

(Mr. Cannock, Peru)

With regard to item 4 of our agenda, chemical weapons, I should like to express our gratitude to the Ad Hoc Working Group on this subject for the work it did under the able guidance of Ambassador Sujka, which made significant progress possible in this sphere. This goes to prove that when the political will exists to act, or at least not to obstruct the efforts of the Committee, it is perfectly possible to make headway. Naturally, this recognition is without prejudice to the order of priorities established by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament, which was recently confirmed.

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

We share the view that one of the Committee's main tasks is accelerating the elaboration of an international convention on the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons. The socialist countries, including the People's Republic of Bulgaria, are actively pursuing this course. The basic provisions for a chemical weapons convention introduced by the USSR, the other relevant documents of the socialist countries, as well as their participation in this Committee's Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons are significant examples of their constructive activity. For co-ordinating mutually acceptable texts, however, it is necessary for certain States to give up their attempts to enforce the inclusion of unrealistic or biased elements in the future convention. We are awaiting with interest the proposal of the United States on this matter.

Regrettably, the leading Western power continues to disrupt the normal atmosphere in the Committee and its Working Group, and by directing unfounded allegations against another member State is trying to influence the negotiations on a chemical weapons convention. As in the past, my delegation is of the opinion that the resumption of the Soviet-American negotiations on banning chemical weapons will considerably improve the chances for the early elaboration of a convention.