

(Mr. Taylhardat, Venezuela)

more difficult to have a viable treaty for the prohibition of chemical weapons if the verification mechanism were to be too costly, as would seem to be the case of the system that is being designed. To give an idea of the reason for our concern, one need only point out that for 1987 the cost of financing the IAEA safeguards system is \$34,362,000, and it is estimated that this cost will rise by about \$2 million a year. Thus for 1988 the estimate is \$36,323,000, for 1989, \$38 million, for 1990, \$40 million, and for 1991, \$42 million.

For a disarmament treaty to be effective, besides being reliable and verifiable it must be universal. In order to be universal it must secure the participation of the greatest possible number of countries, and to this end it is necessary to ensure that the financial burden on the parties is as light as possible.