

(Mr. Vajvoda, Czechoslovakia)

of key precursors is relevant and corresponding general criteria for the definitions of key precursors, and proposed a few chemicals which could be included in tentative lists of key precursors to be destroyed and to be manufactured under supervision. We also emphasized that the concept of key precursors should be reserved only for situations of exceptional importance for the security of States.

In this context it is also pertinent to touch briefly upon the issue of lists of chemicals in the convention.

The provisions of the convention reflect different levels of the problem. At the level of scope, for instance, the convention provides for the complete prohibition and destruction of all chemical weapons. Here, the general purpose criterion is sufficient, and by using a list of specific substances its general validity would probably be impaired rather than improved.

In such a specific problem as key precursors, some lists would be appropriate, because they should facilitate the discrimination of areas of the highest importance and the limitation of any unnecessary interference with the peaceful chemical industry.

However, even these lists would be provisional and ought to be periodically revised and brought up to date.

Consequently they should be incorporated in the convention in a way which would (1) give them the necessary authority as an obligatory provision of the treaty, and (2) allow for their appropriate revision in the future.

An annex, revised in the course of the review conference on the convention, might be a reasonable way to meet both requirements mentioned.

There is no doubt that at this stage of the negotiations the lists help to give the discussion more concrete dimensions. Still, we must focus our work on the formulation of general criteria which — being prerequisites for any objective listing of chemicals — would be valid permanently and would therefore be embodied in the main text of the convention.

Only something more than three weeks are left for our work on a chemical weapons convention during this year's summer session. It would be regrettable to use this time for the formalities so often presented in the course of the preparation of the Working Group's report. Our delegation is convinced that all efforts should be given to constructive work on the substance of the convention. I would like to express our conviction that the possibility still exists for us to achieve real progress even during the current session of the Committee.