(Mr. von Wagner, Germany)

publication of a series of the well-known "Blue Books"; by organizing and conducting training courses for participants from developing countries, the Finnish Project continues to contribute substantively to the build-up or reinforcement of a pool of skilled technical personnel in the third world who could serve as inspectors under the future organization. More than 20 analytical experts from many developing countries will have attended these courses by the end of this year. Some of the participants reported to the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons on their positive experience.

Some time ago, Norway informed the Conference on Disarmament on plans to conduct similar training courses. I very much welcome the fact that other countries feel encouraged by Finland's example to organize their own training courses, thus recognizing the importance of such an endeavour.

Mr. President, I am pleased to inform the Conference on Disarmament today that Germany, like Norway, has decided to contribute to our common efforts by conducting a first such training course this year, which is intended to be complementary to, rather than duplicating, the Finnish programme. The aim of our two-week course is the training of analytical chemists in some of the specific methods and the use of instruments of the type needed for on-site verification tasks under the future Chemical Weapons Convention. The participants in the first Finnish training course of 1992 from Argentina, India, Mexico and Morocco have also been invited to attend this follow-up course, to be held at the NBC Defence Establishment in Munster from 1 to 12 June 1992.

The programme of the course, which is organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany, was set up in close cooperation and coordination with Finland. It concentrates on practical exercises to enable future inspectors to act on-site in a safe and efficient manner. The programme includes

the handling of CW agent samples, in connection with the use of personal protection equipment;

specific field sampling techniques and on-the-spot identification of samples using a mobile mass spectrometer;

the investigation of munitions using non-destructive interrogation methods.

The course will also touch on the issue of old chemical weapons destruction. Furthermore, it will include a visit to a plant site in the chemical industry in Germany.