

(Mr. Ekeus, Sweden)

During the inter-sessional period work was initiated on two more articles which had not previously been the subject of negotiations. I am referring to article X, on Assistance, and article XI on Economic and Technological Development. The possible contents of these two important articles were intensively discussed and various approaches were suggested. Appendix II of the report contains material that I believe will be useful in the continued search for common ground in these two areas.

The sum total of the work during the resumed session, as well as previous sessions of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, is embodied in the report I am submitting today. It is a document which the Conference can take pride in. The draft Convention contained therein is no small achievement by this multilateral negotiating body. It speaks for itself and states clearly that the full and complete process of negotiations in which we are involved has reached an advanced stage. We have good reason to approach what remains with confidence and optimism.

In this context I wish to thank all delegations for the efforts they have put into the negotiations, and for the spirit of co-operation in which they have worked. A special tribute is due to the three item co-ordinators, Mr. Philippe Nieuwenhuys of Belgium, Mr. Pablo Macedo of Mexico and Dr. Walter Krutzsch of the German Democratic Republic. With unfailing energy and patience they have conducted the work in their respective areas, bringing us tangible and important results.

I would like to express special gratitude to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Abdelkader Bensmail, for his commendable work for the Committee during the inter-sessional period and indeed during my whole tenure as Chairman. His work has been characterized by a combination of the highest professional skill and good political judgement.

My thanks go also to Ms. Darby and other members of the secretariat for their indispensable and effective support.

The world community expects us to conclude this work urgently and responsibly. During the last session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the international community adopted for the first time one single consensus resolution (resolution 42/37 A) on the issue of our negotiations on the complete and effective prohibition of chemical weapons.

In the resolution the General Assembly expresses its conviction

"of the necessity that all efforts be exerted for the continuation and successful conclusion of negotiations on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons and on their destruction".