

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

In our view, there were sound prospects for progress at the outset of this year's session. The work of the subsidiary body on chemical weapons had been quite advanced. A new, forward-looking mandate for the Committee was quickly agreed upon. The new Chairman Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden, had carefully prepared this session of the Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his committed efforts in chairing the Committee.

All in all, my delegation, like many others, had, therefore, hoped at the beginning of this session that the "full and complete process of negotiations, developing and working out the convention" would start, as required under the new mandate. However, the country which had been telling us for quite some time that it was more than keen on quick progress in that field in fact tried during the first part of this session to block the beginning of the real drafting. Then, on 18 April, the United States delegation submitted its draft treaty to this Conference. Taking into consideration other proposals and what has been worked out already in the Committee, we have carefully examined this draft, on which I would like to make the following observations:

First, we share the assessments given by the delegations of the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Sri Lanka and many others with regard to this draft treaty. As far as its scope is concerned, the document contains loopholes to safeguard well-known United States interests and intentions. Many of its verification provisions, especially the so-called open invitation concept, are in flagrant contravention of basic principles of international law and represent a complete departure from the consensus that had been emerging on challenge inspection. Small wonder, therefore, that this concept has been dismissed by many delegations. In fact, we have not heard any delegation clearly supporting this concept, apart, of course, from the United States delegation;

Second, as far as the work of the committee on chemical weapons is concerned, we have not been able to discern any sign of the promised flexibility on the part of the United States delegation. Instead of advancing the negotiations by joining in the efforts to search for mutually acceptable compromises the United States is stubbornly sticking to positions which are not acceptable to many delegations. This attitude became clear again when the report of this committee was drafted, with the United States delegation insisting by all means on the insertion of the notorious Article X into this report.

Let us be quite frank with each other: negotiations are a give-and-take process. No delegation is allowed to impose its will on others.

Therefore, we appeal to the United States to review its approach to the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons. Otherwise, the prospects for progress may be rather gloomy.

Let me emphasize again that, in the view of the German Democratic Republic, greater efforts are required if the Conference is to make headway on the vital issues it is called upon to solve.