

Mr. CROMARTIE (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I should like first to tell you of the profound shock with which I heard the news of the death of Ambassador Don Lowitz, whom we mourn both as a colleague and as a friend. He arrived in this Conference two years ago this week and we admired the courage and skill with which he stepped, at his first meeting, into the Chair which you now occupy to preside with success over the Conference for the month of February. Thereafter we were able to admire the ability and integrity with which he conducted his official function as leader of the United States delegation and we enjoyed friendship with him and with his family. He would have been sitting next to me today and it is with sorrow that I realize I shall see him no more. I should be grateful if the United States delegation would accept my deep condolences and convey them to his widow, Shana, whom we remember with affection and sympathy, and to their children.

I should now like to speak as outgoing Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons to present the report which was adopted by the Committee on 29 January and which is now before you as document CD/734. This report covers the work carried out during the intersessional period on the basis recommended in the Committee's last report, CD/727, of 21 August, and approved by the Conference on 28 August.

The Conference requested that the Committee should resume its work under its existing mandate for a session of limited duration during the period 12-30 January 1987 on issues under Articles III, IV, V, VI and IX and the parts of Article II relevant to Articles V and VI, that consultations should be undertaken on those issues by the Chairman in the meantime in preparation for the resumed session, and that for that purpose open-ended consultations of the Ad Hoc Committee should be held between 24 November and 17 December 1986, including, where necessary, meetings with full services, and that the Committee should report to the Conference on Disarmament on its work during the intersessional period. It is this report that I am giving to you today.

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