

(Mr. Fan, China)

We have learned that the eleventh round of bilateral negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on chemical weapons, which ended on 29 June, have scored success on challenge inspection and have resulted in a joint document. It is hoped that the document will soon be made available to our Conference to allow for deliberations among its participants. I listened with appreciation to the briefing on the United States-Soviet bilateral negotiations provided by the head of the Soviet delegation, and hope that he will provide further such briefings in the future.

The Executive Council will be a major organ of the organization. During both the spring and summer sessions, the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee initiated many rounds of consultations with interested parties, leading to the emergence of several proposals on the issue. The Chinese delegation believes that an equitable balance should be maintained in the composition of the Executive Council by proceeding on the basis of geographical distribution with due regard to such factors as the capacity of the chemical industry and political realities. But to put such an idea into a formula acceptable to all is a very complicated and delicate task indeed. We for our part will carefully study the various ideas and proposals in the hope of arriving at an early solution.

At this summer session some useful preliminary explorations have been pursued with regard to the issue of sanctions. In the view of the Chinese delegation, sanctions, like the verification régime, can also act to a certain degree to deter non-compliance. With appropriate provision for sanctions in the convention, we can expect better compliance and implementation and increased confidence among States parties in its effectiveness. The discussions of this issue have revealed its complexity as regards the political and legal aspects and implementation. Although many States agree on the need for sanctions, a series of problems still remain unresolved in seeking an appropriate régime in this field. The Chinese delegation stands ready to work with all the other delegations in that endeavour.

(Mr. Johanes, Czechoslovakia)

... The transition from confrontation to dialogue and the lessening of tension have already made it possible to initiate the process of real disarmament which is a key to a safer world. The elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons - intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles - is proceeding successfully. The Soviet-American talks on 50 per cent reductions in strategic nuclear arms are continuing. Important activities such as the initiative of the New Delhi Six are leading to progress in disarmament. The Paris Conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons has taken place. Negotiations on conventional armed forces and on confidence-building measures have been launched and are proceeding successfully in Vienna. However, new, resolute steps must be taken on the path to disarmament, not only bilaterally but also multilaterally, where the Geneva Conference has an irreplaceable role to play.