

(Mr. Iossifov, USSR)

Allow me now to dwell in a little more detail on certain aspects of the trial inspection which are of direct relevance to the issues in the context of inspections on request currently under discussion in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. First, it should be noted, in our view, that the inspection team was granted access to any place within the inspected facilities. During the inspection there were no cases of refusal to grant any requests for access. Another aspect is related to the time elapsing between the submission of the request for the inspection and the granting of access to the facilities indicated in the request. The request was submitted 16 hours prior to the arrival of the inspection team at the point of entry. Access to the first facility was provided within two hours after arrival at the point of entry. The notification of the second facility to be inspected was presented 15 hours prior to the arrival of the inspection team at the facility. During the inspection agreed equipment was used.

Naturally, the results of this inspection on request do not claim to be regarded as universal, but we hope that their joint presentation by the Soviet and Polish delegations will help the participants in the negotiations to finalize their approach to this form of verification.

Mr. ELARABY (Egypt):

I shall at the outset address the chemical weapons convention. I begin by paying tribute to the efforts of Ambassador Serguei Batsanov of the Soviet Union, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, and the three chairmen of the working groups entrusted with the preparation of the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons, as well as the Friends of the Chair. My delegation's gratitude also goes to Mr. Abdelkader Bensmail and his able assistants for their meticulous work.

The spectre of the production and use of chemical weapons has caused universal concern. There is no doubt that a comprehensive treaty banning chemical weapons is the appropriate framework to deal with the question. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons established by the Conference on Disarmament is closely followed now by the international community as a whole. The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons is at present

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