

(Mr. Jessel, France)

it considers itself reassured regarding the activities being carried out at the installation, this procedure seems to us to meet the requirements that I have just stated. In addition, it would have a deterrent effect because no State concerned with its international reputation would be likely to take the risk of undertaking manufacture in violation of the Convention when it had, in advance, accepted as a general rule that an international inspection team could go to factories that came under suspicion.

The situation is different for the proposals that have been put forward elsewhere. Those which would only allow inspection at sites defined in advance would have the effect of defining, a contrario, the places where it would be permissible to circumvent the provisions of the Convention. Others, which would leave open the possibility of purely and simply refusing a request for access, would simply aggravate the crisis of confidence which has led to the call for challenge inspection; yet others, which would permit parties to hide behind delaying procedures within a committee that would in all likelihood be unable, because of the absence of agreement among its members, to make the necessary decisions, would ultimately lead to a result just as negative as the rest.

For all these reasons, and after very careful study of the problem, the French delegation gives its full support to the United Kingdom proposal. It earnestly hopes that that proposal will win the support of all sides and thus contribute to solving one of the key problems of these negotiations.

On this occasion I should also like to compliment the Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Mr. Cromartie, on his efforts as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee and to thank him for the results that have been achieved due largely to his skilful tenacity, as well as to the work done by the chairmen of the various working groups. We are happy to see that he will, as usual, be continuing his work at the head of the Committee until next February, and we earnestly hope to see that he will be able to make further progress during that period. He will find that all the easier if we all help him in the firm determination to move ahead and to achieve results.