

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

This year's session marked a noticeable acceleration of the negotiations on a chemical-weapon ban. The Soviet proposals contained in the January Declaration of the General Secretary of the CPSU, M. Gorbachev, and subsequently developed in the speech of my distinguished colleague, Ambassador Issraelyan on 22 April, gave an impetus to the negotiations.

The work in the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons was organized in a manner that made use of all valuable texts in CD/636 and CD/651, reached during the chairmanship of Ambassador Turbanski of Poland, thus creating an atmosphere of continuity in the negotiations. The discussions in the three Working Groups not only gained momentum but also a new qualitative dimension.

The Working Groups' reports reveal that the area of agreement or mutual understanding have increased to a degree which allows almost a comprehensive assessment of the political, security, economic and legal implications of a future convention. A number of complex technical issues were solved or were brought to the point of near solution. In this regard the participation of chemical experts from many delegations was particularly useful.

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The negotiations were conducted in a business-like manner and the atmosphere was generally positive.

My delegation also finds constructive the decision taken by the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Cromartie of the United Kingdom, to encourage additional efforts for developing the texts in the Working Groups up to 20 August.

The two rounds of Soviet-American consultations on all aspects of a chemical-weapons ban that took place during the session have had, in our opinion, a positive and stabilizing influence on the overall setting of the multilateral negotiations.

The good results in the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons notwithstanding, my delegation believes the Conference should not allow itself any complacency. A number of important issues await decision in context of the draft convention. The readiness to complete this draft as soon as possible should be coupled with a specific agreement to utilize better the intersessional period this year. A different course of action, as suggested by some Western delegations, might have grave political consequences. Suspicions might arise particularly in the wake of the planned implementation of the United States binary programme. My delegation hopes that a decision to resume the work of the Ad hoc Committee as early as October could be taken.