

Mr. QIAN JIADONG (China) (translated from Chinese):

The item on the prohibition of chemical weapons had been considered the most hopeful one. At the beginning of this session, an Ad Hoc Committee was soon set up and under the experienced guidance of its Chairman, Ambassador Ekéus, and the chairmen of the various working groups, negotiations were initiated on the drafting of a treaty and certain progress made. However, in spite of such an encouraging start, the momentum was gradually lost and the pace of work slowed down. There still exist serious differences on certain crucial points. The elaboration of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons is still an arduous task.

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

Last but not least, in submitting proposals of which it knew in advance that they were unacceptable to the majority of States at this Conference, the United States has rendered the work of the committee on chemical weapons more difficult, to put it mildly. Here, as in other cases, a so-called verification question has been invented to hide the real intentions.

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