

Mr. LUDEKING (Federal Republic of Germany): . . .

Only yesterday, in introducing the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, Ambassador Ekéus recalled how far the negotiations had gone since he was last Chairman three years ago. He pointed out that today we have a largely developed draft text with most of the elements in place. The conclusion of a comprehensive convention banning chemical weapons -- a matter of the highest priority for Western countries -- is no longer a distant goal but a real possibility.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I now propose that we take up for adoption the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons contained in document CD/782. Are there any delegations that would like to take the floor before we adopt the report of the Committee? I call on the representative of France.

(Mr. de la Baume, France)

...wanted to underscore the importance of security questions. Indeed, I observe that the Chairman's presentation itself notes on the same page 3, in the last paragraph, that the much discussed issue of the order of destruction of stocks is related to fundamental security concerns. I would take the liberty of recalling that it is indeed an essential question on location which has to be tied in directly with the debate under way on this subject, on the subject of which the Chairman of the Committee has himself invited all delegations to give careful attention to the relevant sections of the report and to look for mutual acceptable solutions.

...briefly put, our position on location, which has changed appreciably this year, is a specific aspect of the general debate on security. Both for reasons of form and for reasons of substance, it therefore seems to us that the remark on draft article IV which singles out my country is unfortunate and could have been avoided.