

(Mr. Lang, Austria)

the new organization and its staff members will enhance their performance and thus contribute to effective compliance procedures necessary for a successful disarmament regime in the field of chemical weapons.

My delegation appreciates that two prominent diplomats, well known for their skill and spirit of innovation, Ambassador Ritter von Wagner and Ambassador Kamal, are in charge of facilitating a decision on the site and the headquarters of the new organization. We certainly stand ready to participate in consultations on this issue and will submit our replies to the future questionnaire in due course.

Since, however, the best and most convincing documentation can be no substitute for a personal impression, we would like to offer to you the possibility of making up your mind by visiting Vienna and examining yourself our proposal for the provisional and permanent headquarters of the future Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as well as the infrastructure of the candidate city. I have therefore the honour to repeat a recent informal statement by Ambassador Klestil, Secretary-General of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and to invite all delegations which are members of the Conference on Disarmament to a two-day excursion to Vienna as guests of the Republic of Austria and the City of Vienna, at a date convenient to this Conference. We extend this invitation to the heads of each delegation accompanied by a person of their choice. I am confident that the information there at your disposal will facilitate an objective decision about the future host-country of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Let me assure you that we would be proud and honoured if it were Austria.

I wish to conclude my statement by paying a tribute to the Government of the Netherlands, which is organizing later this year a seminar on the practical aspects of the implementation of the chemical weapons convention. We hope that insights gained during this seminar will enable the contracting parties to the convention to assure an early and efficient "take-off" of the convention.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Austria for his statement. That concludes my list of speakers for today. Does any other representative wish to take the floor at this stage? I see none.

With your permission, we shall now proceed with action on those organizational questions which I mentioned at the opening of this plenary meeting. I put before the Conference, for adoption, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, contained in document CD/1116. If there is no objection, I shall consider that the Conference adopts it.

It was so decided.