

(Mr. Shannon, Canada)

Lastly, I should like to inform you that we have just circulated document CD/CW/WP.319, of 10 August: a report on a national trial inspection that the Canadian authorities recently carried out, our first such inspection of a commercial facility. This trial inspection involved an examination of the consumption of a simulated "schedule 2" chemical at a pharmaceutical plant. The main focus of the trial inspection was the use of auditing procedures to determine how effective these would be in tracking a particular chemical. I should like to note that one interesting result appears to be that such procedures could be used without encroaching seriously upon confidential business information. Another significant feature was that the presence of a foreign observer - in this case an official from the Netherlands Government - did not increase the confidentiality concerns of the facility being inspected.

Mr. President, I hope that the foregoing comments and the studies and reports noted will be seen as constructive and concrete demonstrations of my Government's firm commitment to negotiating an effective, total ban on the production, possession and use of chemical weapons. Notwithstanding our disappointment that more has not been achieved, we continue to have high expectations that a successful conclusion to our negotiations in the near future is within our grasp. It is in that frame of mind that my delegation will be approaching our intersessional discussions and the 1991 session.

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(Mr. Sang Ock Lee, Republic of Korea)

... With reference to the Conference's work on the convention to ban chemical weapons, the concrete results born out of the agreement signed between the United States and the Soviet Union at their summit in Washington in May-June have evidently contributed to promoting heightened expectations over the prospect of the positive impact it may give to the multilateral negotiations on a chemical weapons ban. On the other hand, the frustration voiced over the pace of the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament may well be illustrative of the underlying importance of resolving key issues such as inspections on request.

My country's commitment to the ban on chemical weapons is full and definite. At the Ministerial Conference on Chemical Weapons held in Paris in January last year, the Foreign Minister of my country made it clear that the Republic of Korea is not in possession of chemical weapons, nor has it the intention to acquire or produce them.

The Workshop on Chemical Weapons in Münster in June, hosted by the Federal Republic of Germany, provided us with a valuable opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the destruction and verification aspects of chemical weapons. It was a very useful and enlightening experience; particularly the magnitude of costs and safety measures involved with destruction struck us as another important dimension of the problems deserving much attention and consideration.