

(Mr. Ekéus, Sweden)

I wish to mention one more issue, namely that of the preparatory commission, which will operate during the period between the signing and the entry into force of the convention. I take it as a good sign that our negotiations have now reached a stage where delegations want to address concrete and practical issues connected with preparing the way for effective implementation of the convention from the very first day of its entry into force. The text on the preparatory commission which was worked out during the spring is therefore a very valuable contribution, and I am very pleased to have it included in the report.

The Committee further recommends to the Conference on Disarmament, in paragraph 13 (c) of the report, that work on the convention be resumed as follows:

Firstly, in preparation for the resumed session, private consultations should be undertaken in Geneva by the Chairman during the period 23-27 November 1987 with delegations present;

Secondly, for that purpose, open-ended consultations of the Ad hoc Committee should be held between 30 November and 16 December 1987, including, when necessary, meetings with full services;

Thirdly, the Ad hoc Committee should hold a session of limited duration during the period 12-29 January 1988.

I would like to thank all delegates who have participated so effectively in the work of the Ad hoc Committee. My presentation, I think, is testimony to the good progress we have made and I think, therefore, we have reason to be optimistic with regard to our future work. I would also like to thank the three item co-ordinators, Mr. Philippe Nieuwenhuys of Belgium, Mr. Pablo Macedo of Mexico and Dr. Walter Krutzsch of the German Democratic Republic, for their tireless efforts, and the excellent work they have done during both parts of the 1987 session. I also want to point out that we would not have been able to arrive at a report like the one we have just adopted were it not for the excellent performance of the secretariat, Mr. Bensmail, Mr. Cassandra, Miss Darby and the interpreters. I would like to direct my special thanks to them.

The submission of the report on the full session's work on chemical weapons gives me a good opportunity to bid farewell to Ambassador Turbanski of Poland, who has, over the years, participated so actively and so successfully in our joint efforts to achieve progress towards a convention banning chemical weapons, both in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee in 1985 and as a Co-ordinator of the Group of Socialist States. I have personally profited from his advice and constructive approach during the years. We wish him all success in his next assignment in Warsaw. Furthermore, I would like to express to Ambassador Beesley of Canada my wish for success in his new task in Vancouver. His four years with this Conference have been marked by his customary intelligent, constructive and, not least, independent approach to difficult problems. Many of us will also miss the working lunches over which Ambassador Beesley presided in a masterly way, thus often bringing about progress where none was expected.