

(Mr. von Stülpnagel, Federal Republic of Germany)

According to the time and work schedule of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, the CW negotiations are presently revolving in Cluster III around issues pertaining to non-production of chemical weapons.

My Government wishes to demonstrate its political determination to achieve a CW convention as soon as possible by introducing a Working Paper concerning the collection and forwarding of data and other information to verify the non-production of chemical weapons. This paper will be submitted tomorrow and given to the Ad Hoc Committee under the symbol CD/CW/WP.159.

It provides for a two-tier system whereby the national authority collects extensive data from its industry, which it then forwards to the international authority in a weighted manner according to the substances belonging either to category 2 or 3.

The international authority in return should have the right to request clarifications about these data transmitted by the national authority. This right to clarification should be formulated in a business-like manner in order to reserve on-challenge inspections for cases of grave doubts about compliance with the convention.

The total extent of the data and other information required to verify the non-production of CW is determined both by the number of substances listed in Annexes 2 and 3 and by the intensity of the control régime for each category. Of particular importance in this respect is the threshold, still to be fixed, for the exclusion of small quantities which do not pose a military threat and which therefore are irrelevant for CW control purposes; this threshold will have a considerable influence on the number of producers and users who are required to provide information. The question of where this line is to be drawn should be examined separately on the basis of militarily significant quantities.

The Working Paper we are to present is based on the following conception: the submission of the data needed to verify the non-production of chemical weapons is intended to contribute to effective international verification by the international authority. This presupposes selection of the appropriate data. More data does not automatically mean greater security against violations of the convention. The international authority should be given the data it needs in order to keep track of the production, acquisition, use, transfer and storage of the substances listed in the Annexes. The requirements in terms of specific details can and must be greater for the substances listed in Annex 2 than for those in Annex 3. While with regard to the handling of the substances listed in Annex 2 both facility-related figures and aggregate national data will have to be submitted, only the latter data, in our view, need be submitted on the substances listed in Annex 3.

The system of national data collection and transfer as described here, in connection with the right of the international authority to ask for clarification, will guarantee the largest necessary transparency of data handling and the most effective international control. The main work of data