

Mr. SHANNON (Canada):

... The only item I intend to address today is the item on chemical weapons. I will offer some Canadian comments on the progress achieved to date in the 1990 session. I also wish to address the priorities my Government attaches to particular aspects of our negotiations on the proposed chemical weapons convention. Further, I will introduce two Canadian technical studies relating to the issues of toxicity determination and the possible costs of operating an international inspectorate. Lastly, I wish to address our recently submitted report on the latest national trial inspection conducted by my authorities.

Mr. President, as we are in the final weeks of the formal 1990 session, it would seem appropriate to offer a Canadian assessment of our achievements to date. In our view, some very useful and important work has been accomplished in the summer session.

Ambassador Hyltenius, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, has advanced work on article IX by taking a fresh look at the material upon which such an article could be based. Under his overall direction:

Working Group A has further considered ways of improving the "protocol on inspection procedures", in particular the section on "alleged use" and the overlaps with the annexes to article VI, and has begun examining the proposal for ad hoc verification;

Working Group B has been particularly successful in finding solutions to some critical technical issues related to articles IV, V and VI, in particular on thresholds, definitions, and dates, and on elements of the question of the "order of destruction";

Working Group C has carefully worked out texts on "amendments", "settlement of disputes", and "measures to redress a situation" which seem to enjoy a high degree of general support and which offer the hope that these issues might well now be on the way to final resolution;

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