

(Mr. Chnoupek, Czechoslovakia)

Then let us take an absolutely unequivocal decision: to entrust the committee on the prohibition of chemical weapons with the task of finalizing the Convention this year. This would be fully in keeping with the unanimous recommendation made by the forty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly. An essential confirmation of the interest of the member States of the Conference in achieving a complete and effective ban on the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, and their destruction.

Secondly, to reach final agreement without delay on an effective mechanism of challenge inspections without the right of refusal; agreement in principle has already been reached concerning the need to incorporate such a mechanism in the Convention.

Thirdly, to build on the encouraging results of last year's negotiations in order to reach final agreement on the overall organization of the implementation of the Convention. Primarily with regard to the activities of its Executive Council.

Fourthly, to complete the development of an economically and financially feasible scheme of routine inspection of chemical industry. To take into account in this regard the requirements connected with the economic and technological development of States parties to the Convention, whatever their socio-economic systems. We are now seriously considering concrete steps to facilitate a solution to those problems.

We most insistently urge the earliest possible final settlement of all the pending issues relating to the Convention. For our part we are determined to do truly everything in our power to that end. As we clearly confirmed in the joint declaration of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty in Moscow last March. This also includes a readiness for reasonable compromises. As well as the openness that was demonstrated so strikingly by the presentation of Soviet chemical armaments at Shikhany in the autumn of last year.

I wish to mention in this context the proposal made by Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic for the establishment of a chemical-weapon-free zone in Central Europe. And in particular to emphasize that we do not regard this as a deflection from efforts to ban these weapons worldwide. Never have we placed global and regional approaches to arms limitation in opposition to one another. On the contrary - our attitude is based on their dialectical unity.

Moreover, this also relates to our similar proposal for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free corridor. The same applies to concrete measures to reduce the level of military confrontation and strengthen confidence, including removal of the most dangerous types of offensive weapons by the States along the line of contact between the two military political alliances in Europe. We advocated the adoption of these measures at the Prague session.