

(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherlands)

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons will have a unique character. To establish it in the vicinity of the IAEA would have advantages but also disadvantages. One may expect in such a case that the IAEA Board of Governors and the Executive Council of the CW Organization would, to a large extent, consist of the same persons. This could lead to continuous comparisons between established nuclear safeguards practices on the one hand, and verification measures under the CW convention on the other. But the verification measures required under the CW convention are very different: they have a wider scope and are on occasion more intrusive, albeit generally less precise than nuclear safeguards. Maybe we should also keep in mind that the CW Organization might not follow the United Nations salary system because of its need for some highly qualified experts. This would be more difficult to achieve in a "UN city", or could lead to undesirable tensions between different organizations.

At the first day of this year's spring session, the Netherlands' Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hans van den Broek, repeated his offer to make The Hague the seat of the Organization. Today, we introduce a bid-book which contains a concrete proposal highlighting the substantial financial aspects of that offer. Let me quote directly from the bid-book just circulated, page 13: "The Netherlands is prepared to bear the costs of leasing a building to house the Preparatory Commission and the treaty Organization during the preparatory phase and for a considerable period of time after the signing of the treaty, which would cover half of the transitional period. The Netherlands would also meet the costs of furnishing and equipping the accommodation. One matter requiring further attention during the preparatory phase will be the training of inspectors. The Netherlands is studying the possibility of providing training facilities free of charge".

The bid-book also outlines some further advantages of The Hague as the seat for this particular Organization. These advantages include the presence near The Hague of a renowned laboratory in the CW field, which could be used as a basis for the laboratory needed by the Technical Secretariat. For years, Dr. Ooms, whom you all know, was the Director of that Laboratory. Another asset of The Hague, certainly in view of the foreseeable occurrence of short-notice inspections, are the excellent world-wide airlinks available at Schiphol International Airport, half an hour by train from the railway station which lies in the vicinity of the proposed premises for the CW treaty Organization. I may point out that several options for suitable modern office buildings in the centre of The Hague have been indicated in a bid-book.

One other important ingredient for an easy life in this internationally oriented city is the fact that English is generally spoken fluently, as well as often German and French or other languages. Furthermore, The Hague and the Netherlands as a whole offer a range of international educational institutions, foreign television stations, foreign-language theatres, etc.