

(Mr. Mikulak, United States)

I must say we share the view just expressed by the Chairman that the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons has made slow but steady progress this year. With his untiring work and that of his associates, we have entered for the first time into the stage of actually drafting treaty text for a chemical-weapons convention. This I think marks a real watershed in the work conducted in the Conference on a ban on chemical weapons.

At the same time I would also share his view that progress is much slower than certainly my delegation would have liked; we share his sense of urgency. And we very much welcome his expressed intention not to give up the mantle of the Chairmanship but to continue with consultations during the autumn and to hold a resumed session of the Committee during January. It is certainly the view of my delegation, and I think he correctly reflected the view of many delegations, that these negotiations are too important to allow them to lie fallow for almost half the year. So we admire his patience, his persistence and his dedication to our common objective, and in the time remaining before the 1985 session of the Conference begins he will certainly have our full co-operation in trying to move these negotiations ahead.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United States for his statement. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? If that is not the case, I suggest now that we take up, for decision, the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, contained in document CD/539. If there is no objection, I will consider that the Conference adopts the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee.