

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

course, serious work will be needed here, and we will need to do our utmost to reduce our differences on this subject. It would not seem to be a wise idea to postpone a final decision on the whole complex of problems concerning the executive council until the very end of work on the draft convention. Important issues which we still have to deal with in the near future are questions relating to the financing of the future organization and its structure. The recent specific proposals which have been put forward on this subject are of interest and deserve in-depth study.

The considerable progress achieved on the multilateral convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction was made possible thanks to the efforts made by all participants in the negotiations, including the 37 States that are not members of the Conference on Disarmament, and their desire to seek mutually acceptable compromise solutions, their readiness to devote maximum attention, regardless of the time required, to moving work on the Convention forward as fast as possible. I can safely state that the groundwork for the present progress was largely laid by my predecessors as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, and by all the many years of painstaking work on the draft convention. Of course, we still have much to do in order to complete the work on the convention next year.

In submitting the report I must express my warmest thanks to the chairmen of the three working groups, Mr. Mashhadi from Iran, Mr. Gizowsky from Poland and Mr. Perugini from Italy. I was also helped in my work by the friends of the Chair, Ambassadors Loeis and Brotodiningrat from Indonesia, Mr. Meerburg, the Netherlands and Mr. Canonne, France. The members of the bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons did all they could to help move ahead with work on the draft convention. Enormous work was also done by Mrs. Rautio, Finland, in the Group on Analytical Database and Laboratories. We may rightly consider this work as practical preparation for the operation of the future organization. On behalf of the participants in the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for organizing the visit to The Hague, where the Government of the Netherlands proposes to locate the headquarters of the future organization under the convention. Allow me also to thank the Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee, Mr. Bensmail, his deputy, Ms. Hoppe, and their assistants, Ms. Darby and Ms. Roux, and to note their great professionalism and invaluable assistance in our work. I would also like to extend our appreciation to the interpreters and translators as well as all the technical personnel who contributed to the effectiveness and proper organization of our work.

As I have already said, in approving its report to the Conference on Disarmament, our Ad Hoc Committee is not in any way preparing to wind down its work. Quite the contrary - this year the "inter-sessional period" promises to be especially busy. So please do not be surprised at my next statement: if the Conference agrees with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Committee's next meeting will be held on Monday, 30 September, at 3 p.m. in room V, so please note that down.