

(Mr. Ekeus, Sweden)

My delegation considers that with respect to Group I the following chemicals are relevant: all supertoxic lethal chemicals which are or could be used for chemical weapons. Group I also should include single purpose other lethal chemicals, if any, and some other harmful chemicals, for example glycollate incapacitants. Another category which should be among the Group I chemicals are all key precursors with no or little peaceful use including those which could be used as key components of multicomponent weapons, such as DF and QL.

In Group II, my delegation would put chemicals which according to their toxicity are supertoxic lethal chemicals but which are used only for peaceful purposes, mainly within the pharmaceutical industry. Heart glucosides and some carbamates are examples of such chemicals. There is always a risk that the development of these chemicals could lead to the development of new chemical weapons. Therefore, if a State Party has reason to believe that a chemical in this group is a potential chemical weapon it may propose that the Consultative Committee move it to Group I.

Group II should also include key precursors which have peaceful uses.

In Group III we would include other lethal chemicals which have widespread peaceful uses but which have also been produced for chemical weapons purposes. Furthermore Group III would encompass "other harmful chemicals", other than those in Group I, as well as some precursors with widespread peaceful uses which might also be used in the early stages of the production of chemical weapons.

Having thus outlined the groups of chemicals, the basic principles for three corresponding régimes should be drawn up.

Régime I should apply to all the Group I chemicals. It should be a very strict and demanding régime, since the Group I chemicals basically are the ones solely intended for chemical weapons.

As regards the question of elimination of stocks the rule of Régime I should be elimination through destruction. Exceptions to this rule should be very few and must be explicitly permitted. One such exception would be a provision in the Convention that Group I chemicals may be retained for protective purposes in aggregate quantities not exceeding one ton annually.

As regards continued production the rule should be: no such production. Here again, some limited and explicit exceptions could, however, be envisaged. I am thinking about production for protective purposes in which case the aggregate amounts produced and retained should not exceed one ton annually. All such production should take place in a single small scale facility. Production for other purposes could also be permitted on a laboratory scale, in very small quantities, measured in grams/year.

As regards capacity for production of Group I chemicals, the rule should be that such capacity should be declared and eliminated.

The verification measures applicable in Régime I should be the most stringent and include the permanent presence of international inspectors as regards the elimination processes and monitoring and systematic international on-site inspection of the production.