

(The President)

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Second, on the subject of chemical weapons, I think that all delegations are aware of the importance of the month of August, when we have to adopt the report of the Committee, an important part of the final report, while still as far as possible pursuing work on substance, including the most sensitive items. The Ad hoc Committee, under the very active chairmanship of Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden, helped by the three group co-ordinators, Messrs. Nieuwenhuys, Macedo and Krutzsch, has already made considerable progress during this session. Although it may seem that their pace has slowed in recent weeks, this is because we have been able to isolate the main problems which will require very thorough discussions so as to produce solutions that are acceptable to everyone.

We can already weigh up the constructive work that has been done in the negotiation of the various parts of the draft convention. On the essential matter of the procedure for challenge inspection, the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee is seeking the necessary clarification. I would add that the recent meeting of industrial experts made a useful contribution to consideration of the aspects of the Convention relating to the civilian chemical industry. As President, I must also remind you that delegations must rapidly take a decision on the possible continuation of work during the period between the sessions, as happened in previous years. This decision is now becoming urgently necessary, if only for practical reasons concerning the scheduling of the resources required.

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(Mr. Dolgu, Romania)

••• The Romanian delegation supports the intensification of efforts to develop and strengthen the legal régime to be established by the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons, in keeping with the principles that have thus far underlain its elaboration by the Conference. We would like to express appreciation and thanks for the efforts made by the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, Ambassador Ekéus, and the co-ordinators of the negotiating groups. At this very advanced stage of the negotiations, all possible efforts should be made to find constructive and unanimously acceptable solutions to still unresolved problems, taking care not to jeopardize the effectiveness of the future convention either in the transitional stage or afterwards.