

(Mr. de Azambuja, Brazil)

"Considering that the achievements in the field of chemistry should be exclusively used for the benefit of mankind, on a universal and non-discriminatory basis,".

CD/PV.432

22

(Mr. Turbański, Poland)

• • •

During my years at the Conference I have been especially closely involved in the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons, witnessing both their highlights and everyday work. Substantial progress has been made over recent years. Let me say in this context how much I regretted learning of the retirement of Ambassador Cromartie, whose contribution to the progress achieved is well known and appreciated, and may I, through you, ask the United Kingdom delegation to transmit to him my very best wishes.

If I try to assess the results of this year's session of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, I would say that in general the pace of systematic settlement of problems relating to the future convention was kept up. Though the intensity has varied, I feel that progress was being made throughout the whole session.

I wish to express our gratitude to the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Ekéus, for his able guidance of the Committee's work, his own and his delegation's strenuous efforts toward finalization of the draft text of the future convention. His deep commitment and devotion, as well as those of the cluster co-ordinators, Mr. Nieuwenhuys, Mr. Macedo and Mr. Krutzsch, were a great help to all of us and have contributed significantly to broadening and strengthening the areas of understanding, thus bringing us closer to the common goal.

The draft report currently under consideration in the Committee does not, in our opinion, fully reflect the present stage of the negotiations. We are more advanced in our work than is shown in the annexes to the report. I have in mind the results of diverse consultations at different levels, as well as declarations and announcements by delegations desiring to contribute to the development of mutual confidence and better understanding. All these assist in attentive and scrupulous preparations for the final stage of the negotiations on the convention and its subsequent signature.