

(Mr. de la Gorce, France)

The French delegation constantly displayed the paramount interest it attached to negotiations on chemical weapons, which were actively pursued in the Ad Hoc Working Group chaired by our colleague from Canada, Ambassador McPhail. I wish here to pay tribute to the remarkable way in which he organized and conducted the work, notably by making the most appropriate use of the method of contact groups. The work was not marked by any significant breakthroughs in the negotiations, but it was none the less useful. It made it possible to achieve a better form and more precise structuring of the negotiating elements. The French delegation hopes that the next session will be marked by substantial, and even decisive progress, thanks more particularly to acceptance by everyone of the forms of international verification specifically required by each of the operations involved.