

Mr. IOSSIFOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): On behalf of the Soviet delegation I too wish to express our

... Today the Soviet delegation jointly with the delegation of the Republic of Poland is introducing for consideration by the participants in the negotiations a document entitled "Joint report on a trial inspection on request", which is being circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament numbered CD/1093 and dated 6 August 1991, and at the same time as a working paper of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons under number CD/CW/WP.354. In terms of timing the introduction of this document has coincided with the stepping up of the discussion on inspections on request in the negotiations, and we hope that the submitted material will facilitate the search for a mutually acceptable solution to this problem.

As the participants in the negotiations are aware, the Soviet Union has officially declared that it has no chemical weapons on the territory of other States (CD/CW/WP.264). The Republic of Poland, which has also submitted data related to chemical weapons to the Conference on Disarmament, has declared, inter alia, that it does not possess chemical weapons (CD/985). With a view to strengthening mutual understanding and trust between the two sides, the Soviet Union and Poland agreed to carry out a trial inspection on request. The trial inspection had the following aims: to confirm, in so far as Poland's territory is concerned, the USSR declaration on non-possession of chemical weapons outside its territory; to test in practice the relevant procedures of the protocol on inspection procedures contained in the draft convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons to be used in checking the suspected storage of chemical weapons; to determine the necessary scope of activities which should be carried out by the inspection team during an inspection on request at military facilities; and lastly to train inspectors in carrying out such inspections.

The trial inspection was carried out during the period from 17 to 18 April 1991 at two Soviet military facilities located on Polish territory. The facilities to be inspected were selected by the Polish side. The inspection was carried out at the central artillery depot, where different types of artillery munitions are stored, and at the central chemical depot, where gear for protection against weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, are stored. On the basis of the results of the inspection it was concluded that no chemical weapons or traces of such weapons are present at the inspected facilities. Overall the experiment demonstrated that it is important and essential to include a concept of inspections on request in the verification mechanism under the future convention as a basic element for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the convention and dispelling possible concerns on the part of the future States parties with regard to such compliance.