

(Mr. Morel, France)

December. The debate was particularly interesting as it bore on an essential and so far barely studied point - the smooth running of the technical apparatus of the convention after its entry into force. The debates dealt essentially with decision-making arrangements, and led to a new text inserted in the annex on chemicals.

For the schedules this document suggests an evaluation of the Executive Council's proposal for a revision, along with a recommendation to States Parties; their agreement could be secured either tacitly or after formal acceptance by a yet-to-be-defined majority of States. In the absence of such approval, the proposal could be submitted to the Conference of States Parties, either at a regular or at a special session. As far as the guidelines are concerned, the machinery adopted, which is more restrictive, provides for an initial assessment by the Executive Council, followed by a recommendation to States Parties; the decision should in any event be taken by the Conference of States Parties.

Fifthly, in reviewing the work of the groups during the inter-sessional period, I must now recall that it was agreed last August to deal in Group 5 with the very important question of security during the destruction period. Consultations begun by the Group's Chairman, Dr. Walter Krutzsch, when the inter-sessional meetings resumed indicated that in the absence of the paper which was expected from the two countries which have declared that they possess chemical weapons, the conditions for useful work on the subject had not yet been met. But I should also note that developments in the past few months, and particularly the past few days, have confirmed that this necessary preliminary of bilateral work, which is eagerly awaited by the Committee, is well under way. It will then be for the Committee to resume this year, on a new basis, the in-depth consideration of this question, which is of interest to all delegations. I also wish to note that, towards the end of the inter-sessional period, some brackets and major footnotes to articles IV (Chemical weapons) and V (Chemical weapons production facilities) were deleted, which will facilitate the resumption of the Committee's work on this subject.

Sixthly, on challenge inspection, work continued up to the last few days of the inter-sessional period to finalize, in what was deemed the most appropriate manner, the document which had been under preparation throughout the year on this question, in order to define the essential elements which should appear in the second part of article IX of the draft convention. Regarding paragraph 5 of this text, it was considered a little early to clarify the concepts of alternative measures and managed access. On paragraph 6, in contrast, the discussion taken up again on the basis of language outlined in December enabled us, following very interesting and fruitful exchanges of view, to define two aspects of the final phase of consideration of the report after the completion of the inspection proper - namely, the provision of information to the parties and the Executive Council, and the role that can devolve upon the latter. It was not, however, possible to settle everything at a stroke, and at the end of our work, if I may put it like that, I had occasion to stress that we had not yet taken a decision on the decision-making process. But I feel that the new sequence outlined in paragraph 6, like the text as a whole, offers a sound framework for subsequent