

The CHAIRMAN (translated from Spanish): I thank the representative of the United States for his statement and I now give the floor to the next speaker on my list, the representative of Poland, Ambassador Sujka who, in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons, will introduce the Group's report.

Mr. SUJKA (Poland): Mr. Chairman, first of all, may I be permitted to express my great appreciation of your able and skilful chairmanship and thank you especially for the very efficient way in which you have been guiding our work during the present month. In our close co-operation with you, we welcome every one of your accomplishments as our own achievement. I wish you, therefore, a successful conclusion of the Committee's report on its activities during the present session and offer you our further assistance and support in the fulfilment of this task.

May I also take this opportunity to convey words of appreciation to your predecessor, Ambassador Maina of Kenya, for his contribution as Chairman during the month of August.

I welcome with satisfaction our new colleagues in the Committee, the distinguished representatives of Peru and Yugoslavia.

To those of our colleagues who have recently left Geneva or are shortly going to leave, I should like to bid farewell and wish them the best of luck.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons, I have the honour to introduce today to the Committee on Disarmament the Group's draft report on its activities in 1982. The text of the draft report is contained in document CD/334 and is available, I hope, to all the distinguished delegations in this Committee. By the way, I would like to draw the attention of the Committee to two errors in the report: the first is in paragraph 12, where the words "the next" should be inserted in the first line after the words "It was agreed that"; the second is that paragraph 17 should be deleted and paragraph 18 then becomes paragraph 17. All the report will therefore be reissued for technical reasons.

In view of the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, I prepared a special report to the Committee on Disarmament which is contained in document CD/281/Rev.1, dated 27 April 1982. The report described, inter alia, in chapter III, the state of negotiations in the Working Group at the end of the first part of the Committee's session. Hence, in today's presentation I shall try to confine myself to the second part of the session of the Working Group on Chemical Weapons which, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 23 April 1982, started on 20 July 1982. In this connection, I only wish to recall that at the beginning of the 1982 session the Working Group on Chemical Weapons started its work with a new mandate by which the Committee decided "to establish, for the duration of its 1982 session, an ad hoc working group ... to elaborate such a convention, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives with a view to enabling the Committee to achieve agreement at the earliest date ...".