

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space for introducing its report, and for his kind words addressed to the Chair. I will present the Ad hoc Committee's report to the Conference for adoption at the plenary meeting to be held tomorrow.

I now give the floor to the representative of Sweden, His Excellency Ambassador Ekéus, who, in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, will introduce the report of the Ad hoc Committee, which has appeared under symbol CD/782 and has been distributed.

Mr. EKEUS (Sweden): Mr. President, as you have just pointed out, I asked for the floor to present the report of the Committee to the Conference on Disarmament, as contained in document CD/782. The report was adopted in its entirety by the Committee on 26 August, and has thus been agreed to by all the members of the Ad hoc Committee.

Almost exactly three years ago I had the pleasure as the then Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons to introduce in this forum the first so-called "rolling text" for a convention banning chemical weapons. The report I am introducing today clearly shows how far we have come since then. All should be able to recognize that considerable progress has taken place during the three years of work since 1984. While the first "rolling text" was little more than a broad outline for a future convention, the report I am submitting today contains a largely developed draft convention with most of the elements in place. The document we now have before us clearly shows that the convention is no longer a distant goal but a real possibility.

The report consists of several parts, following the pattern established since 1984. The first part is the technical part. The second part, appendix I, constitutes the so-called "rolling text", the result of our negotiations so far. The third part, appendix II, contains papers reflecting the results of work which, though not yet ready for inclusion in the "rolling text", are made available as a basis for future work. This year we also have an addendum to the report.

I would like to draw the attention of the delegates to the fact that the "rolling text" of the draft convention has been somewhat restructured in comparison with earlier years. The articles of the draft convention have been placed at the beginning of the document, followed by the various annexes. I hope this will help all concerned to get a good overview of the material.

In the final analysis, despite the problems which have been encountered, we must highlight the efforts made within the Ad hoc Committee and the various groups on many thematic issues. This report will certainly deserve mention, and should be shown on the other flags on our agenda.