

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

We believe that the approach we have proposed will provide for an extremely clear and truly comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons, including the prohibition of its use, ensure the verification of that prohibition and eliminate many difficulties contained in other approaches. In particular, if we start walking on thin ice looking for the boundaries between the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons in warfare on the basis of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the prohibition proposed in document CD/343, on the use of such weapons "in any circumstances where use is not already prohibited by the 1925 Geneva Protocol", then we shall be faced with a virtually impossible task. And it is not excluded that we might merely damage the regime of non-use. We shall not even talk about the serious consequences that would result from attempts to solve the problem outside the framework of the convention and the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

Our delegation, in putting forward this new important proposal of the Soviet Government concerning the strengthening of the regime of non-use of chemical weapons, wishes to emphasize that the Soviet Union will continue to play a constructive part in the solution of the problem of the prohibition of chemical weapons.