

(Mr. Wegener, Federal Republic of Germany)

May I now turn to the subject of chemical weapons. My delegation, with others, regrets the lengthy and largely unnecessary procedures which have prevented the working groups of the Committee from commencing their annual work. However, in the field of chemical weapons some delegations have already made important contributions to the negotiation process. In the first place, I would like to refer to document CD/343, entitled "United States detailed views on the contents of a chemical weapons ban".

The Federal Government welcomes the introduction of this document which contains the essential substance of a future chemical weapons ban. The great value of this document is that it reflects the actual state of negotiations and that it has richly absorbed suggestions from other delegations. Its comprehensive nature, but also the professed flexibility of the authors on many of its positions, will make this document an essential tool for our future joint work. It also testifies, in a welcome manner, to the determination and good faith of its authors in their quest for a rapid conclusion of a chemical weapons convention. The document places particular emphasis on the key issues of international verification.

My delegation is particularly pleased to state that the suggestions which the Federal Government submitted throughout the year of 1982, and most particularly in document CD/326, have been largely incorporated into the United States text. Some delegations on the other hand, have already voiced initial criticisms vis-à-vis these verification proposals. They should, however, recognize the great advantage that the clear views and precise formulations on

(Cont'd)