

(Mr. Komives, Hungary)

The Hungarian delegation welcomes the decision taken by the Committee at the last meeting, and congratulates Ambassador Curt Lidgard of Sweden, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on item 1. We can assure him of our full support and co-operation.

In April my delegation acted in a spirit of co-operation and compromise when it joined the consensus on a mandate for that Working Group. We considered and continue to consider the compromise formula as a basis on which concrete work towards the negotiation of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests can and must be started. We fully endorse the interpretation of the provision of that mandate given by Ambassador Herder of the German Democratic Republic in his statement on 21 April, and the Hungarian delegation will participate in the activities of the Working Group in conformity with that interpretation. My delegation fully shares the views expressed in connection with the work of the Working Group on a Nuclear Test Ban by my colleague from the German Democratic Republic who preceded me.

In the context of agenda item 1, the Hungarian delegation feels it necessary to express its regret and resentment concerning the attitudes of China and France with respect to their non-participation in the Working Group on a Nuclear Test Ban. We certainly hope that their negative posture will not last long.

The alarming news reports concerning the United States position on nuclear-weapon testing, and the United States Administration's open refusal to resume the trilateral talks on a comprehensive test ban, have come as a slap in the face to all those who are eager to start negotiations on that top priority issue. The prospect that the United States may even increase the size of the weapons tested, as indicated recently by one of the high officials in Washington, is a valid reason for concern and anxiety not only to members of this Committee but also to the whole of mankind.

The Hungarian delegation, therefore, is eagerly awaiting a detailed and unambiguous statement from the delegation of the United States, clarifying the intentions of its Government on that very important subject.

There is yet another item which I want to deal with today. During the spring session of the Committee the Hungarian delegation welcomed the adoption of a new mandate for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons, allowing it to accelerate the drafting of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction. We deem it essential, as we emphasized also at the special session, that renewed efforts should be made towards the early elaboration and conclusion of such a convention. We must keep in mind that certain decisions concerning the manufacture and deployment in Western Europe of a new type of chemical weapons, binary weapons, are likely to initiate a new surge in the arms race. It is, therefore, especially justified and urgent to demand the active contribution of all member States to the work that has been under way since 20 July in the Working Group under the able and energetic chairmanship of Ambassador Sujka of Poland