

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

challenge inspections should be carried out by a technical secretariat without the Executive Council getting involved, we could consider such an arrangement as well, provided, of course, that all other issues relating to challenge inspections are resolved.

I would like to emphasize that, for the Soviet delegation, the fundamental point in the challenge inspection procedure, as, by the way, in all other elements of the convention, is the requirement of complete equality of the contracting parties, the absence of any discrimination against the socialist countries and the socialist form of property. We proceed from the belief that the procedure for making a challenge, conducting inspections and evaluating their results should put the Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries in an equal position and give them equal rights and opportunities. Any departure from this provision, we are convinced, would lead to diminished security of the party treated in a discriminatory way.

Conditions are now favourable for a speedy elaboration of an international convention on a total and comprehensive CW ban. The necessary preconditions have been created for finding, this year, solutions to the outstanding issues, taking into account the totality of the proposals made in the Conference on Disarmament. We share the assessment of the state of affairs at the negotiations made by Ambassador K. Hacene of Algeria in his statement of 2 April: "agreement has still to be reached on significant aspects of the future convention, but this should not deter us from our objective of concluding this instrument". Quite a number of countries have come out in favour of finalizing the convention this year, including Australia, the United Kingdom, Egypt, India, Kenya, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sri Lanka and others. The Soviet Union, together with other Warsaw Treaty member States, believes that the year 1987 can and must mark the beginning of general and complete chemical disarmament. The real opportunity to eliminate chemical weapons and remove the chemical threat to all mankind once and for all should not be missed.

Here I should like to express full agreement with Comrade Chňoupek's statement to the effect that a "dual" solution, involving the elimination of chemical weapons together with the build-up of binary weapons, is unacceptable. This approach of justifying the alleged deterrent nature of chemical weapons cannot fail to do serious harm to the negotiations.

I wish to refer today to one more question. Yesterday, the Meeting of Scientific and Technical Experts of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological Weapons, convened pursuant to the decision of the Second Review Conference, ended its work. That Convention, prepared in our forum in 1972, still remains the only real disarmament measure that has banned a whole class of weapons of mass destruction.

The work of the Meeting was devoted to negotiating practical measures for building confidence among the States Parties to the Convention and developing co-operation in the peaceful use of the achievements of biology. Overall, we are satisfied with its results, although, in our view, the agreements could have been broader. Nevertheless, the results already achieved -- agreements