

just basis of the principle of equality and equal security, have always shown flexibility, taking account of mutual interests, and have striven to find a mutually acceptable solution.

In this connection, we note with satisfaction that in his statement at today's meeting the representative of the Soviet Union expressed readiness, in the event of the revision of the mandate of the Conference's subsidiary body on a nuclear-test ban and the beginning of the elaboration of a draft treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, to consider the possibility of organizing an exchange of data on the radioactivity of air masses with the establishment of appropriate international data centres.

We believe that this statement by the Soviet Union testifies yet again to its readiness to reach agreement on one of the priority issues on the Conference agenda.

Taking advantage of the opportunity given me today to speak at a plenary meeting, I should like to touch briefly upon the question of the prohibition of chemical weapons.

At the current session, the Conference on Disarmament, after prolonged and complicated consultations, at last re-established a subsidiary body which is now functioning under the name of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. A new mandate was agreed for this body, containing the provisions "to start the full and complete process of negotiations, developing and working out the convention, except for its final drafting, taking into account all existing proposals and drafts as well as future initiatives with a view to giving the Conference a possibility to achieve an agreement as soon as possible". Such a mandate, we think, offers the possibility of starting an important new stage in negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

From the very beginning of this session of the Conference, the socialist countries have expressed their readiness to participate in the new stage of negotiations in a businesslike and constructive manner.

The socialist countries' approach of principle and their views on improving the effectiveness of the work of the Conference in the field of the prohibition of chemical weapons are reflected in specific terms in working paper CD/435.

Mention should also be made of the topical nature of the proposal by the Warsaw Treaty Member States to the States members of NATO on the question of freeing Europe of chemical weapons. Mongolia firmly believes that this initiative provides yet another vivid confirmation of the socialist countries' sincere desire to remove the threat of chemical warfare from the States and peoples of Europe and the whole world and to speed up the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

Evidence of its constructive and flexible position, genuine interest in making progress in negotiations and search for mutually acceptable solutions was the Soviet Union's readiness to give positive consideration to the proposal for the permanent presence of the representatives of international control at special facilities for the destruction of stocks.

In its statements the Mongolian delegation has repeatedly stressed the need for an approach to the definition of verification measures commensurate with the requirements of the future convention. It has been emphasized again and again that the socialist countries attach no less importance than, say, the western States to the exercise of effective control over compliance with the implementation of the future convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. They have proposed a very broad range of verification measures. These include, for example, national control, international inspection by challenge, systematic international inspection and, in certain cases, permanent on-site inspections. The Soviet Union's numerous proposals and initiative on verification, which enjoy broad support in the negotiating body in question, are of great interest and significance in this respect.

We believe that a sensible approach is called for towards determining the most