

(Mrs. Theorin, Sweden)

violations of it. A challenge inspection system is indispensable. The core of the system should be international on-site challenge inspection. It would deter violations, if effectively designed.

Informal consultations on this matter during the spring session have been encouraging. Support is growing for the idea that a team of inspectors should be automatically dispatched following the request of a party. There are still differences of opinion as to whether the inspectors should have unimpeded access to the location or facility concerned, in accordance with the original request, also in the event that the requested State proposes an alternative arrangement.

An area where discussions have only recently begun are provisions on assistance and on economic and technological development. And the institutional arrangements of the convention must be elaborated. Outstanding issues must now be vigorously addressed. Progress already made shows that a convention is clearly within reach. Compromises will now have to be made, and even compromises hard to enter into. Crucial decisions will eventually have to be taken, and also decisions difficult to take. As negotiations hopefully draw closer to a decisive stage, I am confident that no member of the Conference will spare any effort to make possible the accomplishment of our common task: an urgently needed chemical weapons convention. With such a convention we should secure that all chemical weapons are destroyed -- once and for all.

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

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The States parties to the Warsaw Treaty have underlined the need for the earliest possible elimination of chemical weapons. Our conference should complete the pertinent convention by the end of this year. For that reason, the socialist countries will continue to participate actively in the efforts to draw up its text and its annexes. The Soviet Union's announcement that it has stopped producing chemical weapons and that it is building a facility for the destruction of existing stocks has had a particularly favourable impact on the atmosphere at the negotiating table. We trust the other side will respond in kind and refrain from any action likely to hamper the negotiating process.