

(Mr. Morel, France)

at an agreed formula, we must first of all have specific elements to think about which will allow each delegation to clarify its position: this is the aim of the document contained in appendix II.

Turning to Group 4, it must be recognized that the "chemical annex" marks major progress. To go back to the general comment I made just now, this may be said to be a very technical issue, and thus one of secondary interest. But how can we not see that, particularly with schedules 1, 2 and 3, this annex contains the matrix of the general régime of the convention? The schedules are now clearly established, and closely tied in with specific declaration, monitoring and verification régimes. Going beyond the resulting technical improvements, regroupings, reordering and clarifications for the whole of the text, I would like to stress more broadly that this new annex strengthens the whole edifice of the convention. A year ago, at the same date, we were wondering about whether we ought to have three or four schedules because of the persistent difficulties related to the question of super-toxic lethal chemicals. The whole technical infrastructure of the convention was thus shaky. The question has been examined in depth, in all its complexity, with the valuable assistance of experts. I believe that all delegations today agree that a solution can be found in the context of the three régimes and the three schedules with the appropriate categories, giving prime attention to the revision of the schedules and thus to the identification of new products.

At the same time the group was able to substantially revise annex 1 to article VI and thus to reach agreement on the particular conditions for the very limited production of prohibited substances for research, medical, pharmaceutical and protection purposes. Work will have to be continued on this annex.

I now come to the fifth and last group, dealing with the transition, a theme which made it possible to look at the convention in a continuum of development, starting from the current negotiations and working up to the definitive régime at the end of the 10-year transitional period. Appendix II thus contains elements concerning the preparatory period, in particular relating to possible measures for co-operation even before entry into force, the role of the organization after entry into force, with the appropriate deadlines, and the exchange of data. Appendix II also contains a new text of major political importance, that is to say article X, relating to assistance and protection against chemical weapons. We need only recall that last year, in the same place, two texts confronted one another reflecting opposing conceptions, to be able to gauge the progress already accomplished in the search for solutions acceptable to all. I must also point out that on article XI, dealing with economic and technological development, consultations showed that there were no objections in principle, although for the moment it has not been possible to work on the text itself. Only one important aspect of the convention was not in fact dealt with directly this session - the order of destruction of stocks and production facilities - but for a good reason, since we can now count on the completion of the consultations conducted between the two States which have declared that they possess such stocks and facilities, that is to say the United States and the USSR.