

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

Right from the beginning of the current session one of the items of immediate practical importance has been considered to be the chemical weapons ban — given the advanced stage of the negotiations and the clearly-worded mandate, which envisages formulating a draft convention. Under the able and consistent guidance of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, the distinguished representative of Poland, Ambassador Turbanski, the negotiations gained in depth. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Turbanski on the occasion of his country's National Day, 22 July, which he also spent working on various problems of the negotiations on chemical weapons.

On a number of areas of the convention a good basis was set up for finding mutually acceptable solutions. I have in mind the meaningful negotiations that took place on many important aspects of the "Permitted Activities"; the further progress made in regard to the issue of diversion of chemical-weapon stocks; the consideration of the function and role of the national body for implementation and control. It is noteworthy that the discussion in the three Working Groups throughout the spring part of the session and until recently was marked by a business-like spirit and the extremist positions, it seems, yielded to the tendency for a more sensible and balanced approach.

From the point of view of these positive trends in the negotiations, the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria cannot but point out, with regret, the United States' decision to give the green light to large-scale production of binary chemical weapons. This decision creates a new, complex situation at our multilateral negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons — both from a political and diplomatic point of view, and because of the obstacles and complexities of a military and a technological character resulting from this new weapon. The socialist countries have been repeatedly warning that the introduction of binary chemical weapons

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