

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

disarmament has been accomplished and no chemical weapons as such remain on earth. In those circumstances, it would of course be extremely dangerous if someone should attempt to abuse the trust of other States and use that facility for the secret production and stockpiling of chemical weapons.

The Soviet "Basic provisions" provide for a very wide range of possible actions by States parties to the convention for the purpose of establishing confidence between them on the matter of the implementation of the convention and the monitoring of compliance with the obligations flowing from it, such as: a declaration by States as to whether or not they possess chemical weapons; the declaration of stocks of such weapons and capacities for their production; and of plans for their destruction or diversion to permitted purposes and plans for the destruction and dismantling of facilities, stating the location of the facilities; information concerning progress in carrying out the declared plans with notifications prior to the start of each stage of their implementation and also following the completion of the operations concerned. According to the Soviet provisions, such measures would be carried out by national verification bodies, by national technical means, if they possess such means or, in the case of other States which have an agreement to that effect, on the basis of information received through the use of those means, and lastly by the international verification body with the conduct of on-site inspections on the basis of a documented request as well as of systematic international inspections carried out, for example, on the basis of an agreed quota as I mentioned earlier. Our approach ensures confidence in the implementation of the convention while at the same time it is not burdensome.

In connection with the matter of the verification of the destruction of stocks at a specialized facility, some delegations have put forward proposals, firstly, for permanent on-site inspections (with international inspectors staying at the facility day and night throughout all the years during which stocks are being destroyed), and I believe this was referred to today in a statement, and secondly, for the installation at the facility of so-called "black boxes" which would collect and process information and transmit it by radio telecommunications.

Let us suppose for a moment that such a verification system had been established. There would be inspectors permanently stationed at the facility concerned, who could not leave it even for a second; there would be "black boxes" in every corner, and the people working in the facility would be stumbling over them; but let us suppose that this had been done. It would then be necessary seriously to ponder the question of what would be the results of the most meticulous and thorough verification of the progress of the destruction of stocks at a specialized facility if a State had not made a full declaration of its stocks. Or supposing a State after declaring the stocks that are to be destroyed at a specialized facility, then proceeds to conceal part of the stocks and does not submit them for destruction at the facility, or pretends that it has destroyed them?

Would it not be simpler to assume that, if it has such dishonest intentions, a State will merely fail to declare that part of its stocks which it does not intend to destroy, and no amount of day and night permanent inspection will be of any avail whatsoever.