COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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FINLAND

Working Paper on the Relation of Non-Proliferation to the Issue of a Ban on Chemical Weapons [illegible]

The negotiations in the CCD and the CD for banning chemical weapons [illegible] have gone on for a decade and a half resulting in no agreement. The many [illegible] working papers, and expert meetings have, however, shed light on the [illegible] problems involved and considerable has been reached in several areas.

Over the last years the subject has also been dealt with in the bilateral consultations between the United States of America and the USSR, and special expectations have been placed in these negotiations. Here, too, the optimism has proved unfounded and the Joint reports promise no convention in the near future. The reports, latest (CD/112) in the summer of 1960, do augur some common understanding on many important points - mostly on the basis of earlier findings in the [illegible] or CD - which will give technical preparedness for a treaty as soon as the political understanding has been reached.

Firstly, it is most satisfying to note that the two sides believe that the future convention would be a comprehensive one with commitments never to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain super-toxic lethal or harmful chemicals or precursors of such chemicals, as well as chemical munitions or other means of chemical warfare. It also contains an undertaking to destroy all existing [illegible].

Secondly, they proceed from the premises that the scope of the prohibitions of any future convention ought to be determined on the basis of the general purpose criterion. The goal of this is to give the treaty a fully unambiguous content leaving no room for misinterpretation i.e. no violations are there to have arisen in ignorance.

Unfortunately outsiders cannot easily verify the purpose of the development or production of a chemical, thus considering it as a chemical warfare agent on the basis of the purpose criterion is often impossible until the chemical has been used or at least placed in munitions or army depositories. Therefore, additional criteria for the chemical agents have been found necessary for facilitating verification. In the additional definition, the two sides have first agreed to use the use of the toxicity criterion.