

(Mr. Vejvoda, Czechoslovakia)

There is no doubt that the verification issue remains one of the most important unresolved problems. It would seem unwise, however, to press for the inclusion in the treaty of political views bearing so much the mark of the present political atmosphere of mistrust and suspicion and of such evident efforts to gain a unilateral military advantage.

This is why my delegation supported, and is going to support, the concept of international verification underlying the basic provisions for a chemical weapons convention submitted last year by the USSR. May I recall that, according to this concept, different phases with different amounts of information and of verification measures have been foreseen for the substantial period of time needed for the complete destruction of chemical weapons stocks and facilities. This period has been understood as a sui generis process of international co-operation, in the course of which the States parties will be given an increasing opportunity to prove mutually their serious commitment to a strict compliance with all the provisions of the convention.

This concept has fully taken into account the existing international situation and provides for a dynamic process of permanently increasing confidence as well as an increasing mutual exchange of information, satisfying all legitimate demands of States for the necessary security guarantees. At the same time we are of the opinion that the concept of a systematic international verification on the basis of agreed quotas could be further elaborated in a more detailed form.

I would like to assure you that my delegation is ready to co-operate in the negotiation of these important questions in a most effective and constructive manner.