

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

And the final point: in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee there is no reference to anybody being recommended for the post of Chairman for the next yearly cycle of the Conference on Disarmament. In fact, I don't know, maybe a shorter term of office than mine awaits the future Chairman. At all events, there is no such recommendation, and that is because when we adopted the report last week in the Ad Hoc Committee, we did not yet have a candidate we could include in the report. However, I am now delighted to inform you and officially report that we have consensus to the effect that Dr. Adolf Ritter von Wagner, Ambassador and representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament, is recommended as the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for the next yearly cycle of the Conference on Disarmament. I am convinced, and I am expressing the shared view of all the participants in the CW negotiations, that this is a fine choice. We know the distinguished Ambassador von Wagner as an experienced CW negotiator. This year he had a heavy burden on his shoulders as the Western Group's coordinator on chemical weapons, and I think we can be certain that he will be a fine Chairman for next year. Therefore, on my own behalf, and on behalf of the other members of the Ad Hoc Committee, I would like to congratulate Ambassador von Wagner, so to speak, on his forthcoming designation as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, in January, of course. On the basis of my own experience, I could at the same time express some commiseration with him. But that is what his destiny is now going to be. Yet again I congratulate him and express the hope that the Conference on Disarmament will endorse our report, the report of our Ad Hoc Committee.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We are now to adopt document CD/1108, containing the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. If there are no objections, we will adopt it.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I now give the floor to the representative of Germany, Ambassador von Wagner, and I take this opportunity to congratulate him on his appointment as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for next year.