

It seems to me that our Committee has done a great deal of work in the very short space of time available to it and within the narrow limits set by its working conditions, both external and internal.

The Committee's efforts have to a large extent been concentrated on the important lines of chemical weapons.

The Working Group on Chemical Weapons has achieved noteworthy results. The French delegation had some doubts at first about the method of working groups suggested by the Chairman. It is glad to be able to say that these doubts were unjustified, and it wishes to compliment the members of the Working Group on the organization of the work proved entirely successful. The establishment of the Working Group permitted a thorough consideration of the various aspects of a convention: it served to highlight those subjects on which a consensus was in sight, and particularly, it made it easier to tackle the very many problems remaining to be resolved, including those of the scope of the convention, definitions, restrictions, control of stocks and the initiation and rate of their destruction and the problem of methods of international verification.

In some cases the Working Group adopted working hypotheses which might serve as a basis for finding solutions and for facilitating negotiations. The French delegation wishes to express its gratitude to the co-ordinators of the Working Group, their reports, which are annexed to the report of the Working Group, should prove very useful during our subsequent work.

With regard to radiological weapons, the consultations actively conducted by Ambassador Haxthausen, the Chairman of the Working Group, have had the effect of opening up channels of communication between delegations to discuss an initiative which will benefit the realization of the principal object of the Convention in so far as the prohibition of radiological weapons is concerned. The Working Group, presided by the Chairman, will continue its activities in this field.

The Working Group is also engaged in the protection of civilians against nuclear weapons. Several delegations wish to be able to do this at the same time, and the Working Group, by the initiative of the Chairman, has also opened up channels of communication in this field.

A third Working Group has held meetings during our summer session. Its work has been to examine the issues relating to verification which would arise in connection with a nuclear test-ban treaty. It is hoped that the Working Group will be able to make a contribution to the solution of these problems. The Secretary-General will continue to be engaged in this work and it is hoped that it will be possible to continue the work of the Working Group in this field.

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