

(Mr. Ruth, Federal Republic of Germany)

We also welcome developments which have recently taken place in this Conference's negotiations concerning a global ban on chemical weapons. The Federal Government greatly welcomes the proposal recently submitted by the United Kingdom relating to on-challenge inspections. In our opinion, the approach chosen by the United Kingdom -- while insisting on the obligatory nature of inspections -- could show a way of advancing the negotiations in a positive fashion.

Another problem to which this Conference must still devote extensive attention is that of effective means of verifying the non-production of chemical weapons. We remain convinced that it will be possible to resolve this problem, including verification of a ban on new developments. We note with satisfaction that here at the Conference a high degree of agreement is emerging on the concept of a triple matrix listing the chemical substances that are to be subjected to controls. On this basis, we consider routine inspections and an exchange of statistical data to be suitable measures for effectively verifying that no substances are being diverted from civilian chemicals production to the manufacture of warfare agents. Our delegation is preparing a working paper on methods for exchanging statistical data.

Foreign Minister Genscher stressed here that the Federal Republic of Germany accords the highest priority to a convention banning chemical weapons, and he urged that all resources be mobilized so that the negotiations can be completed in 1987. We therefore welcome the Conference's decision to hold three rounds of consultations on chemical weapons between this and the next session. It is now essential that this additional time be used for efforts aimed at achieving concrete results.