

observed as well as efforts designed to accomplish their total elimination, particularly through a prohibition of development, prohibition of manufacture and a prohibition of their stockpiling.

III. General Assembly resolution 2454 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 requested the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of qualified consultant-experts, a report on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and the effects of their possible use. The resulting report (A/7575), issued on 1 July 1969, is of great significance for the strengthening of effectiveness of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and offers a considerable encouragement to further search for ways and means of total elimination of these weapons.

Prepared by highly competent consultant-experts, the report emphasizes the significance of the Geneva Protocol which, as they indicate, helped establish "a custom and hence a standard of international law". It also unequivocally places chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons in a class of weapons of mass destruction underlining the high urgency of taking further steps that would ultimately lead to their complete elimination from military arsenals.

IV. Poland considers, therefore, that the report of the Secretary-General on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and the effects of their possible use can serve as a suitable basis for further deliberations in this Committee concerning these weapons.

To our mind the starting point in this regard should be to work to strengthen the existing international juridical norms banning the use of these weapons in warfare and which, as we know, are contained in the Geneva Protocol of 1925. Bearing in mind that not all States have as yet acceded to the Protocol, it becomes imperative to ensure universal applicability of the Protocol's prohibitions and their strict observance.

The Polish delegation wishes to propose, therefore, that the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, in its report to the General Assembly, should underline the importance and significance of the report of the Secretary-General, recommending its further consideration particularly in the light of the guidelines contained in the Secretary-General's foreword where U Thant urges the Members of the United Nations:

1. To renew the appeal to all States to accede to the Geneva Protocol of 1925,
2. To make a clear affirmation that the prohibition contained in the Geneva Protocol applies to the use in war of all chemical, bacteriological and biological agents (including tear gas and other harassing agents), which now exist or which may be developed in the future;