

(Mr. Asif Ezdi, Pakistan)

Besides the assistance which a State party might request and obtain in the face of an actual threat, the Consultative Committee would be entrusted with the task of initiating assistance programmes to enable interested States to develop a protective capability of their own. Furthermore, individual States would assume the obligation to encourage the free exchange and transfer among States parties of equipment, material and scientific and technological information relating to protection against chemical weapons.

We believe that the proposal contained in document CD/752 is both necessary and realistic. The obligation of providing assistance which States parties would assume would not, in our opinion, be too onerous considering the advantages that would accrue from it for the Convention. These advantages can be summarized in three words: universality, viability and effectiveness.

My delegation welcomes the fact that the programme of work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons envisages the commencement of work on article X during the 1987 session. It is our hope that, when this article is taken up, our proposal will receive consideration from other delegations.

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Mr. MOREL (France) (translated from French):

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In recent weeks the question of negotiating a convention banning chemical weapons has been the subject of a number of major statements that my delegation has studied with keen interest. Eager to attach all due importance to this discussion, France has produced a number of proposals on the non-production of chemical weapons, notably with a view to creating a Scientific Council. Today we would like to make one or two remarks on three points that we believe crucial to the negotiations: the destruction of stocks, the procedure of challenge inspection and the crucial question of security stocks.

First of all, with regard to the destruction of stocks, my delegation noted with interest the statement made here on 14 April by the representative of the Soviet Union concerning the proposals put forward on this subject