

(Mr. Nguyen, Viet Nam)

compromise, it is prepared to agree that this content should appear in article I. This expresses its good will to arrive at an acceptable solution through genuine negotiation.

Thirdly, my delegation wonders why the reference to the commitment of States parties not to use riot control agents as a method of warfare has been retained in article I, whereas the word "herbicides" in the 14-nation proposed amendment to article I contained in document WP.417 has not been accepted. Whether we are talking about riot control agents or herbicides, they are well and truly chemicals. The inclusion of the prohibition of the use of herbicides as a method of warfare only in the preamble to the future convention presupposes inter alia that this so-called prohibition is not binding on States parties to the future convention; that the prohibition allegedly already mentioned in other allegedly relevant conventions is subject to free interpretation where necessary, and according to circumstances, as to the scope of the future convention; and that the threat of repeated use of herbicides as a method of warfare has unfortunately not yet been averted.

Fourthly, it is generally accepted that in negotiations each party has to make concessions in order to arrive at a common denominator. The 14-nation proposal on herbicides is modest and reasonable, we have experienced in our own flesh the justification for this proposal, and yet it is not accepted. In the present situation, our delegation is forced to think that this is the outcome of what might be called a certain selective balance; and if a balance is selective, it is dictated by the "law of the strongest" and hence fraught with consequences both for the universality and for the future application of the convention on chemical weapons.

I thank you for your attention, Sir, and ask you to ensure that Viet Nam's views are duly reflected in the relevant documents of the Conference on Disarmament.

CD/PV.635

42

Mr. ZNIBER (Morocco) (translated from French):

... This morning His Excellency Ambassador von Wagner, as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, introduced the Committee's report to the Conference. My delegation's statement is made in that context. Before making it, I would like to pay tribute to Ambassador von Wagner for the excellent work he has done in the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. His tenacity and also his availability have served as guarantees for the success of the Committee's work, and we would like to congratulate him again,