

(Mr. Turbanski, Poland)

In the final paragraph of the report, the Committee emphasizes that the report should be considered together with the Committee's report on its 1985 session and should equally be utilized in further elaboration of the Convention. In other words, the Committee should make good use of the results achieved and continue its work toward setting up régimes with regard to the listed chemicals and defining chemical weapons production facilities -- thus enabling more concrete work to be done on their elimination -- and, finally, working out mutually acceptable and efficient fact-finding and on-challenge verification procedures.

These three areas are of basic importance for the overall possibilities of further progress in our work on the Convention.

The negotiations on the chemical-weapons ban have reached a very important stage, I would say -- a kind of turning point and, at the same time, a point of dilemma. Turning point because we will have to rely more and more on precise and thorough technical expertise. We are all striving to speed up the process of drafting the Convention but, at the same time, we do not always have the manpower resources, especially on the technical level, necessary to sustain, when needed, simultaneous work on different issues. We will have to resolve this dilemma.

At the outset of the 1986 session I cannot but make another remark. The Ad Hoc Committee worked in January in an atmosphere which was more conducive to progress than that during the session of 1985. I think everybody can identify the background of this improvement.

The first and most important one is the Soviet-American agreement on the need to activate efforts towards achieving an effective and verifiable convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. Another factor undoubtedly favourable to our work was the statement made on 15 January by the General Secretary of the CPSU containing new ideas with regard to chemical weapons. Moreover, the intensification of the efforts of the USSR and the United States is being matched by a similar attitude on the part of other members of the CD. Such harmonized action by all members of the CD could soon bring even more tangible results. It is a specific characteristic of this important multilateral forum that to achieve common goals we have to work together.

There is also another factor, maybe not a quite new one, but certainly more visible. That is the continuity of the negotiating process in the intersessional period. We had a period of very intensive consultations and an intensive and productive January session. This should encourage us to use more fully and effectively the intersessional period for negotiating and drafting.

I do strongly believe that this year's session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons will bring more good will, more understanding for each other's positions, and more readiness to compromise which all together will add to a new spirit around the chemical-weapons negotiating table, thus leading to considerable progress in the preparation of the Convention banning chemical weapons.