

(Mr. Friedersdorf, United States)

United States modernization programme will be a greatly diminished stockpile of safer chemical weapons. Of course, we are prepared to cease all chemical weapons production upon entry into force of the chemical weapons convention presently being negotiated in the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons here in Geneva.

Our delegation had a second objective when it tabled CD/711 in 1986. The information we provided to this Conference included the location of every chemical weapons storage site in the United States; the description, in considerable detail, of the specific chemical agents located at each site; the type of weapon or container used; and the percentage of the total United States-based chemical weapons tonnage located at each site. It was our hope that, by demonstrating the kind of candour that we sought from others, we might inspire others to be similarly open about their chemical weapons, and thereby foster the confidence so vital for a global chemical weapons convention. The following year, the Soviet Union conceded for the first time that it possessed chemical weapons - a disclosure that marked the beginning of serious, productive discussions between the United States and the Soviet Union, and a period of unprecedented progress in chemical weapons negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament. We have been disappointed, however, that no States have come forward to make the detailed disclosures found in CD/711, and that no State but the Soviet Union has even declared that it possesses chemical weapons. Much more candour will be necessary before we are able to achieve a truly global convention.

I would like to turn to another aspect of our efforts to bring into being a global chemical weapons convention. That is the subject of national trial inspections, a subject that a number of other delegations have already addressed during the opening weeks of the 1989 session. The United States has conducted its first trial inspection at the facility operated by Akzo Chemicals Incorporated, in Gallipolis Ferry, West Virginia, approximately 450 kilometres west of Washington, D.C. The inspection exercise was conducted in late February of this year. The United States has not completed its evaluation of this exercise, and accordingly, my remarks today are of an informal and preliminary nature, subject to the more detailed and definitive analysis which we hope to submit to the Conference during the summer half of the session.

Our trial inspection exercise was a joint effort between the United States Government and the American chemical industry. It was our good fortune to have the help and close co-operation of the Akzo Chemical Company and other representatives of the chemical industry in the conduct of the trial. I am happy to express publicly our thanks to them. The Akzo facility at which the exercise took place produces a schedule [2] chemical, dimethyl methylphosphonate (DMMP), from a schedule [3] chemical, trimethyl phosphite (TMP). Some of the DMMP is used at the facility to produce a polymeric flame retardant that also falls in schedule [2].

In carrying out this first trial, some of the procedures that would be necessary during an actual inspection under the chemical weapons Convention, such as notification, transportation and escort arrangements, were omitted in