

(Mr. Erdembileg, Mongolia)

In this connection I should like to draw attention to a positive shift which can be detected in the work of the subsidiary body on the prohibition of chemical weapons. In document CD/429, the last report of the Ad Hoc Working Group, there is an agreed subparagraph in which the Ad hoc Working Group recommends to the Conference to start the full and complete process of negotiations, developing and working out the convention, except for its final drafting, taking into account all existing proposals and drafts as well as other initiatives with a view to giving the Conference a possibility to achieve an agreement as soon as possible.

A sufficient number of documents, among them the document proposed by the Soviet Union which can serve as a sound basis for negotiations, namely, "Basic provisions of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests", are on the negotiating table.

I should like to add that the initiative of the socialist States parties to the Warsaw Treaty proposing that Europe should be free of chemical weapons is unequivocally aimed at assisting the earliest attainment of this real advance in the field of disarmament.

(Mr. Datcu, Romania)

Another area to which my delegation attaches great importance is that of negotiations to outlaw chemical weapons. The impressive volume of specialized documentation at the disposal of this Conference on this item, the arduous negotiations which have been under way for so many years, as well as the inherent importance of banning chemical weapons, which might become the first weapons of mass destruction existing in military arsenals to be outlawed, are so many elements which should speed up our negotiations during this session. The existence of a draft convention submitted by the delegation of the Soviet Union, and the draft agreement which the United States delegation said it would present shortly, as well as the many concrete proposals of texts put forward by other delegations, clearly indicate, in our opinion, the possibility of proceeding this year to the preparation of the first draft of the text of the future convention. Without prejudice to any decisions which the future chairman of the working group on the item may take, the Romanian delegation would like to suggest that the setting up of a drafting body for chemical weapons would be desirable this year.

Such a body might replace the contact group or else function side by side with them. In any event, we support the proposal that a procedural decision should be taken shortly to allow negotiations to get underway as rapidly as possible on chemical weapons.