

(Mr. Cromartie, United Kingdom)

up by the Ad Hoc Committee, in which the detailed substantive work was done. Working Group A, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Rowe of Australia, was responsible for Article II on definitions and Article VI, now entitled "Activities not Prohibited by the Convention". Working Group B, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Poptchev of Bulgaria, was responsible for Article III on declarations and Articles IV and V, now retitled "Chemical Weapons" and "Chemical Weapons Production Facilities". Working Group C, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Wisnoemoerti of Indonesia, was responsible for Article I on general provisions on scope, Article VII on national implementation measures, Article VIII on the Consultative Committee, and Article IX on consultations, co-operation and fact-finding. I should like to congratulate and thank all of them very warmly for the tireless work that they have done to contribute to the combined result which you see before you. Mr. Wisnoemoerti is leaving Geneva at the end of the session and I should like to thank him both personally and on behalf of the Committee for the work he has done and to offer him our very best wishes for success in his next assignment. I am glad to say that both Mr. Rowe and Mr. Poptchev are staying and will be continuing during the inter-sessional period the successful work which they have been carrying out. I should also like to express my gratitude and that of the Committee to its secretary, Mr. Bensmail, and to all other members of the Secretariat, and to the interpreters and translators who have contributed to our work and to the production on time in the present difficult financial circumstances of the report that you have before you today.

The progress recorded in this report has been made possible by the spirit of good will and co-operation demonstrated by all delegations represented in the Committee. This has been particularly noticeable in the summer part of the session after the common experience of visiting The Hague and Rotterdam for the workshop in June organized by the Netherlands Government. I should like to express again here the warm thanks of the Committee to the Government of the Netherlands and to the Netherlands delegation for organizing such a fruitful meeting and for their very generous hospitality. I think that there would be general agreement that this year the pace of progress in the negotiations has been further accelerated, and that it is essential to go on increasing this momentum with a view to the early conclusion of a Convention. Accordingly, the Committee agreed to recommend in paragraph 10 (c) of its report that it should resume its work on issues under specified Articles during the three-week period from 12 to 30 January 1987, in accordance with the practice of the last four years, and that this formal session of the Committee should be preceded by consultations under my authority as Chairman in the intervening period. These consultations would continue during the months of September, October and November and would culminate in a period of open-ended consultations of the Ad Hoc Committee to be held here in Geneva between 24 November and 17 December. The Secretariat would provide during this period a limited number of meetings with full services and all delegations are warmly invited to be present with such expert advisers as they think desirable. I would, however, emphasize that it will not be a formal session of the Committee: any common ground identified on a provisional basis during the inter-sessional period will be put formally for the consideration of the Committee when it meets again in January 1987.