort team's operating procedures, we well as those of the personnel of the inspected site, could be modified without great difficulty to meet many of the needs of the CW challenge inspection. In a similar vein, I would like to suggest that certain of the considerations taken into account and finding expression in the Protocol on Inspection of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe might be of interest to our experts as we refine and conclude the protocol on inspection procedures in the "rolling text" of the CW convention. What I am referring to is a cross-fertilization of ideas as we try to devise a set of procedures that will work in practice, not just look good on paper.