

(Mr. van Schaik, Netherlands)

In making a contribution to the solution of the issue of verification of non-production we hope to give a fresh impetus towards the solution of the verification issue in general. Problems at present under discussion in the negotiations are indeed complex, but technicalities can never be so complex that we cannot overcome them. This work of ours may sometimes appear less spectacular and will perhaps also be more tedious than the deliberations of a more general nature and on a more elevated level to which we are used in this chamber. But it should remind us of Werner Sombart's words: "Das richtige ist meistens langweiliger als das Falsche" -- "Right action is generally more tedious than falsehood".

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Mr. SHAFII (Islamic Republic of Iran): Thank you, Mr. President. We have here with us today two Iranian victims of the air-raid use of chemical weapons in Isfahan. If you will allow me, I will make a short statement in this respect. The two gentlemen behind me were kind enough to come to this meeting, in spite of some difficulties, to make their modest contribution to the work of the Conference on Disarmament: they are physicians, Dr. Bagherpoor Tehrani and Dr. Dehdashtian, who have been undergoing medical treatment in Switzerland and are now on their way to Iran. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express the sincere thanks of my Government and my delegation to the Swiss Government and to the Swiss hospitals for the humanitarian efforts they have made with regard to the treatment of these and many other Iranian victims of chemical-weapon use. It is very much hoped that other countries too will show influence and co-operation, as a matter of humanitarian principle, in receiving chemical-weapon victims in their territory, and in this way show their sincere commitment with regard to the ban on the use of chemical weapons. Now, if you will permit me, I will leave this seat so that Dr. Tehrani may say a few words concerning his experience of the use of chemical weapons.

Dr. TEHRANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) (translated from French): In the name of God, the Merciful. My name is Ahmad Bagherpoor Tehrani. I am a doctor and I work at Lormanadouli hospital in Teheran. I was sent to the front for a month, I worked in Fatene Ahra hospital, near Abadan, where I attended the wounded. It was towards the end of February, when I was on night duty until 2 o'clock in the morning. After falling asleep in the morning, I was woken up by the noise of rockets near the hospital. The hospital director came to my room and said that we all had to go to the emergency ward because there was a large number of wounded. Then we noticed that there was a strange smell in the room. The other doctors who were with me said that the rockets used had been chemical rockets. We used the special uniforms which had been distributed and went to the hospital. There was a very large number of wounded. They had been exposed to cyanide gas and emergency