

(Mr. Tian Jin, China)

We have noted that the Soviet Union, in submitting the "basic provisions", has accepted the principle of on-site inspection. In the "basic provisions", reference has been made to the possibility of carrying out on-site inspection in two kinds of situation. Some representatives have made comments in this regard. As I mentioned earlier, we will study the Soviet proposal further. However, I would like to offer a preliminary observation. We feel that to ensure the effectiveness of the convention, more necessary on-site inspections are required, such as on-site inspection on the dismantling of production facilities and on allegations of the use of chemical weapons, etc.

Since the start of the summer session, the Chairman of the Working Group on Chemical Weapons has adopted some flexible approaches, setting up a number of informal consultation groups to engage in intensive consultations on some major issues of a future convention. We welcome this useful attempt. We also hope that consultation will be conducted on the basis of the results already achieved, which are reflected in document CD/CW/WP.33.

During the Second World War, the Chinese people also suffered from the harm of chemical weapons. In order to eliminate forever the danger of chemical war, the Chinese delegation sincerely hopes that a convention on the complete prohibition and total destruction of chemical weapons can be concluded as soon as possible. To this end, we pledge to make efforts together with other delegations.

Mr. STEELE (Australia): Mr. Chairman, I have asked for the floor today to react to the announcement by the delegations of France and China that they will not participate in the work of the Working Group on a Nuclear Test Ban.

Australia has for many years stressed the priority in disarmament negotiations of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty, and has consistently played an active role in international forums on this question. We have always held that such a ban should be genuinely comprehensive and should prohibit all nuclear tests in all environments for all time. A comprehensive test ban must, by definition, be capable of attracting universal adherence. It goes without saying that the prospects for this would be vastly better if all those States involved in nuclear testing participated in work on the treaty from the outset. While it is true that the Working Group established by this Committee is not, for the time being, empowered to begin negotiations on a CTB, it does have the opportunity to make an invaluable contribution to that end. Indeed, the fact that the Working Group does not have a negotiating mandate is all the more reason why no delegation should abstain from participation.

Australia can feel only regret and disappointment that two of the nuclear-weapon States have seen fit not to join in this endeavour. The Australian public has long been concerned at continued nuclear testing, particularly in our region. It will not be an easy task for the Australian Government to explain why two States, both having excellent relations with Australia, have declined to join in discussions aimed ultimately at a halt to such testing. Australia hopes that France and China will reconsider their positions and at an early date take up their rightful place in the nuclear test ban Working Group.

Australia similarly hopes that the negotiations between the other three nuclear-weapon States may be resumed at the earliest possible date.