

(Mr. Ekéus, Sweden)

~~Attempts~~ were made to identify such production facilities that would be of relevance to provisions under the Convention. Attention was paid to the question of how to handle production facilities which had only temporarily or partly been used to produce toxic chemicals and key precursors intended for the production of chemical weapons in other facilities.

With regard to compliance issues, attempts were made to explore modalities for bilateral consultations under the future convention as well as verification by challenge. A general understanding seemed to emerge that the Convention would include basic procedures for the conduct of systematic international on-site verification to be carried out in accordance with relevant Articles of the Convention. The Consultative Committee would under the future convention work out detailed procedures in relation to each facility, subject to systematic international on-site inspection. The result of the consultations were summarized in a Working Paper of the Committee.

The question of prohibition of use of chemical weapons in the future convention was subject to consultations aimed at finding a common approach. In particular the interrelationship between the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925 and the future convention, as well as formulations of the prohibition of use of chemical weapons were considered.

A Working Paper on a principal order for the complete destruction of chemical weapons was distributed by the Chairman. The problem addressed in the Working Paper, how to ensure that the destruction of chemical weapons does not lead to military advantage for a Party possessing chemical weapons, was not the subject of consultations in the Committee as a whole.

It has been generally agreed that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee during the January session has resulted in further clarification of some of the issues involved, while other issues were identified and explored for the benefit of the future negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee under its new Chairman.

It is also my opinion that we now can identify some issues which could be addressed with good prospects for progress.

I would like to express my thanks to all delegates having participated in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. A special thanks goes to those delegates that have assisted the Chairman and the Committee by undertaking to lead consultations, whether open-ended or limited, or in other ways for their valuable contributions in bringing this phase of our negotiations to a successful conclusion. I have of course in mind Ambassador Beesley of Canada, Mr. Akkerman of the Netherlands, Mr. Duarte of Brazil and Dr. Thielicke of the German Democratic Republic.

I will also express my special gratitude to Mr. Abdelkader Bensmail for the excellent handling of the Secretariat services by him and his able staff as well as for his indispensable advice to me and my delegation during my Chairmanship of the Committee. On behalf of the Committee I also thank the whole Secretariat, including interpreters and translators, for their perfect services to the Committee.

As my statement today will be my last act as Chairman of the Committee I would like, before concluding, to make some few remarks on the nature of the work of the