

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

destruction and non-production of chemical weapons and on measures to facilitate the multilateral convention banning chemical weapons. It is planned to conclude the preparation of the document on inspection procedures by 31 December 1990.

An understanding was reached during this round that the document will consist of four sections dealing with general provisions on the preparation and conduct of inspections and inspections at chemical weapons destruction facilities, storage facilities and production facilities. In drawing up the document on inspections, the sides have agreed to utilize to the maximum extent the already available provisions from the draft convention on a chemical weapons ban which is on the negotiating table of the Conference on Disarmament. This approach is intended not only to accelerate the preparation of the bilateral document, but also to provide valuable experience for the practical implementation of the provisions worked out at the multilateral negotiations and concerning verification of the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons.

As is known, with a view to gaining experience and facilitating the elaboration and implementation of the future convention, the USSR and United States also agreed within the framework of the bilateral Agreement of 1 June 1990 to conduct bilateral trial challenge inspections. During the sixteenth round the delegations started to prepare detailed provisions for such trial inspections, including the number and location of facilities to be inspected and the procedures to be followed. A preliminary understanding was reached on the conduct of two trial inspections. The discussion of issues concerning trial inspections will be continued in order to reach agreement on the requisite arrangements.

During the round, special consultations continued on questions of co-operation between the USSR and the United States with respect to methods and technology for the destruction of chemical weapons. Highly qualified experts from both sides who are directly involved in the preparation and execution of national programmes for the destruction of chemical weapons in the USSR and the United States participated in these discussions. There was an exchange of information on the state of implementation of these national programmes. The experts also discussed issues concerning: the preparation of the Soviet and United States safety and remissions standards, including monitoring by instruments of compliance with them; the transport of chemical weapons for destruction; the prevention of accidents at chemical weapons destruction facilities and the handling of emergencies; and control of the process of chemical weapons destruction. Both sides were of the opinion that these were useful discussions.

In accordance with the existing agreement, on 21 and 22 August 1990 a group of United States specialists will be visiting the Soviet Union's Chapaevsk training centre for personnel of chemical weapons destruction facilities. During this visit there will be, inter alia, discussions on matters related to the technology for destroying chemical weapons based on