

(Mr. Vejvoda, Czechoslovakia)

The next issue I wish to address now is the prohibition of chemical weapons. My delegation highly appreciates the efforts made by Ambassador Sujka of Poland, assisted by Colonel Cialowicz, as the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons during the last period of our work. He undoubtedly succeeded in bringing new initiatives and reaching progress in the negotiations. In document CD/333 he also summarized the most important opinions which had emerged up to then from the deliberations in the Group, indicating that there does exist a significant convergence of views, and that drafting the treaty is a realistic task which could be started sooner than some delegations are ready to admit.

It is the view of my delegation that the Committee and the Working Group should concentrate maximally on efficient work on the treaty, and that we should not allow ourselves to be distracted from such work by discussing questions having nothing to do with the negotiation of a convention. This is exactly what happened at the end of the last technical consultations, thus preventing the Group from reaching consensus on the report summing up the results of the consultations.

We are ready to consider seriously any new proposal aimed at the solution of difficult issues involved in the treaty. We are upset, however, at the repeated tendencies to present in the Committee unsubstantiated allegations clearly distorting the historical effects regarding the use of chemical weapons in a contemporary conflict.

I would also like to express bewilderment over the way the United States delegation presented its draft concerning chemical weapons. This body, whether as the ENDC, the CCD or the CD, has always worked in a matter-of-fact, lucid atmosphere, in which one delegation never tried to offend another. And this atmosphere had been maintained even during difficult situations in the international field. But what are we witnessing now? How can one believe in the sincerity of its intention if one delegation accompanies its proposals with words full of poison and distortions, concerning not only general issues but also the relations in this Committee?

The slanders against the delegations of the socialist countries which allegedly created obstacles to the deliberations of the chemical weapons Working Group during the month of January, convened for this period, by the way, upon the initiative of the socialist countries, do not testify to the intention of the authors of the draft to undertake business-like negotiations. Moreover, certain preconditions for further negotiations on a chemical weapons convention were raised. All this increases the doubts of the Czechoslovak delegation as to the sincerity of the United States delegation's intentions.

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