

(Mr. Karhilo, Finland)

If we were to design a régime that covers all possible covert activities, the problems might well prove to be insurmountable. But we are not trying to do that. In our view, a disarmament agreement banning chemical weapons is effective when we can be sure that existing stocks are destroyed and that militarily significant chemicals are not produced or diverted for military purposes.

The necessary confidence that the purpose of the convention is fulfilled can, in our view, be achieved by the means already envisaged in the negotiations. The combination of routine inspections, challenge inspections and ad hoc verification measures allows a variety of ways to ensure compliance with the provisions of the convention.

The work of the Technical Group on Instrumentation has clearly proved that all the verification tasks involving chemical analysis can be adequately performed with currently available instruments and methods. This conclusion has been further reinforced by the inter-laboratory "round robin" experiment which was carried out by 10 laboratories last autumn. The results of this experiment will be introduced to the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons shortly. The Technical Group on Instrumentation identified in its report several items for further work in other than purely analytical fields. When properly addressed and focused upon, none of these items should prove to be unsolvable.

The development of technical means for verification has been the focus of Finland's contribution to the CW negotiations. Since 1973 the Finnish Research Project on the Verification of Chemical Disarmament has developed sensitive and selective analytical methods to meet the verification requirements of a chemical weapons convention. The project has from its start kept full academic openness as its hallmark. No aspect of the project is classified or otherwise restricted. The scientific results have been introduced to the CD annually in the form of the "Finnish blue books", which now total 14 volumes.

The appreciative comments that we have heard from many delegations in the CD over the years have been an encouragement to the scientists involved in the project, as well as to my Government, to enlarge the scope of our endeavours through new types of initiatives. One of those has been the holding and co-ordination of the inter-laboratory "round robin" experiment I have already referred to. Another has been a training programme in CW verification methods for analytical chemists from developing countries belonging to the Group of 21. The first course of the programme is now under way.

The interest shown in this training programme exceeded our expectations. A total of 25 highly qualified chemists from nine countries applied for the first two courses to be organized this year. During this initial year one chemist each from Brazil, India, Iran, Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan will receive training in the two four-month courses for the use of analytical methods and relevant instruments in CW verification. The Finnish Research Project intends to continue with a similar training programme during 1991, for which an invitation will be circulated to the members of the Group of 21 in the near future. The applications presented for this year's courses will then automatically be taken into account.