

(Mr. Reese, Australia)

More generally, our conduct of a trial inspection underlined to us the mutual benefit, indeed necessity, of government-industry co-operation in resolving the complex verification issues associated with a chemical weapons convention. We were, accordingly, pleased with the co-operation of the Australian chemical company concerned. This, in fact, was a key element in the successful conduct of the inspection. An important aspect too was the good working relationship which developed between the team and company personnel during the initial visit and the negotiation of the facility attachment. Problem-solving was conducted through frank, productive two-way exchanges. Our assurances and practical steps to protect commercially confidential information were a foundation to securing the confidence and full co-operation of the chemical company.

As a concluding remark, Australia believes that through the conduct of national trial inspections and, subsequently, international trial inspections, the chemical industry's understanding of the convention and its implications for their operations will be enhanced, and ultimately will ensure that the chemical weapons convention is both comprehensive in scope and practical in its application.