

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

risk for the purposes of the convention but whose characteristics would make it quite possible to organize such production, would not be covered. To a certain extent the solution to this problem would be facilitated if thresholds for declaration and verification were determined on the basis of the design capacity of facilities, rather than their production levels. It would also be useful for the Technical Secretariat to be entitled to submit independently a request for inspection if in the exercise of systematic verification activities by the Technical Secretariat a need arises to clarify certain obligations. We are also ready to consider constructively other proposals aimed at increasing the effectiveness of verification of non-production of chemical weapons in industry and will support any verification measure leading to greater security. The solution of the problem of non-production of chemical weapons in industry is possible on the basis of a balance between the need to have the most stringent verification and the legitimate industrial and commercial interests of States parties to the convention.

Finalization of work on the system of verification would be much facilitated by the early introduction of international trial inspections under the experiment launched last year to test procedures for the verification of non-production of chemical weapons in industry. As far as we see, some delegations have certain apprehensions over the idea of international trial inspections. I believe these apprehensions are somewhat exaggerated. The Soviet Union would be prepared to hold such an experiment at a facility in Dzerzhinsk as soon as the procedures for it are arranged and agreement reached on starting such inspections in other countries. The Soviet delegation believes that it would be appropriate to agree on the most important problems to be studied in the experiment. We propose that this work should be begun as soon as possible. In our view, the membership of the international group of inspectors and observers for visits to facilities should be limited and should not exceed 10-20 persons.

The Soviet Union is strongly in favour of having a truly global convention. The ultimate goal should be universal participation of States in the convention. Naturally, it is for each State to decide, by weighing all the pros and cons, whether participation in the convention would or would not be in its national interest. Hence the conclusion that for the widest possible participation of States in the convention, it should provide certain benefits in terms of protection against chemical weapons for its participants who have renounced chemical weapons, as compared with other countries. In this context we attach great significance, in particular, to article X of the convention, dealing with assistance and protection against chemical weapons. The Soviet delegation would be prepared to support the idea of establishing a voluntary fund to render assistance to any State party against which chemical weapons were used. The fund would be an integral part of a mutual assistance mechanism within the international organization set up under the convention. We believe that financial resources and appropriate material facilities, including means of chemical protection, could be contributed to that fund.

In conclusion, a few words on the topic which has been repeatedly discussed both inside and outside the conference room - the forthcoming conference on chemical weapons to be attended by representatives of