

(Mr. Turbanski, Poland)

As this is my last statement in my capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, I would like once again to express my deepest thanks, as I did in August, to all the delegates and experts, as well as the employees of the Secretariat, with whom I have had the pleasure to work. Mr P. Poptchev of Bulgaria, Mrs. E. Bonnier of Sweden and Mr. F. Elbe of the Federal Republic of Germany, who assisted me also during the resumed session deserve my special gratitude. They were tireless, skilfull and efficient in their efforts while guiding the work in the areas assigned to them.

I wish to thank personally Mr. A. Bensmail, the Secretary of the Committee, as well as his collaborators from the Secretariat. I was always able to count on their advice, assistance and support. And finally, let me thank those who work invisibly, but efficiently, and without whom our work would have been much more difficult, not to say impossible, the interpreters and translators.

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(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

My delegation will soon present its position on the fundamental issues on our agenda. Today I would like to make a few observations with reference to the report (contained in document CD/651) describing the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons between the 1985 summer session and the 1986 spring session.

First of all, I should like to express my special thanks to Ambassador Turbanski, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, for the excellent job he has done. His comments and the report show itself how much has been achieved under his guidance in the way of speeding up negotiations on the general and complete prohibition of chemical weapons and on the liquidation of the stockpiles of these dangerous arms. To continue the examination of unresolved problems and to start drafting has proved the right thing to do. If we can speak of a businesslike and constructive atmosphere today, we must attribute it first and foremost to the tolerant and human style the Committee's Chairman has cultivated in the performance of his duties.

Also, I wish to congratulate Mrs. Bonnier from the Swedish delegation, Comrade Poptchev from the Bulgarian delegation, Mr. Elbe from the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Mr. Wisnomoerti from the Indonesian delegation on the circumspection they displayed in their offices as co-ordinators of the working groups. I would also like to express my appreciation to Mr. Bensmail and his assistant, Mr. Cassandra, who performed their functions with great devotion and outstanding ability. Last but not least, our grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Johnston.