

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

Of great significance here will be correct organization of the work of the subsidiary body on the prohibition of chemical weapons. Let me dwell upon this question somewhat in detail.

The mandate agreed upon for that body is quite impressive and promising as regards its content and purposes. It envisages advancing to a new stage in solving the problem of the prohibition of chemical weapons -- to a full and comprehensive process of negotiations and the formulation and elaboration of an appropriate convention.

These terms of reference correspond to the present advanced stage of the negotiations on the prohibitions of chemical weapons and reflect, as we hope, the readiness of all the States represented here to start real negotiations. It remains far from enough, however, to turn our attention to high, I would say, noble goals, to see as our task the preparation, for the thirty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, either of a more or less complete text of the future convention in full, or of its substantive part. We share the view expressed today by the Ambassador of Yugoslavia, Mr. Vidas, concerning the need to submit at least an incomplete text of the future convention to the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session. In order to come really closer to the solution of such tasks we need good organization of the activity of the appropriate subsidiary body.

The socialist countries have elaborated their collective opinion on this subject and have already submitted an appropriate document to the secretariat of the Conference. Without going into the detail of the approach proposed by us, I would like to state only some general considerations.

In our view, it is very important to agree at once to cover in 1984, by the process of concrete work upon the text of the future convention, all its chapters and provisions. Inter alia, this should eliminate any suspicions that the drafting work is designed to prevent delegations from considering the most vexed issues.

It would seem important to follow the principles of logical sequence in considering some or other parts of the future convention. Experience has shown, for example, that the elaboration of a mutually acceptable definition of chemical weapons is the most important question, without which the work on other problems is constantly hampered. To speak in more general terms, taking into account the relationship between different parts of the convention priority should be given to resolving in their entirety the questions of the elimination of stocks of chemical weapons.

The socialist countries consider it important to agree in advance upon an indicative time-table of work which, eliminating the danger of a deadlock on one concrete question or another, would prompt consideration of the next question even when final agreement had not been reached on the previous problems. Such pauses in the negotiating process are sometimes not only useful but also necessary for special consultations both between the most interested delegations and with their capitals.

The organization of our work should have as an important rule that due account be taken of the interests and possibilities of all delegations without exception. This means that within the subsidiary body we should set up a relatively small number of subordinate bodies, avoid overloading our work with a great number of official meetings, and conduct work in such a manner as not to discuss a large number of questions at the same time.