

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

Verification of the presence or absence of undeclared or unknown forms or types of chemical weapons is indeed a complicated task. To perform this task it may be necessary to open specimens of munitions, devices and containers. It would therefore seem advisable to consider the possibility of developing verification methods and equipment by means of which it can be determined without opening it that a given specimen is not a chemical weapon.

As a result of the inspection, the team drew up a number of conclusions and suggestions, which are also set out in the report presented today. In particular, the team came to the conclusion that in order to reduce the level of disclosure of sensitive information which is not CW-related, the management of a facility being inspected must be able during the inspection to propose alternative measures as a substitute for access by the inspectors to particularly confidential information. However, the test of acceptability of such alternative measures must in every case be that they are satisfactory to the inspection team. The results of the inspection also demonstrate that the international inspectorate must undertake to safeguard confidential information which may become known to the inspectors in the course of the inspection. Hence, for example, where no breaches are identified, the inspection report should contain a minimum of factual information and should not reveal the nature of the activities conducted at the inspected facility.

In presenting document CD/966, the Soviet delegation hopes that it will contribute to the constructive consideration of the challenge inspection problem and facilitate deeper investigation of issues related to such inspections.

In conclusion, I would like to say a few words in connection with the fact that in a few moments we will be adopting the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Pierre Morel of France for the successful completion of his work as Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee. I believe the progress reflected in the report is due to a large extent to the tireless efforts of Ambassador Morel and his thorough approach to the complicated issues which are on the negotiating table, his energy and his flexibility. I should also like to congratulate Ambassador Carl-Magnus Hyltenius of Sweden on his election to the post of Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for this year, and to express the conviction that under his leadership we will be able to achieve a decisive breakthrough on the convention.

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The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for his statement. That concludes my list of speakers today. Does any other member wish to take the floor? It seems not.

We shall now proceed to adopt the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, as contained in document CD/961. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Conference adopts the report of the Ad hoc Committee.

It was so decided.