

(Mr. Jessel, France)

This brings me, finally, to the two fields in which I feel that we can speak of positive results — limited results, I admit, but very real ones.

This applies first of all to the negotiations on chemical weapons. I am not alone in holding this view. On the contrary, I am pleased to note that it has already been expressed around this table by several of my colleagues; I note, too, that in his statement just now the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union judged the activity of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons to have been positive. The credit for these results must undoubtedly be shared by all the delegations. But we must also pay tribute, and, it is a pleasure for me to do so, to the tireless efforts made by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Ambassador Turbanski, not forgetting to thank the Chairman of the Working Groups, Mr. Poptchev, Mrs. Bonnier and Mr. Frank Elbe, and the Chairman of the Open-ended Consultations, Mr. Wisnoemoerti. Of course, our labours are not at end: the intensive discussions that have taken place during the six months of the current session have shown the extent of the differences of opinion concerning binary weapons on the one hand and herbicides on the other. We have expressed our own opinions on this subject, and I will not revert to them at this stage. The exchanges of views at this session have also produced positive results, particularly in regard to the prohibition of the use and the elimination of stockpiles and the neutralization of the means of production. These are questions to which my authorities have given particular attention and concerning the second of which they have consequently submitted a document which appears under the symbol CD/630. Other questions too, remain outstanding and have not been settled. However, to conclude this chapter on a positive note, permit me to say how gratified we are to see that we are all agreed that the Committee should resume its work next January and that, in the meantime, its current Chairman should continue his consultations: the importance of the negotiations is, indeed, such that we should devote as much time to them as possible and international public opinion should be made aware of the multilateral efforts that are being made in their regard by the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva.