

(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherlands)

As to participation, Ambassadors or their deputies will be invited as well as a number of independent specialists on chemical weapons issues. All costs will be borne by the Netherlands Government. Further details on the seminar will be communicated in due time.

The seminar's agenda has not been entirely set as yet. The Netherlands delegation is, of course, receptive to any suggestions for the agenda. Our preliminary ideas centre on, inter alia, the following issues:

Which tasks should the OPCW perform immediately upon entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and which tasks can wait?

How should the OPCW be structured?

Which steps will be required to structure the OPCW, and in which order should these be carried out?

What are the implications, organizationally and otherwise, for the Preparatory Committee and the composition of its staff?

What kind of central laboratory or workshop is needed?

What are the data-handling requirements of the OPCW?

Financial questions.

No doubt, those topics will stimulate the participants in the seminar to engage in a lively and instructive brainstorming-type discussion, a discussion that could help set the stage for the future Preparatory Committee. After all, the PrepCom may already have to begin its work towards the end of this calendar year, or early in 1993. In short, the Netherlands delegation hopes that the seminar at The Hague will enlighten us as to the various institutional and practical tasks which probably will require our increasing attention during the months ahead.

As we prepare for the operation of the Convention on Chemical Weapons, allow me to address another related practical aspect. The negotiations show that the future organization will require a highly qualified technical staff, particularly for data-handling and inspection functions. Several delegations from developing countries have pointed out that it may be difficult to find sufficiently qualified personnel from the developing world to work in the new organization. As a result, the recruitment of inspectors and other technical personnel might develop a bias in favour of the industrialized States. It seems to us that this is a valid observation. Unbalanced recruitment patterns must indeed be prevented.

Some years ago, Finland launched a laudable and successful programme to train chemical analysts from developing countries as a means of preparing for the effective implementation of the CW convention. Just now, Germany has