

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

Governments and industry at Canberra in September. The Soviet Union has decided to participate in this Conference. We are particularly satisfied with the fact that it will focus on joint action by Governments and industry aimed at the early conclusion and implementation of the convention banning chemical weapons. We believe, as I have already said, that taking into account legitimate interests of industry is essential for the success of the Geneva negotiations. From this standpoint the significance of the Canberra Conference is very great. The Soviet delegation at that conference will be prepared to make a constructive contribution to the discussions on the agenda items and to help it arrive at positive results.

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Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic): We have just entered into the second third of the summer part of the Conference. Four weeks still remain for effective negotiation. Time is pressing if we are to reach tangible results in the negotiations on the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. Together we have made a fresh start following the Paris Conference. In the Paris Declaration all States came out in favour of concluding a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction. All States advocated that the prohibition of chemical weapons should be global and comprehensive as well as effectively verifiable. All States pronounced themselves in favour of concluding the negotiations on the convention banning chemical weapons at the earliest possible date. This is from our point of view the substance of the agreements reached in Paris, and this is our view of their interrelationship - you cannot do one thing without the other.

Have not the events of the recent past visibly shown that the use of chemical weapons prohibited under the Geneva Protocol can only be precluded in future if they are completely banned with global effect at the earliest possible date? To stop the production of chemical weapons, to advance towards their destruction, to prevent their proliferation - these are, no doubt, significant moves for their comprehensive prohibition. Do not measures against the proliferation of chemical weapons however, lose something of their positive impact if they are deprived of their character as an interim measure? Is it not urgently necessary to finalize work on the verification system without allowing any further delays in the negotiations? Otherwise, we think, a situation could arise where the existence of ever more sophisticated chemical weapons in ever more hands would render effective verification of their prohibition extremely complicated or would even make it impossible.

The verification system for a future convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons has a key role in the present negotiations. Permit me, therefore, to offer a few comments on this problem. Article VI of the draft convention together with the annexes thereto already contains a sound system of provisions for effective verification of the non-production of chemical weapons. This system is being supplemented at present in Working Group 4. The final touches are being put to the régime attached to list 1. The lists of chemicals are being amended and defined.