

(Mr. Shannon, Canada)

My Netherlands colleague has already touched on the "managed access" element of the joint trial challenge inspection of CFB Lahr. I would like to add a point of reinforcement from the perspective of the inspected State. Even though normal security sensitivities applied to CFB Lahr as an operational military airfield and a garrison for land forces, the "managed access" approach to particular facilities and equipment was able both to meet the needs of the inspection team and to satisfy the security concerns of the inspected State.

As an aside, I want to express here to my Netherlands colleague our deep pleasure and appreciation for the opportunity afforded us to work so closely with our Dutch colleagues and to remark upon the professionalism which both the Netherlands Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Defence displayed throughout this exercise.

Mr. President, my delegation offers to you, at the beginning of substantive work of this CD session, our full support as we strive to conclude, as soon as possible, a CW convention that will result in the complete destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and remove for ever the fear that such horrible weapons might again be used. This year has seen the threat of CW use raised again; our task is to ensure the year does not end with the question of the control of CW still unresolved.

I take this opportunity to add that, as in previous years, my delegation will be distributing, through the secretariat, copies of the latest compendiums of CW-related documents and statements delivered during the 1990 session.

The PRESIDENT:

... Our negotiations on a convention banning chemical weapons have shown encouraging progress. This is all the more timely since we have witnessed in the recent past how much suffering chemical weapons may cause. May I therefore remind all delegations, those of member States as well as those of States wishing to accede to the status of participating non-members, that all States participating in the Paris Conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons made the following call in its Final Declaration: "In addition, in order to achieve as soon as possible the indispensable universal character of the convention, they call upon all States to become parties thereto as soon as it is concluded." In this context I wish to note that all 34 States non-members that have addressed communications to us have indicated their wish to be invited to participate in our negotiations on the banning of chemical weapons.