

(Mr. Dhanapala, Sri Lanka)

Ad Hoc Committee so successfully and for the useful inter-sessional work he conducted. We now have a basis for further progress in ridding the world of this repulsive form of weaponry effectively and finally. We were glad therefore that in the very first week of our 1986 session this Ad Hoc Committee has been re-established with Ambassador Cromartie, whom we wish well, as Chairman. We are negotiating an all-encompassing and comprehensive chemical-weapons ban to prohibit the development, manufacture and use of all forms of chemical weapons that could be employed in hostilities including those intended to strike at the sources of mankind's sustenance and the ecological system that nourishes the human environment. The speedy conclusion of this work will be a credit to the Conference on Disarmament but it cannot be the only area in which we must show results.

(Mr. Tonwe, Nigeria)

The question of elaborating a multilateral convention for the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of

(Mr. Tonwe, Nigeria)

chemical weapons is one to which my delegation attaches great importance. Next only to nuclear weapons, chemical weapons constitute the most dangerous weapons of mass destruction.

The General Assembly in its resolution on the issue last fall "Urges the Conference on Disarmament to intensify the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons with a view to achieving accord on a chemical weapons convention at the earliest possible date and, for this purpose, to intensify the drafting process of such a Convention for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-first session". My delegation welcomes the early re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons and is pleased to note that the body has already begun work, under the Chairmanship of one of our most competent colleagues in the field, the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom, Ambassador Ian Cromartie. We are impressed by the considerable progress so far made in the negotiations and would appeal to all members of this Conference to do their utmost to ensure the early conclusion of a convention prohibiting chemical weapons. Such a breakthrough will certainly have a positive influence on negotiations in other areas, and to achieve that breakthrough, the draft convention must recognize the sovereign equality of all States, and the similarities in their security requirements. The convention must not seek to create categories of "have and have-not" States which characterized the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1970.