

(Mr. Vajnar, Czechoslovakia)

world, such zones could limit the proliferation of chemical weapons and lessen the threat of their use. In so doing they would strengthen efforts aimed at the global ban on chemical weapons and would create more favourable conditions and a political atmosphere conducive to its early achievement.

Starting at the end of last November the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons met twice to continue work on the convention during the inter-sessional period. We consider the work done in the course of the six weeks useful. Under the chairmanship of Ambassador Sujka of Poland certain progress was registered on a number of issues, and some obstacles complicating the Committee's work in the past were removed. The Ad hoc Committee has just started its work for the 1989 session under the chairmanship of Ambassador Morel of France. The programme adopted is ambitious and should lead to intensive work. We welcome the fact that problems related to article VI are going to be discussed actively. My delegation also hopes that due attention will soon be accorded to the question of challenge inspections. Agreement on this issue would be a major step in the development of a general pattern of verification under a chemical weapons convention.