

Mr. TURBANSKI (Poland): Mr. President, I would wish to comment briefly, in my capacity as co-ordinator of the Group of Socialist States for chemical weapons, in connection with the report of the Committee just presented by Ambassador Ekéus, its Chairman. We would like, of course, to express our satisfaction at the adoption of the report by the Committee, and we note with pleasure the important progress made during the year, the progress so ably and so clearly presented by Ambassador Ekéus in his introduction. I feel, by the way, that his summary will be very helpful to the delegations in preparation for further work. However, I would wish to say that we cannot be fully satisfied with the contents of the report, either with regard to the substance of the "rolling text" -- that is appendix I -- or the recommendations, in particular the one concerning the inter-sessional work of the Ad hoc Committee.

In our opinion, more valuable material worked out during the session could and should have been included in the "rolling text", but since we work on the basis of consensus that proved not to be possible. We regret this development, and hope that the inter-sessional period will enable us to enrich the "rolling text" before the start of the 1988 session.

The solution which we have reached with respect to the inter-sessional work is not what we had been expecting, and not what we feel is needed at this stage of the negotiations.

The socialist countries were and still are ready for maximum and effective use of the time between the closure of this year's session and the beginning of the 1988 session. The most far-reaching proposal to that effect -- to "hold an additional session of the Conference this year to complete the bulk of the drafting of the convention banning chemical weapons" -- was put forward by E. Shevardnadze, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, and it has been fully supported by the socialist countries.

(Mr. Turbanski, Poland)

We believe that at this advanced stage of negotiations on Chemical Weapons we should do our best to maintain the momentum by means of full and intensive use of the time available. I can assure you that the delegations of our group will be present in Geneva on 23 November 1987 and ready to start further work on the convention under the chairmanship of Ambassador Ekéus.

In concluding I would like once again to thank the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Ekéus, for his strenuous efforts and able chairmanship during the whole session, and for his efforts at the stage of discussion and adoption of the report which brought us finally to the adoption of the report.

Our thanks go likewise to the cluster co-ordinators, Mr. Krutzsch, Mr. Macedo and Mr. Nieuwenhuys, for their patient, hard work and the skilful manner in which they have performed their duties. Let me also thank the secretariat and the interpreters for their valuable assistance and contribution to the work of the Committee. And with your kind permission and through you, Mr. President, let me thank whole-heartedly the distinguished Ambassador García Robles, the distinguished Ambassador Rolf Ekéus who spoke today, and you, Mr. President, and other colleagues for the very kind, generous words and good wishes addressed to me on the occasion of my leaving the Conference. On my part I wish them and all of you all success in your future endeavours.