

Mr. EKEUS (Sweden): On 31 August last year the Conference on Disarmament adopted the recommendation by the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, CD/539, containing inter alia that the Ad Hoc Committee should resume its work under its mandate for a session of limited duration during the period 14 January - 1 February 1985, and that the work should cover the two specific issues of Permitted Activities and Verification on Challenge, including related issues with regard to the Consultative Committee, as well as further negotiations on such material in Annex I of the report CD/539 which had been subject to preliminary drafting.

As Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons I have today the pleasure to present to the Conference the report of the Committee on its work during the resumed session, contained in document CD/546.

This report contains a technical part which was agreed upon and adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee on 1 February, as well as an annexed report by me, in my capacity as Chairman of the Committee, constituting a summary of the work of the Committee during its resumed session. This latter annex, the report by the Chairman, is made with the intention of providing the Conference with further material for the negotiations of the Convention on Chemical Weapons. The views contained therein are those of the Chairman and do not in any way bind any delegation.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee in its report from last year, document CD/539, I undertook consultations in preparation for the resumed session. As a result of those consultations and of other considerations, some proposals and documents were put forward as Working Papers by the Chairman to serve as a basis for the negotiations, together with the report, CD/539, of the 1984 session of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Negotiations in the Committee were carried out mostly as consultations chaired by myself and by Dr. Lundin of Sweden, Ambassador Beesley of Canada, Mr. Duarte of Brazil, and Dr. Thieliicke of the German Democratic Republic. Mr. Akkerman of the Netherlands also assisted me with some exploratory work on the issue of destruction of chemical weapons. Seven Working Papers addressing substantive issues were introduced during the session.

The deliberations of the Committee on the issue of "Permitted Activities" were focused on various options for the production of chemicals for permitted purposes. It was recognized that a regime for permitted activities should be based on the principle that production of all chemical weapons should be prohibited. A number of different suggestions were made on principles and circumstances related to production for permitted purposes under the Convention. Thus, two main approaches were considered with regard to the concept of a single small-scale production facility. One approach was that such a facility should have a production capacity just about the agreed maximum production limit for one year. The other approach was that the facility concerned should allow for a larger production capacity than the agreed maximum production capacity. The different verification methods for each one of the alternative approaches were analysed.

The issue of production of laboratory quantities of listed super-toxic lethal chemicals was considered in some detail. Differences in approach between delegations reflected variations in production methods and in social systems among the States represented by them. No information about the possible number of super-toxic lethal chemicals was made available, although a view was presented that the number of laboratories that might have to be declared and perhaps verified would be rather small.