

become a source for the production of chemical agents for hostile purposes.

The convention should allow the transfer of toxic substances used for protective or research purposes to member countries which do not possess production facilities. Such transfers should not exceed a total of 1,000 kilos and should be monitored by the Consultative Committee, with a view to preventing the acquisition of stockpiles through purchases from several suppliers.

Concerning the declaration of stockpiles, production facilities and transfers of chemical agents, we support the idea that each States party should report, within 30 days at the most following the entry into force of the convention, on quantities of toxic warfare substances, according to categories, types and characteristics, as well as their means of use, year of production and origin. In our opinion, declarations should also indicate programmes for the destruction of stockpiles of chemical agents and their means of use. The respective operations should begin at the latest within six months of the entry into force of the convention and should continue, though not beyond a period of 10 years. In addition, provision should be made for dismantling facilities for the production of chemical warfare agents and for the filling of chemical munitions.

The verification of the substantive provisions of the future convention naturally represents a fundamental element of this international instrument. In the opinion of the Romanian delegation, verification should consist in a combination of national and international means, including an obligatory system of systematic inspection, including on-site inspection, as an important instrument for creating and maintaining a climate of trust between the States parties. An important role should be attributed to the national authority, which each State should constitute with a view to acquiring appropriate instruments for the analysis and rapid appreciation of all relevant developments. The structure and composition of this authority should be such as to permit both specific activity on an internal plane and efficient co-operation with other similar agencies and international verification bodies. We attach full attention to the important proposals submitted in this respect by the Yugoslav delegation (document CD/432).

The Romanian delegation considers that, in order to increase the credibility of the destruction of stockpiles of chemical weapons, as well as of production facilities, national measures should be supplemented with international means, including on-site inspections. We also support the setting up of a Consultative Committee and of subsidiary bodies, based on the principle of the equality of all States parties to the Convention, working on a basis of consensus. In the opinion of the Romanian delegation, the task of the Consultative Committee could be to verify the declarations of States, to co-operate with national authorities and ensure an exchange of information, to analyse requests for on-site inspection, to resolve any differences which may arise and to inform all the States parties each year on the way problems related to the Convention have developed. We would also like to record our support for the idea of setting up an interim body, to prepare the application in practice of the Convention prior to its entry into force. Setting up such a body, through a General Assembly resolution, the same as would open the Convention to the signature of all States, would in our opinion be a good solution.

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About two years ago the Soviet Union submitted to the Conference draft basic provisions for a convention on that subject. We have since repeatedly adjusted and supplemented important elements of that draft so as to accommodate the positions of the parties to the negotiations, in particular with regard to the scope of the ban and its verification. This was welcomed at the Conference. The Soviet delegation is firmly