

(Mr. Morel, France)

convention's verification system; in doing so they have to comply with a double imperative: first of all, to consider verification as a whole, because we need a coherent overall system, and secondly, to consider very closely each of the parts of this whole which have been submitted for consideration by delegations and will have to be finalized in the "rolling text": - routine inspections, of course - and in this regard we have to incorporate all the lessons of the national trial inspections which have begun - the question which has been raised, and which is as yet unanswered, of the possibility of additional measures, and the well-known issue of challenge inspection, as well as clarification procedures under article IX, which have been re-examined in the Committee. Thus it is an essential element of the future convention which has been the subject of difficult but detailed work.

Group No. 2, chaired by Mr. Gomaa, dealing with legal aspects, similarly considered the problems in an integrated way. It dealt, on the one hand, with what we might call an external aspect, a very important one, the relationship between the 1925 Protocol and the convention, and also the relationship between the convention and other international agreements, an issue which is not yet settled, and one on which there are strong differences of opinion. However, in many ways this situation is understandable and natural, and choices will eventually have to be made. The Group also dealt with the internal aspects of the legal system of the convention, namely amendments, for which a specific draft article has been prepared, final clauses and the question of the settlement of disputes, which had not been taken up so far.

With regard to Group No. 3, chaired by Mr. Sood, dealing with institutions, its activities generally involved consolidating the fundamental tripartite structure of the convention, as it has already become familiar. This concerns primarily the Conference of States Parties, on which specific work has been done. Next it concerns the Executive Council, on which consultations have been initiated in two stages, first in the Group and now under the aegis of the Chair of the Ad hoc Committee; I think the work on this subject is promising because it is very progressive. Lastly, it concerns the Technical Secretariat, which has already been considered carefully through the intermediary of the Preparatory Commission, which has in a sense been entrusted with prefiguring the establishment of the organs, and in particular the operational organ of the Technical Secretariat. In addition, this Group held an initial exchange of views on the question of the scientific advisory council, which is not viewed as a separate organ and will have to be discussed again. It also studied the very important question of the articulation between this tripartite institutional arrangement and the national authorities in each country. The entire problem of national implementation measures under article VII has thus been organized and in a way updated after a long period without change. I think on this chapter genuine progress was made, considerably facilitated by the work done in the national trial inspections.

As far as Group No. 4 is concerned, chaired by Mr. Molander and dealing with the technical aspects, the activities covered two major aspects. The first concerns what the delegations now routinely call the chemical annex, or the annex on chemicals, and the review permitted a reordering with the very valuable help of experts from capitals, of an entire series of technical provisions which were scattered throughout the "rolling text", to produce a