

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his statement and for the kind words he addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the representative of the Soviet Union, Ambassador Issraelyan.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): The Soviet delegation, which is acting as the co-ordinator of the group of socialist countries for March 1982, has taken the floor in order formally to introduce the document of the Committee on Disarmament (CD/258) entitled "Binary weapons and the problem of effective prohibition of chemical weapons". The sponsors of this document -- the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic -- have set themselves a modest but important objective: to draw the attention of the countries members of the Committee on Disarmament to the fact that the well-known decision of the United States administration concerning the large-scale development of the production of binary chemical weapons with their subsequent stationing on the territories of other States, primarily European, entails, apart from other negative consequences, substantial additional difficulties in the matter of the elaboration of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

The socialist countries consider that the Committee on Disarmament -- a body in which the international community at present places great hopes with regard to the elaboration of a draft of such a convention -- cannot behave as though nothing had happened and ignore the consequences of the above-mentioned decision. That would be to close our eyes to reality. I do not wish to anticipate or prejudge the Committee's attitude, but the socialist countries for their part are firmly convinced of the need for the future convention to prohibit all chemical weapons -- both traditional and new -- and to leave no possibility for the retention of any such weapons, particularly weapons with a binary charge.

The working paper submitted by the socialist countries does not by any means list all but only some of the difficulties with which the participants in the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons will be faced in the light of the prospect of the production of binary weapons. The questions prepared by the Bulgarian delegation in the Working Group on Chemical Weapons spell out some additional aspects of the problem. Other delegations, too, no doubt, will have questions and comments in this connection. It is important to look into all this. And if we want the negotiations to be successful, we should do this within the Working Group in a businesslike manner, calmly, neither dramatizing the situation nor simplifying it. It is the duty of all of us to proceed in this way.

The CHAIRMAN (translated from French): I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Sweden, Ambassador Lidgard.