

The conclusion of a chemical weapons convention is, in Poland's view, one of the most urgent and important tasks before the Committee on Disarmament. The Ad Hoc Working Group has already done the groundwork and with political will the remaining obstacles could be overcome.

As far as the procedures for verification are concerned, we repeat our opinion that it will have to be a compromise between national and international means of verification. We have discussed at length the main elements of the future convention and we have already many drafts of such a document on our table. The question now is how to use most effectively the accumulated experience in order to bridge the remaining differences and to start the task of drafting the text of a chemical weapons convention. We are firmly convinced that the realization of this task is now within our reach.

I would also like to say that my delegation noted with interest the views of the United States delegation concerning the contents of a chemical weapons convention which have recently been published as document CD/343. We shall study it and address the question in greater depth in the course of our discussion under the agenda item "Chemical weapons".

While I am speaking about chemical weapons allow me, now, Comrade Chairman, to express on behalf of Ambassador Sujka his heartfelt thanks to all those who from the beginning of this session have spoken warmly on his performance as the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons during the 1982 session. Ambassador Sujka, as you may know, has completed his tour of duty at Geneva and left for Warsaw. He could not introduce the report covering the period 17-28 January 1983 personally to the Committee on Disarmament. That is why he conveyed the report with a letter which reads as follows:

"Comrade Chairman, I have great pleasure in enclosing for your consideration the report on the work done during the period 17-28 January 1983 in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons, in accordance with paragraph 17 of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons of 17 September 1982 contained in document CD/334. Let me express the hope that this report will provide a contribution to the future work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons during the 1983 session of the Committee on Disarmament. Signed: Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons, B. Sujka."