

(Mr. Ledogar, United States)

The sides also agreed in Wyoming to undertake a co-operative effort with respect to the destruction of chemical weapons. We agreed to reciprocal visits to monitor destruction operations of each other's side, and to the exchange of information on past, current and planned destruction activities and procedures.

To facilitate the entry into force of the convention at the earliest possible date, President Bush proposed in his 25 September United Nations speech that the United States and the Soviet Union begin to destroy a major portion of their CW stocks even before the convention enters into force. We believe this commitment would give an impetus to rapid completion of the convention. In this connection, I am pleased to be able to inform my colleagues that the United States, in a unilateral action completed just a few weeks ago, has now destroyed its entire stockpile of the incapacitating chemical weapon BZ. I will be providing more detail on this destruction later.

The United States no longer insists that all CW-capable States be parties to the convention from the beginning. Provided the Soviet Union is party to the convention, the United States will become a party at the outset. By year 8, we will have destroyed down to 2 per cent - that is, down to one forty-ninth - of our current stockpile. I want to emphasize and to make clear to the experts here that President Bush's proposal will require significantly faster and deeper United States and Soviet cuts than currently envisioned in the draft convention text.

The United States would destroy the remaining 2 per cent by year 10 of the convention provided that all CW-capable States have become parties.

There is already broad agreement in this body that to be effective a CW convention must include all States of concern. Our proposal is an effort to address this issue in a way that does not delay entry into force of the convention.

The 2 per cent residual is intended to provide an incentive to hold-out States to become parties to the convention. All States that join the convention must do their utmost to bring pressure to bear on any CW-capable States that remain outside.

We have already made substantial progress in implementing aspects of President Bush's initiative. Recently, the United States and Soviet Union agreed at the ministerial in Moscow to work out a bilateral agreement on reciprocal obligations pending the international convention including, inter alia, the destruction of the bulk of our CW stocks to equal low levels. The objective is to complete and sign such an agreement at the June 1990 Bush-Gorbachev summit meeting.

Incidentally, all of the United States-USSR documents I have cited have been presented by both our delegations in the English and Russian versions for circulation by the secretariat as CD documents.

The United States and the Soviet Union just last week began another round of bilateral discussions, which are concentrating on preparing the agreement for the June summit meeting and on implementation of the Wyoming memorandum of understanding.