

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

United States delegation, with which we held consultations in particular and openly set out a whole range of criteria and whose reaction we awaited and are still awaiting, should raise this question. The delegation of the USSR has repeatedly emphasized that we have a precise idea of the general principles of verification on a quota basis, and we have repeatedly set out those general ideas. As regards details, we have repeatedly invited all delegations to reflect with us on the most efficient and, at the same time, unobtrusive way of conducting systematic international checks on the destruction of stockpiles of chemical weapons not on a permanent basis, but on the basis of individual systematic inspections, that is on a quota basis.

A third matter: "My delegation cannot understand", it was said today, "why the Soviet delegation, which ardently professes its interest in completing a convention as soon as possible, refuses to discuss the subject of chemical weapons production and filling facilities". I wish to say that we have a position on this subject and that we have expressed it. We took into account the views of other delegations and we made on 18 August a statement which, of course, everybody will remember. But I have a question of my own: is it not true that the United States delegation has repeatedly declared and continues to declare, including in its statement today, that it will not proceed to the formulation of a draft convention until such time as all questions have been settled? In other words, the entire convention is in suspense. When we say that we wish to suspend one question and are ready to resolve all the others, we are told that it can't be done, that an answer must first be given on the issue concerning which we are proposing the continuation of negotiations.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, our negotiations are negotiations among States with equal rights. But some delegations are suggesting to us that such negotiations were conducted in evil colonial times and not in our day.

One more topic, that of binary weapons. According to the distinguished representative of the United States, Mr. Busby:

"On the other hand, the proposals to single out binary chemical weapons stocks and production facilities for specially severe treatment seem to my delegation to be extraordinarily one-sided. They can only be seen as efforts to preserve Soviet chemical weapons capabilities while eliminating those of the United States."

Nothing of the kind. The United States already has sufficient stockpiles of chemical weapons; its chemical munitions total 3 million units. And we are opposed to binary weapons not because we do not have such weapons and find ourselves in a worse position. As you know, the world has already been a witness on several occasions to a situation in which new types of weapons have appeared in the United States and the Soviet Union has, after a while, been obliged to acquire them too. The same could happen in the present situation. And we fear that, because the appearance of binary weapons in the United States -- and that means in other States too -- will inevitably complicate the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. Many delegations share this opinion. It is incomparably more difficult to monitor chemical binary weapons; they represent a qualitatively new step in the development of lethal chemical weapons.