

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

the beginning of their elimination could be found at a later stage of the negotiations, taking into account the agreements of principle which could be reached, in particular, on the question of the verification of the destruction of chemical weapons stocks, the permitted production of supertoxic chemicals and the non-production of chemicals for binary weapons at commercial enterprises.

The Soviet delegation attaches great importance to the solution both of the question of the verification of the destruction of stocks and of that of the verification of the production of supertoxic chemicals for permitted purposes, but at the same time it particularly singles out, in the context of chemical weapons production facilities, the question of the verification of the non-production of components for binary chemical weapons at commercial enterprises. The solution of these questions will, to a considerable extent, ensure confidence between the States parties to the future convention, regulate questions of balance and guarantee the viability of the convention as a whole.

The Soviet Union fully supports the relevant proposals of the German Democratic Republic concerning the elimination in the first instance of facilities producing binary weapons and proposes for its part that their destruction or dismantling with partial diversion should begin not later than six months and be completed not later than two years after the convention enters into force. We believe that the number of these facilities should include not only those which are in fact producing binary chemical weapons, but also facilities which are fulfilling contracts on work connected with their production. We also believe that the closing down of these facilities, their maintenance in a state of non-production and their destruction or dismantling with partial diversion should be carried out with appropriate international verification.

Logically, the convention should also include a provision under which the destruction of stocks of binary and multicomponent weapons should start not later than six months and be completed not later than two years after the convention enters into force.

We believe it important to emphasize other specific features of our proposals. They are not discriminatory because they would apply to all States which wished to embark upon the production of binary chemical weapons, they permit the solution of the problem of the time of destruction and declaration of any chemical weapons production facilities, taking into