

Mr. HUSLID (Norway):

... I am not going to make a policy statement today, as State Secretary Helga Hernes did so at the end of the spring session. My contribution will be limited to the presentation of two working papers which have been circulated to delegations. One of these, CD/936, deals with verification of alleged use of chemical weapons and contains the main result of the past year's research at the Division for Environmental Toxicology of the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment at Kjeller, near Oslo. The other, CD/935, deals with verification of a comprehensive nuclear test ban and gives an account of recent developments in the Norwegian seismic verification programme. Both of these documents concern research programmes which have been the subject of Norwegian contributions to this Conference for quite some time.

The working paper on verification of alleged use of chemical weapons gives a summary of this year's research report, which will be presented to the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons in the near future.

This year the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment introduced a new technique of analysis for verification of alleged use of chemical weapons. This is known as the headspace gas chromatography technique, which permits analysis directly on samples without prior cleaning procedures. Based on this simplified method, research is being continued with a view to further developing procedures to be followed by an international inspection team.

In 1989 the research has focused on the application of this new technique. Two series of field trials have been carried out: one in February, the other in June. In the first exercise, four different sample materials were contaminated with 1 mg each of the nerve agents sarin and soman and left outdoors for exposure to the prevailing weather conditions. Samples were collected for analysis at different time intervals in order to get an idea of the deterioration rate of the agents. In the second exercise the number of agents was increased to five: tabun, sarin, soman, mustard gas and diisopropyl methylphosphonate. The number of sample materials was increased to 10. Analysis was carried out after two and four weeks. A separate exercise was conducted to evaluate the influence of various temperatures during the transport of samples.

I will not go into the results of these experiments here, as that would go too far, but will confine myself to referring to the working paper and the

(continued)