

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

in the United States arsenal — the initial arrangements for which were made recently — would put the world in jeopardy because it would start an arms race in a new, particularly dangerous and costly direction.

The Bulgarian delegation is especially preoccupied with the intention to deploy the binary weapons on the territory of the United States' West European allies, thus bringing new dangers to the densely populated areas of the European continent. In this connection I should like to recall the topical importance of the proposal, put forth by the Warsaw Treaty Member States, to declare Europe a chemical-weapon-free zone.

This proposal should be viewed in its proper perspective, i.e. as an important disarmament measure, though of regional dimension. Such a measure would by no means diminish the significance of, or interfere with, the multilateral negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament but would rather complement them and strengthen the European security as a whole.

We also welcome the initiative of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Social Democratic Party of the Federal Republic of Germany to consider and develop the idea to establish a zone free of chemical weapons on the territory of three Central European States.

The implications stemming from the United States decision to authorize the production of binary weapons will have yet to be assessed in full, for it will, undoubtedly, have further repercussions on the nature and pace of the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, and indeed on all efforts aimed at banning and eliminating the chemical weapons. It is obvious that many important areas in the draft convention are complicated by the binary problem. I, therefore, reserve the right to speak again and in more detail, if necessary, on the problems recently created at the negotiations.

In the meantime, no efforts should be spared in the search for advancing the negotiations. Above all, it is necessary to arrive as soon as possible at a complete and satisfactory solution to the problem of binary and multi-component weapons. Such a solution ought to comprise: a sufficiently reliable approach for identifying the key components of that type of weapon; an agreement on a régime ensuring their non-production anywhere; and the adoption of such a schedule for the destruction of chemical weapons which would envisage their elimination in a priority order, if they should appear in the arsenals.

A comprehensive solution is also required for the issue of measures to be applied towards the chemical industry with the aim of ensuring non-production of chemical weapons in general. A final agreement is feasible following a consensus on the approaches for identification of the various categories of chemicals and on the role of the so-called