

(Mr. Beesley, Canada)

The results will be made available not only to the United Nations because Canada's activities in this regard reflect a pragmatic, operationally oriented approach which we consider essential if effectively verifiable agreements are to be concluded. I am not in a position to report on the precise nature of the presentation to be made, but I have no doubt that it will be of interest to every member of the CD. I believe that when we are in a position to report to the Conference in June on the research we have conducted and the practical results which have emerged from it, every member of the CD will find the report of interest and of direct relevance to our own chemical weapons negotiations.

The foregoing comments are intended to illustrate the approach which Canada has tried to follow consistently in the Conference on Disarmament. We have attempted to make concrete contributions through working papers and workshops, in lieu of rhetoric, concentrating on practical problems of verification of the arms control agreement we are together trying to achieve.

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Mr. EKEUS (Sweden): I have asked for the floor in my capacity as the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. In August, the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons will have the task of putting together its yearly report to the Conference, which will then be incorporated in the report of the Conference to the General Assembly of the United Nations. Today I wish to draw the attention of all members of the Conference to document CD/CW/WP.167. This document, entitled "Current stage of the negotiations on a Chemical Weapons Convention", reflects the status of the negotiations on a Convention at the end of the first part of the 1987 session of the CD. It is thus not a report to the Conference or to any outside body. The document will be ready tomorrow in all the working languages of the Conference. The secretariat has informed me that it will distribute copies tomorrow in the document boxes of all delegations.

The aim of this document is to register the progress achieved in the negotiations and to assist delegations in the further elaboration of the Convention when the CD begins the second part of its 1987 session. It does not bind any delegation at this stage, but is intended as a useful tool and as a basis for further negotiations.

It is based upon the report of the Committee to the CD on its work during the period 12-30 January (CD/734), and is in this respect an expression of the idea of a "rolling text", which under different chairmen has proved to be helpful for the work of the Committee.

The "rolling text" as it stood in February has been improved upon in important respects. Modifications have been introduced with regard to some articles as a consequence of new positions taken by delegations. Some important new texts developed during the spring have also been incorporated.