

(Mr. Friedersdorf, United States)

In the same spirit I would like to draw attention to the efforts of the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Ekéus, and the cluster co-ordinators, Mr. Nieuwenhuys, Mr. Macedo and Dr. Krutzsch. Each in his own effective way has made important contributions to the negotiations. I want to express the deep appreciation of our delegation for their dedicated efforts.

Appendix II of the draft report of the Ad hoc Committee, and the addendum to the report, demonstrate clearly that during the summer an impressive amount of essential work was accomplished by the Chairman and the three co-ordinators. This material will be the basis for substantial additions to the "rolling text" during the inter-sessional period and in the 1988 session.

I have spoken about what has been achieved. Let me now turn to what remains to be done.

First of all, we must continue to focus on the real security concerns of States. We must develop effective provisions for challenge inspection, for monitoring the civil chemical industry, and for ensuring undiminished security for all States during the period for destruction of chemical weapons. We must find an approach that will encourage all States possessing chemical weapons to become parties to the convention, and that will minimize the chances that non-parties will pose a chemical weapons threat to parties.

Second, we must seek to ensure that the provisions of the convention can be effectively implemented. We must clarify the functions and interrelationships of its administrative bodies. We must amplify the detailed provisions that are necessary to implement its complex verification system, and explore the tasks of the Preparatory Commission, starting from CD/769. We must consider both instruments and procedures for inspections.

Third, we must prevent erosion of existing constraints on chemical weapons while we are negotiating. We must support investigation of reports that chemical weapons have been used, and condemn use of chemical weapons when it is established. We must all adopt measures to end the dangerous spread of chemical weapons.

Finally, we must intensify efforts to build confidence among the negotiating States. The United States is gratified that the importance of greater openness about chemical weapons capabilities is being recognized by a number of delegations. The United States welcomes these constructive steps. But there is still a long way to go. Many members of the Conference have not even indicated whether or not their countries possess chemical weapons. The United States delegation calls upon these delegations to make their position clear.

Some of the many complex and difficult tasks I have outlined today can only be resolved between the United States and the Soviet Union. For that reason we have decided to hold another round of bilateral discussions later this year. As I stressed in the Conference on 6 August, closing the gap between the positions of the United States and the Soviet Union is an