

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

All this we have already explained in the course of consultations with other delegations, in private talks, etc., and we are prepared to continue to do so in order to reach an agreement as soon as possible.

The specific feature of the Soviet position consists in the fact that we do not propose any final solutions about arrangements for the application of the quota during verifications, because we believe that this could best be done by joint efforts. It is in this direction that we intend to concentrate our efforts in the future.

This, in our view, is the general state of affairs as regards the problem of the elimination of stocks of chemical weapons. There is everything necessary in order to advance in the nearest future to its solution and the completion of work on this matter as soon as possible.

There are, of course, certain other questions connected with the elaboration of the convention which require solution. We do not think that it would be correct to wait until a time when all of them are agreed on in principle before starting the drafting of the convention where that is possible. The experience gained at the negotiations shows that the best results are provided by flexibility and a skilful combination of various working methods.

In this connection, we would like in particular to dwell upon the question of the facilities for the production of chemical weapons. During the deliberations in the Committee on Disarmament on the preparation of a draft convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons, different views have been expressed and are still held as regards the time for the declaration of the location of facilities that are to be destroyed.

The Soviet Union and some other delegations, taking into account the possible general use of some facilities producing, in particular, chemical weapons, and the importance of not causing any harm to the commercial interests of the States parties because of their accession to the convention, and a number of other considerations which I shall refer to later, propose the starting of the elimination of chemical weapons production facilities not later than eight years after the convention enters into force, and the declaration of their location not later than one year before that date. Consequently, the initial declarations of States parties would refer only to their existing capacities for the production of chemical weapons.

At the same time we would like to state today that a mutually acceptable solution on the time for the declaration of the location of facilities and