

(Mr. García Robles, Mexico)

theories, that are as dangerous as they are unfounded, into a prime element in the nuclear policy of none other than one of the two superpowers. We venture to hope that this is not the case, and that we shall soon hear in this room a statement by that country's delegation that will allay our fears.

For my delegation is firmly convinced that, as is stated in the last report of the Secretary-General on nuclear weapons which I have already quoted, a nuclear war would represent -- in the words of the report -- "the highest level of human madness", and that all the calculations and forecasts made in that respect should have as their sole inspiration that -- as the Secretary-General said -- "there should never be a nuclear war".

Mr. SUTRESNA (Indonesia): Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, the Indonesian delegation has on previous occasions stated its position regarding chemical weapons. However, in view of the importance Indonesia attaches to the item, and after listening to the statements made on this item in the plenary in the last few days, my delegation wishes to express its views on certain important aspects of the problem of chemical weapons.

First of all, my delegation shares the views expressed by many delegations that the Committee should give priority to this item and that further serious efforts should be made in order that the Committee can make substantial progress in elaborating a convention on chemical weapons. It is needless to emphasize the magnitude of the devastation and harmful effects caused by the use of chemical weapons, as history has clearly indicated. It is all the more so if we take into account, and add, the impact of technological advance to that magnitude. The alleged use of chemical weapons in armed conflicts in certain parts of the world have further generated serious concern in my country. The magnitude of the devastation and damage these weapons inflicted on human beings and other elements of the living world has strengthened my delegation's conviction that the Committee will make an invaluable contribution to mankind if it could make substantial progress in the elaboration of a convention on chemical weapons. In this connection I should like to express our appreciation to the delegation of the Soviet Union for having presented a proposal on the basic provisions of a chemical weapons convention which will be useful to our joint efforts.

As regards the general elements of the convention, we take the view that documents CD/220 and CD/CW/WP.33 constitute sound bases for our further efforts. In the plenary we have expressed our views with regard to the method of work for dealing with those elements and my delegation has made serious attempts to make the necessary contributions in various "homework groups". I wish to take this opportunity to express our views on certain elements of the convention. Frankly, I was surprised when I listened to the statements made by a few delegations in this plenary, not only questioning, at this stage of our work, the validity or the legitimacy of the arguments in favour of the inclusion of a provision in the scope prohibiting the use of chemical weapons but also saying that the effort to include such provision will complicate reaching agreement. To support their views, they have contended that since the convention will prohibit the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention and transfer of chemical weapons and the means of production of such weapons, then the proposal to include a prohibition of use is baseless and unnecessary. They have contended further that such inclusion will undermine the 1925 Geneva Protocol.