

(Mr. Przygodzki, Poland)

prejudice to relevant provisions under the convention. At the same time activities of inspectors were carried out pursuant to a bilateral protocol agreed between Poland and the USSR based on the preceding version of the "rolling text" (CD/1033).

The facilities inspected during this inspection on request were selected by the Polish side. The first was a central artillery depot of the Soviet troops, the second a central chemical depot, both located on the territory of Poland. The different nature of each of these facilities required different approaches to the conduct of the inspection. In the latter case the inspection team inspected the entire depot, while at the first facility it was possible to limit the inspection to just a part of it. In both cases conclusions were identical: no chemical weapons or their traces were discovered.

I would like to note with appreciation the full cooperation of the Soviet authorities and the management of the inspected facilities at all stages of the inspection. The inspection team had full access to all places selected by it, as well as to all documentation. This played an important role as a confidence-building measure at a time when relations between Poland and the USSR are being developed on a qualitatively new basis.

The experience gained during the exercise confirmed that inspection on request constitutes an indispensable element of the effective verification of compliance with the convention. The extent of cooperation by the inspected State with the inspection team will play a great role in dispelling concern about treaty compliance and terminating an inspection at an earlier stage when sufficient evidence is obtained that doubts or suspicion giving rise to the request were unwarranted. A request for inspection should, to the extent possible, clearly identify the nature of suspicion. This would considerably facilitate the task of the technical secretariat to select inspectors with appropriate qualifications and suitable equipment to fulfil the aims of the inspection.

In view of the importance of inspections on request in the verification system of the future chemical weapons convention, my delegation welcomes all efforts to find a final solution to this very important issue in our negotiations. Working paper CD/CW/WP.352 constitutes, in our view, a good basis for further work on article IX. We do believe that an agreement on the final shape of inspection on request will enable us to make progress on all other outstanding issues, thus contributing to the attainment of our common goal - completing negotiations on the chemical weapons convention by 1992. My delegation is ready to contribute its share in this endeavour.