

produce super-toxic chemicals for protective purposes only in a single facility, and must annually declare all toxic chemicals for protective purposes which could also be used for weapons. The parties also would be limited in the extent to which they may transfer super-toxic chemicals and key precursors to other States. Article III also provides special measures on certain types of chemicals that are used for peaceful purposes, as listed in schedules A, B and C to the convention, to ensure that these chemicals will not be diverted to use in weapons.

Once the convention enters into force, each party would file an initial declaration of its existing chemical weapons, production facilities and past transfers. Articles IV, V and VI stipulate the information that must be included in these declarations. The parties would be required to destroy any chemical weapons and production facilities over a 10-year period, and annually provide information concerning such destruction. There would be guaranteed access for on-site verification to monitor the chemical weapons and production facilities, as well as the destruction process. The effect of these various declarations and monitoring activities would be to provide confidence in compliance by giving the parties comprehensive knowledge of the chemical weapons and production facilities in existence, and by confirming their eventual destruction.

The proposed convention also contains a variety of other provisions to aid in its implementation. As suggested by this Conference, a Consultative Committee would be established pursuant to article VII to oversee the implementation of the convention and promote the verification of compliance with it. Through its subordinate bodies this Committee would conduct the on-site verification activities required by the convention. We have also adopted the concept of an Executive Council, as developed by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons last year. This body would be delegated the responsibility for the continuing work of the Committee.

Articles IX, X and XI provide procedures for resolving compliance issues. Under article IX, the parties are required to consult and co-operate on any matter which may be raised relating to the objectives of the convention, and to participate in fact-finding inquiries. Any party may request that the Consultative Committee conduct appropriate fact-finding inquiries, including on-site inspections. The fact-finding inquiries must be completed within two months, and if any party still has concerns about compliance which have not been resolved, it may request a special meeting of the Consultative Committee.

In article X, the parties would authorize special on-site inspections, whereby each party must consent, on 24-hour notice, to a special inspection of one of the sites for which inspection is authorized by articles III, V or VI, or of any military or government-owned or controlled location or facility. This provision has been the object of most of the comments which my delegation has heard during the past week. As Vice-President Bush stressed, the United States is offering an "open invitation" for inspection of many potentially suspect sites in its own territory. We recognize that this provision could open sensitive United States facilities and activities to international inspection. Nevertheless the United States is fully prepared to accept these risks in order to ensure an effective ban of this entire class of weapons of mass destruction. We have found no other approach which can satisfactorily deal with the problem of possible undeclared chemical weapons or clandestine production facilities. In view of the gains in relation to the costs involved — that is, the potential of some intrusion essential to resolve concerns that the convention is being circumvented — this step is both reasonable and prudent. There are some who have objected that the "open invitations" approach is unfair because it may place a greater burden on some States than on others. No imbalance is either contemplated or desired. The United States delegation is ready to work with others to ensure that the "open invitation" approach applies fairly to differing economic and political systems. Without this or a comparable measure, no State can