

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

relating to arms limitation and disarmament issues, including the chemical weapons issue, and the papers on the chemical weapons ban emanating from the Wyoming ministerial meeting in September 1989, have been distributed at the request of the delegations of the Soviet Union and the United States as official documents of the Conference on Disarmament with the symbols CD/973 and CD/974.

In accordance with the instructions given by the ministers at their Moscow meeting, the delegations at the round continued work on a bilateral agreement on the reciprocal obligations of the USSR and the United States pending the international convention including, *inter alia*, the destruction of the bulk of their CW stocks to equal low levels. It is planned that an agreement of this nature will be signed in June 1990 at a summit meeting. Both parties expressed the hope that such an agreement will confirm the commitment of the USSR and the United States to move towards the achievement of a global ban on the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction. The agreement under preparation is intended to speed up the elimination of chemical weapons throughout the world, and will also help to accumulate a certain level of practical experience in implementing chemical disarmament.

The parties firmly hold the position that the discharge of obligations under the bilateral agreement will not be a pre-condition for, and will not jeopardize, the conclusion and implementation of a multilateral convention banning chemical weapons.

In the fourteenth round good progress was achieved in the elaboration of the text of the future agreement, although there are a number of problems still to be discussed. The participants examined questions connected with the implementation of the Wyoming memorandum of understanding regarding a bilateral verification experiment and data exchange related to prohibition of chemical weapons. Agreement was reached between the parties on an exchange of seven visits to three categories of facilities (chemical weapons storage facilities, production facilities and industrial chemical enterprises) under phase I of the arrangements agreed in the memorandum. It was agreed that the first exchange of visits will involve visits to chemical weapons storage facilities at the beginning of June this year. The delegations to the round practically completed the elaboration of the programmes and other details for the visits to specific categories of facilities. During the visits the parties plan to discuss in detail the applicability of the procedures agreed at the multilateral negotiations to the specific facilities which will be visited.

In pursuance of the agreement reached at the ministers' meetings in Wyoming and Moscow, the delegations started discussing matters of co-operation between the USSR and the United States on technology and procedures for safe and expeditious as well as economically and environmentally sound destruction of chemical weapons. Highly qualified experts from both sides took part in these discussions. Agreement was reached on an exchange of visits to appropriate facilities in the USSR and the United States.