

III

SUBSTANTIVE CONSIDERATIONS DURING THE 1981 SESSION

10. In accomplishing its task, the Working Group carried out another substantive and more detailed examination of the issues to be dealt with in the negotiation on a multilateral convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction. During the first part of the Committee's 1981 session the Working Group conducted its work on the basis of the outline suggested by the Chairman as contained in documents CD/CW/WP.7, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 14. The Chairman at the Committee's 127th plenary meeting on 24 April 1981 presented his report on the work of the Group during the first part of the 1981 session as contained in document CD/179. During the second part of the session the Working Group considered the draft elements of a chemical weapons convention, suggested by the Chairman and contained in CD/CW/WP.19, 20 and 21.

11. On the basis of statements as well as of oral and written comments by delegations, the Chairman, in an effort to elaborate the initial framework for a future chemical weapons convention which could facilitate further work, prepared revised versions of the draft elements for such a convention. These revised elements do not, however, reflect all the views which emerged on certain issues and include elements on which the delegation's views differed. Some delegations did not deem it advisable, at the present stage, to enter into discussion on certain elements, in particular some related to the issues of verification, proceeding from the belief that it was too early to do this until general agreement had been reached on the scope of the prohibitions. Others, however, expressed their opinions on these elements, proceeding from the belief that they could be examined at the present stage of the work and contribute to future negotiations. The revised text of the Chairman's elements as well as dissenting views as outlined in the comments are presented below. These comments do not, however, record all the positions of delegations which opposed these dissenting views. Delegations reserved themselves the right to further consider those and other proposals at the appropriate time.