

(Mr. Dhanapala, Sri Lanka)

The chemical industry in many developing countries like Sri Lanka cannot be compared in extent or content with those in the developed or industrially advanced countries. Our chemical industry is largely concentrated on petro-chemicals, fertilizer, pesticides, synthetic fibres, dyes or paints. In some cases the industry is under multinational control. Therefore the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons should also take cognizance of the activities of multinational and transnational corporations in particular in the deliberations over Article V [CW production facilities], Article VII [National Implementation Measures], Article IX [Consultation, Co-operation and Fact Finding] and in other relevant articles. Also, in this context, in developing countries, the verification machinery envisaged under the convention should not be a burden on the already hard pressed economies of developing countries. Multinational corporations could contribute towards sharing the burden with the expertise available to them.

Another area requiring work in the Ad hoc Committee is Article XI -- Economic and Technological Development, which has remained in abeyance for quite some time. In the view of my delegation the time is opportune for delegations to give preliminary consideration to the content and scope of this Article. For developing countries adequate notice may be necessary to formulate policies which will not prejudice their legitimate aspirations for the advancement of their indigenous chemical industry.

(Mr. Taylhardat, Venezuela)

The only item with respect to which, as I said before, we could harbour some optimism is chemical weapons. We wish to place on record our appreciation for the work done by Ambassador Cromartie, as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee dealing with the item, and the work begun by the Co-ordinators of the Committee's three Working Groups. In this connection, we cannot however, fail to point out that the recent decision of one of the main Powers to carry forward its plans to resume the production of chemical weapons gives rise to doubt with respect to its genuine desire to make progress at negotiations currently under way, one of whose goals consists precisely in achieving the prohibition of the production of these weapons.