

(Mr. Genscher, Federal Republic of Germany)

chemical weapons convention, but to seek stringent verification arrangements which effectively preclude the creation and possession of a militarily relevant chemical weapons potential. At no stage over the years have we doubted that effective verification mechanisms can be developed through joint efforts. Moreover, the effectiveness of the agreed verification measures can be examined during the 10-year destruction phase and improved if necessary. In the light of the results achieved at this Conference to date, we are confident that such a verification system can be attained soon. The conditions for this have improved.

On the difficult issues of challenge inspections and the so-called control of non-production, the Geneva Conference on Disarmament has made palpable progress in recent months. At this point I should like to thank Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden, who in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons has greatly helped to advance the negotiations by dint of his excellent direction of them.

The greatest advances have been made in the area of challenge inspections. The Soviet Union's readiness to accept in the context of arms control and disarmament the mandatory on-site inspections proposed by the West has had a positive impact in this respect. An important development was the announcement here by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in August 1987 that the Soviet Union consents to mandatory challenge inspections - in other words, international on-site inspections at short notice, whenever and wherever requested by another participating State. This must now be translated into concrete textual proposals. All countries are now called upon to reach agreement on a suitable section of the Convention, thus filling a sizeable gap in the current draft.

In the field of verification of the non-production of chemical weapons, the verification regulations for the chemical industry have been largely elaborated. As a result of the listing of chemical substances, a satisfactory system for monitoring non-production is available and can be adapted to the latest developments at any time by modifying the lists.

The Federal Republic of Germany has in the past contributed to the development of effective non-production controls and will continue to do so. In our working paper of March 1987, we suggested arrangements for the exchange of data between national authorities and the international organization to be set up under the Convention. In January of this year, our delegation presented ideas concerning the registration of super-toxic lethal chemicals used for civilian purposes and concerning extended controls throughout the chemical industry in the form of ad hoc checks. We feel that with these proposals further gaps in the verification régime can be plugged, and that the fears voiced by numerous countries can be dispelled. My Government has the full support of our domestic chemical industry for these proposals.

Important work has also been done in determining the nature of the international organization to be set up under the Convention. Our aim must be