

(Mr. Friedersdorf, United States)

supports Minister Mellor's call for the Soviet Union and other States to be more open about their commercial chemical activities, as well as about their chemical weapons capabilities.

Before I conclude, I would like to note that the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons has yet to take up challenge inspection this summer. As my delegation noted on 23 April, informal discussions in the spring indicated some areas where views appeared to be converging. I look forward to efforts to record and build on these areas of convergence.

Finally, when the report on the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons is adopted in August, it will likely reflect that much work has been accomplished this year. It may also reflect that much remains to be done, not only to resolve key issues, but also to develop detailed procedures that are necessary to implement the convention. One particularly important result of this summer's work will not, unfortunately, appear in the report. That is the gradual convergence of views of delegations on many issues. Such convergence will serve as the basis for the further development of text. We have made progress this year and we have laid the groundwork for even further progress. We should be proud of this accomplishment. It should cause us to renew our commitment to pursue the work ahead.

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Mr. YAMADA (Japan): At this half-way point in the work of the Conference on Disarmament in the summer session, I wish to make an overview of the current stage of the negotiations on the chemical weapons convention and to express the views of my delegation with the hope of contributing to the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons.

In the spring part of this session, under the able and active chairmanship of Ambassador Rolf Ekéus of Sweden, we adopted a new work formula and achieved many concrete results. Among them are:

(a) Agreement on the destruction of all declared chemical weapons, eliminating the possibility of diversion. Diversion would have complicated verification;

(b) Agreement on the framework of the detailed procedures for destruction of chemical weapons, with the exception of the issue of the order of destruction;

(c) Detailed consideration for the first time of the destruction of chemical weapons production facilities, in line with the framework for the destruction of chemical weapons;

(d) Consideration, in the context of draft article VI on permitted activities, of the modalities for revision of lists and of guidelines for schedule (1) chemicals;