

(Mr. Turbański, Poland)

Of special importance in this respect was the statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, Mr. E. Shevardnadze, concerning the principle of mandatory challenge inspections. This approach by the Soviet Union opens up a new perspective to the solution of one of the most difficult and sensitive problems in the convention. At the final stage of negotiations the importance of confidence-building measures has increased considerably. The Soviet invitation to Shikhan'y is, especially in this context, a step without precedent. Not only the process of destruction of chemical weapons at a mobile facility, but also standard items of chemical munitions, will be demonstrated. The same goal will be served well by the Soviet invitation for delegations to visit a chemical weapon destruction facility at Chapayevsk, as well as the Soviet delegation's visit to a destruction facility in the United States (Tooele).

We believe these developments will have a strong positive impact on the work of the Ad hoc Committee in the near future.

Though realizing that a lot of work still remains to be done, I feel that the convention is within our grasp. That is why the existing momentum should not be lost before our task is accomplished. For that very reason the Polish delegation considers that maximum use should be made of the inter-sessional period, and fully endorses the proposal for an additional session or an extended session of the Conference devoted exclusively to chemical weapons before the end of this year. This would be quite a new practice for the Conference. But that is exactly what we need -- a new, fresh approach to the work of the Conference, commensurate with the importance of the present stage of the negotiations on chemical weapons. Considerable progress could be achieved before the end of this year, provided all delegations display the necessary will and sense of urgency.