

Mr. NAZARKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): . . .

First of all, I would like to make a few comments on the statements we have just heard by the representative of the United States, Ambassador Hansen. I wish to note the positive elements contained in his statement. The United States has declared that it will remove one of the obstacles to the agreement on the question of the destruction of CW stocks. This is undoubtedly a positive development, and I hope that the delegation of the United States will pursue the chemical weapons negotiations in the same positive spirit.

The distinguished representative of the United States raised the question of challenge inspection. That is today one of the most important issues facing us in the chemical weapons negotiations, and the exchange of views on it is undoubtedly essential. Evidently, such an exchange is also appropriate in a less formal situation, and on the whole this is happening. Therefore, it would hardly be correct for me to embark on a detailed discussion of the comments made today by Ambassador Hansen. We will have occasion to do this in other circumstances. I would just today like to point out that, unfortunately, on the basis of the comments made by Ambassador Hansen on challenge inspection, we see that there still remains the position which the United States adopted three years ago, back in 1984, concerning the automatic nature of challenge inspections.

This will not be conducive to progress in the negotiations, considering in particular the fact that many other delegations have made very varied comments on other ways in which the question of challenge inspection could be resolved. Ambassador Hansen, as far as I could see, showed interest in the