

(Ms. Hernes, Norway)

As stated in document CD/861, it is of interest in the context of the chemical weapons convention that the nerve agents sarin, soman, tabun and VX, as well as the blister agent mustard gas, can be verified in samples from water, grass, sand or soil after two weeks' exposure to summer conditions. The results have also proved that the procedures developed for winter conditions can be directly applied in summer conditions. The tests have further confirmed the validity of the proposed procedures for verification of the alleged use of chemical weapons, which Canada and Norway presented in document CD/766 of 2 July 1987, and to which the existing "rolling text" refers. Finally, the conclusions point to the necessity of improving the technical aspects of analytical methods in the light of rapid technical and scientific developments.

We believe that work of this nature is useful in connection with the ongoing discussions in the Committee on Chemical Weapons on the conduct of challenge inspections and relevant guidelines on the international inspectorate. In addition, several elements of the elaborated procedures can be used in the verification of other parts of the convention, such as destruction of stocks, etc. Therefore, I am pleased to inform you that the Norwegian research programme will continue with a view to contributing to an effective convention.

CD/PV.479

10

(Mr. Pericás, Brazil)

The same resistance and obstruction that have so far prevented the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted in 1978 would not evaporate even if a new consensual concluding document to complement it had been adopted. The important process of change that is under way on the international scene induced us, perhaps, to a certain degree of over-expectancy, as some of us were persuaded that if multilateralism cannot work when the super-Powers disagree, the converse would automatically be true. Unhappily, the logic of political thinking has once more surprised us. Starting from the same facts - the progress in the dialogue between the super-Powers and in their bilateral negotiations - others came to different conclusions; namely that bilateralism was the correct approach to most items on the disarmament agenda and that multilateralism could only operate, under strict control, in some very precise areas - such as chemical weapons - or on the so-called "horizontal themes" - such as confidence-building measures or verification.