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(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

On the whole, the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the banning of chemical weapons may also be deemed positive. It can safely be said that the negotiations on this issue have this year entered upon a qualitatively new phase. Academic discussions and abstract deliberations have given way to the substantive fixing and formulation, if only in the most preliminary way, of individual provisions of a future convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. Hardly anyone would dispute the fact that the decision by the United States administration to commence the production of binary chemical weapons harmed the negotiations. The Conference would undoubtedly have achieved more tangible results in its work on a draft convention. All the prerequisites for that were present. This was, however, frustrated by a sharp change in the position of one delegation towards the end of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the banning of chemical weapons. We have already encountered more than once in the past a situation in which a State that spares no effort in proclaiming itself willing to conclude a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons and its own draft convention on the matter has undermined the talks at the very moment when some measure of progress begins to emerge in the Conference. Such was the case in 1984. The same story repeated itself in 1985, and, indeed, in the very closing days of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Tribute is due to distinguished Ambassador Turbanski, who selflessly strove for positive results in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons which he headed.

The Soviet delegation is ready to do everything in its power to further the elaboration of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons at the forthcoming consultations in the autumn and at the Ad Hoc Committee's extended session in January 1986. It goes without saying that much will depend on the position taken by our partners in the negotiations.