

(Mr. Ekéus, Sweden)

The Ad hoc Committee is indebted to the item co-ordinators, Mr. Nieuwenhuys of Belgium, Mr. Macedo of Mexico and Dr. Krutzsch of the German Democratic Republic, who have all worked hard and conscientiously. We also have to thank the Secretary, Mr. Bensmail, Mr. Cassandra and Ms. Darby of the secretariat. May I also thank the many delegations which have expressed kind words to the Chairman of the Committee during the session.

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... (The President)

Continuing the positive account, I hope I won't over-simplify matters too much in saying that, as far as the CD's work is concerned, almost all positive developments took place in the Ad hoc Committee on CW. One could say that that committee in fact started this year's work last year, during its autumn consultations, when interesting new proposals were put forward and widely discussed. Then, in January and throughout the spring session, the Ad hoc Committee continued its relentless effort under the chairmanship of Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden, both officially and informally in its full composition and in smaller groups, and some of the remaining differences were narrowed down.

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(The President)

There are, in my view, two issues we consider positive. Now we can see clearly and completely what is going to happen with CW stocks right from the entry into force of the convention until their complete destruction. First, declarations are going to be made on the ownership of CW in each country. The exact location of CW stocks and their composition are going to be indicated. The storage facilities are going to be closed. The transfer of CW to destruction facilities is going to be assured. Finally, the CW are going to be gradually destroyed. All activities mentioned above will be verified, including through international on-site inspection. The same basic clarity has been achieved with regard to CW production facilities.

We can now say that, after the latest positive developments, the Ad hoc Committee can move forward toward the final drafting of the convention on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons and, if good political will prevails, this process need not necessarily be too long. Many delegations expressed the wish that the CW convention should be concluded already this year. I fully associate myself with this call. In any event, it would be rather premature to doubt the feasibility of this task today, when only the first third of 1987 has passed.

The document announced today by Ambassador Ekéus entitled "Current stage of the negotiations on a Chemical Weapons Convention" will certainly help in taking necessary decisions on outstanding problems in national capitals during our recess.