

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

I would now like to dwell briefly on the principal results of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee over the past year. Even a cursory glance at the text of the draft convention introduced today will indicate the substantial body of new material which has been included in the draft convention as a result of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee this year. Once again we have a very large document, 225 pages long, at least in the Russian version, but that is not the point; the point is that we have quite a few really new provisions in the draft convention, new important provisions. I am referring first and foremost to the provisions forming the core of the future convention on the prevention of chemical weapons, on which we were unable to arrive at a solution over a long period. I am talking about the issues included in the "security basket". On the basis of the results of work this year, article I of the draft convention now contains an obligation for States parties "never under any circumstances to use chemical weapons". The issue of the mandatory 10-year period for the destruction of chemical weapons and production facilities has also been finally resolved. Article X on assistance and protection against chemical weapons and article XIII on "Relation to other international agreements" have also been included in the draft. And I would particularly like to stress that in these articles there are no unagreed provisions at all. Also included in the draft convention are article XI on economic and technological development, article XII on measures to redress a situation and to ensure compliance, including sanctions, and article XVI on settlement of disputes. Efforts to finalize the text of these three articles will of course be continued.

The Ad Hoc Committee had at the centre of its attention issues related to machinery for verifying compliance with the provisions of the convention. This relates to both verification under article VI, "Activities not prohibited under the Convention", as well as challenge inspections, that is to say, inspections under article IX. The results of the work done on article VI are reflected in the document submitted today. Although there are certain conceptual differences of view concerning the scope of verification in civil commercial industry, the work that has been done makes it possible to state that there are realistic prospects for a compromise solution. Many interesting proposals and suggestions have been put forward on the problem of solving the issue of challenge inspections. Intensive consultations on this subject have been conducted by the Ad Hoc Committee Chairman. Here again we should note a desire on the part of all participants in the negotiations to work seriously in order to find a mutually acceptable compromise. After intensive consultations during our work this year it has also been possible to make distinct progress on the important issue of the use of terms "jurisdiction and control" in the text of the convention. New provisions in this regard are reflected in articles I, III, IV, V and VI. In addition, extensive work has been done in all the groups to "clean up" a large number of articles in the draft convention.

At the end of the summer session, or rather the third part of the session of the Conference on Disarmament, as it is now known, the Ad Hoc Committee began discussions on the issue of the composition of and decision-making procedure in the executive council to be established under the convention. There is no need to stress how important the settlement of this issue is. Of