

(Mr. Jayakoddy, Sri Lanka)

The one area in which the Committee has made some evident progress which can give rise to a faint degree of hope and optimism is its work on a chemical weapons ban. Successive working groups supplemented by contact groups on this item have helped to bring closer the day when we can with caution expect that drafting of a treaty could begin this year. It is evident that all representatives in this Committee continue to demonstrate willingness to move the work further forward. The Committee, therefore, can justifiably claim a small degree of achievement on this issue.

(Mr. de La Gorce, France)

Among the tasks confronting the Committee, that of negotiating a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons is of primary importance and could offer prospects of real progress in the very near future. We note certain positive elements in this connection.

(Cont'd)