

(Mr. Ceska, Austria)

In the context of the further elaboration of inspection procedures, I have pleasure in informing you that Austria conducted a national trial inspection on 8 and 9 August 1989. An initial visit took place on 13 July. A preliminary report will be submitted to the Conference before the end of the summer session. Let me just state that, thanks to the co-operative attitude shown by the chemical industry and the enterprise representatives, some quite interesting findings were reached.

Turning to the Government-Industry Conference against Chemical Weapons scheduled to take place in Canberra from 18 to 22 September this year, I wish to underline that my Government welcomes the Australian initiative to host such a conference and will participate therein. This will be an opportunity for an exchange of views between representatives of Governments and chemical industry. Such a dialogue is indispensable, since co-operation by the chemical industry in the implementation of a future global convention will be essential. The chemical industry must at the same time realize that it is in its own interest to assume a fair share of responsibility within the framework of an overall ban on these weapons. It is imperative for the chemical industry to be made aware of its responsibility in this field, and we thus view the convening of the Canberra Conference as most timely.

At the same time, there must not be any misunderstanding about the roles to be played in the preparation of the global convention. The main responsibility in this respect lies with those countries which possess chemical weapons or the industrial structure and know-how to produce them. Chemical enterprises as well as industrial companies will hopefully be partners in this process. As stated, their role in the implementation, national surveillance and enforcement of a convention, once adopted, is vital to the functioning of such a régime. This involvement of the chemical industry calls for an ongoing and constant dialogue between Governments and industry, yet this role will be determined by international treaty obligations - obligations which can only be undertaken by States. Therefore, in line with international law governing the conclusion of international agreements, only Governments can and shall negotiate a convention.

I take this opportunity to inform you that Austria has - within the framework of the Australia Group - joined in the efforts of other States in controlling its exports of certain chemical substances which can play a role in the production of chemical weapons. We are well aware, however, that this initiative is but an interim measure which would be abandoned once a global convention banning all chemical weapons has been concluded.

Mr. van SCHAİK (Netherlands):

... This year the negotiations on chemical weapons started on a new footing. The Paris Conference boosted confidence. Many countries expressed their interest by participating in the work, bringing the total number of participating countries, I believe, to 66. The able Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, Ambassador Pierre Morel, gave impetus