

(Mr. de Rivero, Peru)

My third and final thought relates to the problem of challenge inspections. Working paper 371 of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons to a large extent summarizes the present status of the negotiations. However, unfortunately some still wish to some extent to distort the basic component in the original proposal to carry out such inspections in any place, at any time, and without delay. As far as my delegation is concerned, challenge inspection would be the last resort provided for under the convention in extreme cases when the other mechanisms available prove inadequate to resolve or clarify any doubt that arises from compliance with obligations under the convention. It is therefore important to emphasize and reiterate the exceptional or extreme nature of challenge inspection, because it is only in this fashion that we can understand the discretionary powers that should be conferred on the inspection team. My delegation therefore considers it questionable that the "final" perimeter of the site where the inspection is to be conducted may, in the final analysis, be the perimeter proposed by the inspecting State. It can also distort a challenge inspection if the inspected State is authorized to select alternative measures other than full and broad access for the inspectors.

If we bear in mind a recent case which has given rise to concern in the international community, we must agree that if we accept challenge inspections with ambiguities or restrictions, they will simply lose all justification. In this way we will be losing one of the most intelligent and appropriate mechanisms for ensuring confidence in compliance with the obligations and resolving doubts and questions that any convention, however perfect we may wish it to be, may have.