

(Mr. García Moritán, Argentina)

factors (geographical, access, and so on), as well as its significance from the point of view of the various aspects of confidentiality, whether scientific, commercial or military. The use of alternative forms and/or concepts of access should be elaborated in detail in order to avoid any counter-productive effect. We hope that the current negotiations will lead to progress on this point.

Without seeking to carry the analogy with the activities carried out by the special United Nations commission appointed to monitor compliance with Security Council resolution 687 further than prudence dictates in these cases, we believe that there are important lessons which must be drawn from this continuing exercise, in particular with regard to physical access for inspectors and securing of inspected sites. We believe that if all these considerations are taken into account, they will help to lead to agreement on a challenge inspection system which, in our opinion is worthy of the name.

As our negotiations proceed in various forums, it is common and refreshing to observe that when, perhaps on account of the fatigue and excessive emphasis on details that inevitably go hand in hand with any negotiating process as intense as ours, we get unnecessarily side-tracked in the negotiations, a delegation reminds us of the direction and aim of the exercise. Consequently, we must remember that we are actually negotiating a security agreement, an agreement that has clear and precise objectives and does not try to impose restrictions on the chemical industry, an agreement that in fact seeks to offer sufficient guarantees so that in signing it, States will gain an additional degree of security. This morning, while considering the verification system under article IX, my delegation, without seeking to correct anyone's course, would merely like to remind the Conference of the nature of our negotiations. I am sure that we shall not forget this basic premise in the forthcoming months, which will undoubtedly be the final months.

By way of conclusion, allow me to indicate that as representative of a State that ratified the Geneva Protocol of 1925 without any reservations, we think that the time has come - the time can no longer be delayed - for those who ratified it with reservations to withdraw them so as to begin the 1992 session, during which the convention will be concluded, with a renewed spirit and commitment.