

(Mr. Sujka, Poland)

covers the work carried out during the inter-sessional period on the basis of the recommendations contained in the Committee's last report of 12 September 1988 (CD/874), and approved by the Conference on 20 September.

As requested by the Conference, the Committee resumed its work under my chairmanship. Firstly, in preparation for the resumed session, open-ended consultations of the Ad hoc Committee were held between 29 November and 15 December 1988. Secondly, the Ad hoc Committee held a session of limited duration during the period between 17 January and 3 February 1989. The results of the Committee's work have been registered in the report in an updated version of the "rolling text". In general, it maintains the structure and follows the pattern of previous sessions. In particular, it reflects the results of consideration of the following issues in the framework of the three working groups.

Group A, under the chairmanship of Mr. Andrej Cima of Czechoslovakia, considered the issue of confidentiality with regard to verification of non-production of chemical weapons in the chemical industry. Agreements reached enabled us to include in appendix II two new texts: a set of guidelines to be used in the elaboration of a régime for the handling and protection of confidential information, and a classification system for confidential information. Appropriate references to the issue of confidentiality were also placed in articles IV, V, and IX of the draft convention in appendix I. More work is needed on this issue, but a broad exchange of views on this delicate and very important problem will be very useful in the further search for common ground in this area.

Issues pertaining to schedule [1] chemicals outside the single small-scale production facility were also discussed in this group, and some progress was achieved, especially concerning facilities producing schedule [1] chemicals in quantities exceeding 100 g per year. The present state of affairs is reflected in appendix II.

Group B, under the chairmanship of Mr. Pablo Macedo of Mexico, concentrated its work on two issues, namely undiminished security during the period of destruction of chemical weapons, and article X on assistance. Although it was not possible to transform the results of the intensive discussions on the first issue into concrete language, and further work on this subject is needed, nevertheless we now have a clearer picture of possible approaches to this outstanding issue and, I believe, a good foundation to resolve this problem. On the other hand, we have an indirect result of these discussions: following the statements made in the Committee on 31 January by Ambassador Morel of France, Ambassador Nazarkin of the USSR and the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mongolia and China, appendix III as contained in CD/874 has been removed in its entirety from our report. In addition, several footnotes relating to the concept of undiminished security were either deleted or redrafted. I would like to underline that this is an important step forward on this politically, militarily and technically intricate question.

As concerns article X, the title of which now reads "Assistance and protection against chemical weapons", the new text as developed and agreed to in Group B is reflected in appendix II as a basis for future work.