

(Mr. Friedersdorf, United States)

after the Soviet pronouncement, however, the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, Ambassador Rolf Ekéus, held intense consultations on the subject of challenge inspection. These consultations revealed that, while there was a convergence of views on some procedural aspects of an inspection, not all delegations were able to accept the fundamental concept of the United States proposal. Recognizing this as an area of major disagreement, the members of the conference chose to move on to other, less controversial issues and have not returned for serious re-examination of article IX during the past year. Perhaps it is time for us to do so.

While the members of the Conference on Disarmament contemplated year after year the concept of mandatory, short-notice, on-site inspection, such inspections have become familiar verification measures in the implementation of other international agreements. Close to 20 such inspections have been conducted pursuant to the Stockholm accord. Furthermore, under the INF Treaty, the United States and the Soviet Union are each allowed up to 20 such inspections during each of the Treaty's first three years. Both sides have conducted such inspections during the first year, at a pace that indicates that each side will use most, if not all, of their first-year quotas. While the verification régimes of the Stockholm agreement and the INF Treaty are not identical to that proposed in CD/500, their inspections are mandatory, they are on-site, and they are conducted on short notice.

Moreover, while the members of the Conference on Disarmament contemplated year after year the concept of such inspections, chemical weapons have been used, and possession of those weapons has become more widespread.

In closing, I would repeat the observation made in this chamber last Thursday by the distinguished Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland, Mr. Jaroszek: "Time is not our ally in work on the complete elimination of chemical weapons." We cannot afford to wait another five years to come to grips with this difficult verification issue.

(Mr. Al-Kital, Iraq)

Fourthly, the Final Declaration of the Paris Conference on chemical weapons reflects the importance which the international community attaches to the total elimination of these weapons and the prohibition of their production and use, in the context of the commitment of the participating countries to the strengthening of international peace and security in furtherance of the objectives of the United Nations Charter and progress towards effective measures for disarmament. The Final Declaration also stressed disarmament priorities with reference to the Final Document of the first United Nations special session on disarmament, held in 1978, and the right of all States to peace and security. In accordance with these views Iraq will continue to participate in the work of the committees of the Conference, as an expression of its concern and strong desire to contribute to international efforts to rid the world of all weapons of mass destruction and create a world in which all States enjoy an equal right to peace and security and in which confrontation and the threat of the use of force would be replaced by political dialogue.