

(Mrs. Rautio, Finland)

If full advantage is to be taken of computerized techniques, various supporting systems will probably be needed, in addition to the verification data base. The supporting systems could comprise the personal computer system of the inspector, a laboratory information management system for a verification laboratory, instrumental data systems for mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometry, data systems of the automatic monitors, and general-purpose international data banks.

A technical description of the prototype data base developed within the Finnish project is given in the report. The system is based on a relational data base (RDB/VMS), and runs on a MicroVax II supermicrocomputer. We have adopted an iterative data-oriented approach that relies on rapid prototyping techniques because verification procedures in the verification are not yet well defined.

The prototype system contains analytical reference data and operational data. We have focused our description on the analytical reference data since our experience lies mostly in analytical techniques and data handling. Reference-type data from organizations and targets etc. are included only to illustrate the possibilities of the data base. As operational procedures have not yet been agreed upon within the CD, or are to be agreed upon later within the preparatory commission, the description of operational data is far from complete.

Data on chemical compounds should be actively updated to be as complete as possible when the convention enters into force. New compounds may be included after the initial declarations. At the moment, our data base contains few identification data on the chemicals listed in the schedules of the convention, for we are now producing fresh data using these standard operating procedures for analyses described in our previous report (CD/843). We consider the use of identical conditions for recording the reference data and the actual verification data of samples to be essential for reliable identification. Our work in this field has been facilitated by the kind donation of listed chemicals by the United Kingdom. We are also very pleased by a detailed offer from Switzerland to provide us with listed chemicals. We also appreciate the interest shown by a number of other countries in providing us with such chemicals.

A user's manual for our prototype system is included in the report. Concurrently with the publication of this report we are offering the prototype system for international experimentation and evaluation, with the purpose of demonstrating the use of this kind of computer system for management of verification data. We encourage users to supply comments and contribute new ideas. User names and passwords will be provided on request to all the States participating in the negotiations. To encourage evaluation and ideas for further development of the system, we hope to be able to arrange a user's training course in the near future.

User names and passwords can be applied for by completing and returning to the delegation of Finland the application form attached to my circulated statement. At the moment, we have no restrictions as to the number of possible users of our prototype system, so that each delegation can decide how many users it would like to have. We would appreciate comments and