

(Mr. Hyltenius, Sweden)

Although great emphasis has been put on the efforts this year to address the political issues, this does not mean that the technical questions have been neglected. I have already reported on the work and the important results achieved in Working Group B. In addition, several technical problems have been dealt with in the Technical Group on Instrumentation under the able Chairmanship of Dr. Rautio, and I should like to take this opportunity to thank her once more for her important contributions to this year's work.

The draft convention has been meticulously elaborated over several years by different negotiators and experts. It has gradually become rather difficult to read because of inconsistencies in nomenclature, numbering, punctuation etc. It was therefore felt that the present text had to be edited. An open-ended group led by Dr. Santesson of my delegation embarked upon that work during the inter-sessional period, and the part of the "rolling text" containing the articles of the convention has now been edited. In addition, guidelines for future editing as well as a list of some outstanding editing issues have been circulated in a working paper (CD/CW/WP.323).

As the implementation of the future convention will also depend on co-operation with chemical industry, contacts with industry representatives are of particular importance. The Ad Hoc Committee's meetings with industry representatives provided the framework for in-depth discussions of some topical verification and technical issues. Diplomats and industrialists seem to have gained a better understanding of each other's perceptions and concerns than was the case in earlier years.

It is not possible to conduct a negotiation of this complex nature without the support of a very competent and efficient secretariat. The Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons is fortunate enough to have such support. I am particularly indebted to Mr. Bensmail, the long-standing Secretary of the Committee, whose contributions to our work in the last year and over a number of previous years can hardly be overestimated. He has been very ably assisted by Ms. Marcaillou, Ms. Darby and Mrs. Roux, and I wish to extend my warm thanks also to them. Other members of the secretariat too have contributed in an important manner. I am thinking especially of the interpreters and the translators. I am very grateful to all of them for their work and their understanding and co-operation in our common endeavour.

My own delegation has worked very hard indeed to contribute to the efforts which go into a chairmanship of this kind. I have many competent collaborators who have prepared the basis for much of the material which I have presented in the Committee - Mr. Molander, Dr. Santesson, Dr. Lau, Mr. Gierow, Dr. Runn and Mr. Grenstad. My gratitude also goes to the secretaries in my mission, who have borne much of the burden of producing the material.

I referred at the outset to the political framework of this negotiation. Let me conclude by reverting to this aspect. We can do much within this Conference to take political aspects into account in drafting the convention in such a manner that it becomes attractive enough to achieve wide, perhaps even universal, adherence. But in searching for ideal and well-elaborated