

Mr. VEJVODA (Czechoslovakia): Mr. President, it is a pleasure to see you, the experienced and skilful representative of Canada, in the Presidency of the Conference for the concluding month of its session. Under your efficient guidance we shall undoubtedly be able to appropriately evaluate what happened in the Conference during the last year and conclude the elaboration of our report to the General Assembly. My thanks go also to your predecessor, Ambassador U Tin Tun of Burma, for his efficient Presidency in July.

We note with satisfaction that negotiations on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons have entered an intensive stage. The Ad Hoc Committee and its three Working Groups were working very actively throughout this session, and some important aspects of the chemical-weapon ban were also addressed at the bilateral United States-Soviet consultations. It is thus only natural that a certain optimism is emerging. Our delegation also welcomes the fact that the chemical-weapons ban seems closer now than it did a year or two ago. We recognize the positive impact which the new Soviet proposals exerted on the ongoing process of negotiations. A flexible approach, demonstrated once again by the Soviet proposals of 22 April, is the only attitude which can lead to final success. It is desirable that, as we try to finalize the convention, flexibility should mark the approach of all delegations.