

States moved its efforts to ban chemical weapons to this body, in recognition that the abolition of chemical weapons is an issue that concerns all States. In February 1983, after long and intensive discussions both here and in Washington, my delegation tabled its detailed views on the content of an agreement. Since then, we have elaborated our detailed views as we participated in the work of this Conference. In July 1983, my delegation also presented a comprehensive paper that set forth illustrative on-site verification procedures for destruction of chemical weapons. Last Autumn, further to accelerate work in this area, the United States invited member and observer delegations to this Conference to visit an operating facility for the destruction of our chemical weapons. Participants gained a first-hand look at the actual destruction procedures used by the United States and at the verification measures necessary to ensure effective verification of that destruction.

Then, last week, President Reagan once again sent Vice-President Bush to Geneva. In a new effort to create momentum in the negotiating process, the Vice-President came before this body and presented the draft United States convention for a chemical weapons ban. The Vice-President emphasized yet again the importance the United States attaches to the conclusion of such a ban. The Vice-President also spoke of his personal concern, as a father and grandfather, and stated his personal resolve that chemical weapons be effectively eliminated for all time. This is a point on which surely we all can agree. In this context, I want to make it perfectly clear that the United States condemns any use of chemical weapons whenever and wherever it occurs.

This history shows a continuing United States effort to work hard and work sincerely for an agreement on the effective and verifiable ban of chemical weapons, the cornerstone of which effort is the draft convention which we presented here last week. Accordingly, I would like to take some time now to explain the major provisions of the United States draft convention.

The essence of the draft convention is in its first article, which contains the basic prohibitions. The parties would agree not to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer chemical weapons. The parties would further agree not to conduct other activities in preparation for the use of chemical weapons, use chemical weapons in any armed conflict, or assist others to engage in prohibited activities. In including a ban on the use of chemical weapons, the United States has been mindful of the importance attached to such a provision by many delegations. Taken together, articles I and XIV would ensure that the convention would supplement, and not replace, the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

Article II presents the definitions of terms which are necessary for the implementation of the convention. Chemicals which could be used in weapons are divided into three categories according to the danger they pose -- "super-toxic lethal", "other lethal" and "other harmful". The convention would regulate these different categories in different ways. The most important of the definitions is that of "chemical weapons". We have formulated this definition using the definition that was agreed to in document CD/112. Furthermore, we have formulated the definition of "toxic chemicals" to take into account the points of view of China and other members of this Conference. The definition of "chemical weapons" is drawn very broadly so as to include all lethal and incapacitating chemicals and their precursors which are not justified for permitted purposes. It does not include chemicals which are justified for peaceful purposes, such as those used in agriculture, research, medicine and domestic law enforcement.

Permitted uses of toxic chemicals are specifically protected in article III, so that peaceful chemical activities will not be significantly hindered. In order that any misuse of these chemicals can be detected, article III also places limits on the amount of super-toxic lethal chemicals and key precursors that any State party may possess for protective purposes. Similarly, the draft convention provides that the States parties may