COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Working paper

Binary weapons and the problem of effective prohibition of chemical weapons

The delegations of the socialist countries to the Committee on Disarmament feel it necessary to draw attention to a number of circumstances that are critically relevant for elaboration and approval of a draft convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction.

What is involved here are well-known resolutions concerning the prohibition, demilitarizing and, ultimately, eliminating on the territories on other countries of a new generation of chemical weapons -- binary weapons. Whatever reasons and justifications may be adduced, it is an undeniable fact that the implementation in arsenals of such weapons with binary charges inevitably leads to a further dangerous spiral in the chemical arms race.

As is well known, the basic difficulty in solving the problem of prohibiting chemical weapons stems from their particular nature in the difficulty of separating commercial chemicals from those which can be used for chemical weapons. The emergence of binary weapons will complicate by a multiple this already difficult problem.

Without [illegible] an exhaustive analysis of the negative consequences of adopting, in the [illegible] of binary chemical weapons, the authors of this working paper would like to touch a number of important points of direct relevance to the negotiations in progress in the Committee and a plea to the elaboration of a multilateral agreement on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction. Existing information concerning binary weapons leads to the conclusion that the following consequences, in particular, are inevitable:

1. In the long term, the range of chemicals capable of being used as components in these weapons will expand considerably, with a corresponding expansion of the range of binary mixtures of harming effect (not lethal, paralysis of the nervous system). This, for example, the diversity of conventional