

(Mr. Ekéus, Sweden)

Sweden, and indeed the whole of the Group of 21, does however reject the possibility of continued production or use of chemical weapons during the destruction period. This would constitute an open invitation to the legalized proliferation of chemical weapons, and would discriminate against all States which have refrained from such production. The draft convention is designed to prohibit the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and not to regulate how to produce, how to stockpile and when to use them.

Activities not prohibited by the convention, covered by article VI and its annex, constitute an area where we have not been able to make any major progress during this session. We hope that the industrial experts' discussion on confidentiality, the convincing demonstration of non-intrusive verification equipment like the "sample now, analyse later" (SNAL) concept introduced by the Federal Republic of Germany, and not least the planned process of trial inspections will provide us with fresh material and new insights so that rapid progress can be made. We must provide for effective inspection régimes but at the same time not allow ourselves to get bogged down in technical details which could usefully be left to the preparatory commission and the technical secretariat to solve.

The main goal of article VI must be to provide for measures that would give States parties to the convention confidence that the basic undertaking not to produce chemical weapons is fulfilled by all States parties. The article provides for methods and principles to control relevant production of chemicals in order to verify either that certain chemicals are not produced or that production of toxic chemicals and their precursors is for purposes not prohibited by the convention.

Our choice of approach must take account of several interests. First, we must provide for a high degree of probability that violations of the convention are detected and reported. This means a stringent régime of verification of declared facilities. In addition to the provisions for challenge inspections, there also seems to be a need to extend the possibility for inspections on a politically less visible level to facilities not declared under the respective schedules. Second, the hampering of research, development and production for peaceful purposes must be avoided. Especially at the most sensitive stage, research and development, legitimate concerns regarding commercial and industrial secrets must be respected. Third, the régime must be easily adaptable to future technological developments. To achieve such adaptability the principles and objectives of verification must be clearly and unambiguously stated, while on the other side the technical verification methods and procedures, as well as the lists of relevant chemicals subject to control, could be smoothly changed and updated in consonance with new technical achievements. Fourth, the régime must be designed in such a way that it can be implemented without incurring unacceptable costs and an unmanageable administration. It should thus be not only effective, but also efficient.

If we decide in the negotiations to widen the scope of routine inspections to undeclared facilities, as is proposed with the concept of ad hoc checks, we must be able to establish, first, that such a régime really would increase our confidence in the convention, secondly that it is made sufficiently effective in order not to create ambiguities which might decrease