

(Mr. Lowitz, United States)

repeatedly expressed its acceptance of the concept of challenge inspection, it has yet to set forth any comprehensive proposal. This is of concern to my delegation. We need to be mindful of what has transpired in other multilateral negotiating forums. In particular, in the Stockholm Conference, the highly publicized "agreement in principle" by the USSR to on-site inspection is now apparently so qualified as effectively to obstruct progress on this issue.

It is to be hoped that we are not witnessing a trend which could adversely affect the progress we see in other areas of the chemical weapons negotiations.

My delegation repeats yet again its view: that article X of the United States draft, document CD/500, was not presented on a take-it-or-leave-it basis, and other approaches that provide the equivalent level of effectiveness to article X will find a ready reception for careful consideration. The crucial importance of the issue of compliance with agreements, and the experience of my Government with regard to non-compliance with existing agreements, remains a key factor in our work.

In other years, members of this Conference could have been greatly pleased with the progress made on chemical weapons. This year our expressions of satisfaction must be tempered by the fact that our task is clearly becoming more urgent, and that the road ahead is long. The United States is thus in complete agreement that extended consultations should be undertaken this Fall, especially in late November and early December. Together with the January meeting of the full Committee, these should provide another opportunity to advance the negotiations prior to the start of our 1987 session.