Thirty-fifth session
Agenda item 34

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ronald Listeri KENSMIL (Suriname)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Committee on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fifth session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/72 of 11 December 1979.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1980, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 3rd meeting, on 9 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on the items allocated to it relating to disarmament, namely, items 31 to 49 and item 121. The general debate on these items took place at the 4th to 23rd meetings, from 15 October to 4 November (see A/C.1/35/PV.4-28).

4. In connexion with item 34, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

   (a) Letter dated 22 January 1980 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/71);

   (b) Letter dated 11 February 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/96);

   (c) Letter dated 11 April 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/173);
(d) Letter dated 24 April 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/185);

(e) Letter dated 10 June 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/288);

(f) Note verbale dated 4 September 1980 from the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/430);

(g) Letter dated 17 September 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/462).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.35

5. On 16 November, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Spain, Sweden, Venezuela and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/35/L.35), which was subsequently sponsored also by the European Soviet Socialist Republic, Ecuador, Guinea, Ireland, Mongolia, Niger, Poland, Qatar, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Yemen. The draft resolution was introduced by Norway at the 38th meeting, on 21 November.

6. At its 43rd meeting, on 25 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.35 without a vote (see para. 15, draft resolution A).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.38

7. On 18 November, Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, the European Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, India, the Ivory Coast, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Uruguay submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/35/L.38), which was subsequently sponsored also by Canada, Ethiopia, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, the Niger, Viet Nam and Yemen. The draft resolution was introduced by Poland at the 36th meeting, on 21 November.

8. At its 43rd meeting, on 25 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.38 without a vote (see para. 15, draft resolution B).

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43 and Rev.1 and 2

9. On 18 November, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain and Turkey submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/35/L.43),
which was subsequently revised (A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.1) by the replacement in operative paragraph 5 (b) of the word "samples" by the word "evidence". The revised draft, which was introduced by New Zealand at the 43rd meeting, on 25 November, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, which was signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925 and entered into force on 8 February 1928,

"Noting that the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction have reaffirmed their adherence to the principles and objectives of that Protocol and called upon all States to comply strictly with them,

"Noting that there is at present no established international machinery for investigating reports of activities outlawed by the Protocol and by the rules of customary international law,

"Believing that the continued authority of the Protocol and relevant rules of customary international law require that full and proper attention be given to all reports regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons,

"Noting recent reports alleging that chemical weapons have been used in certain military operations in various regions of the world,

"Noting the difficulty of ascertaining, through generally available information, the facts relating to these reports,

"Convinced of the need to ascertain the facts pertaining to these reports,

"1. Calls upon all States Parties to the 1925 Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous, or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare to reaffirm their determination to fulfil faithfully their obligations under the Protocol:

"2. Calls upon all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Protocol:

"3. Appeals to all States to comply with the principles and objectives of that Protocol.

"4. Decides to carry out an impartial investigation to ascertain the facts pertaining to these reports regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons;

/...
"5. Requests the Secretary-General to carry out this investigation with the assistance of qualified medical and technical experts who shall:

"(a) Seek relevant information from all concerned Governments, international organizations and other sources necessary and

"(b) Collect and examine evidence, including on-site, to the extent relevant to the purposes of the investigation;

"6. Calls upon all States to co-operate in this investigation and to provide any relevant information they may have in their possession regarding such reports:

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on his investigation to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session."

10. On 25 November, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland and Viet Nam submitted amendments (A/C.1/35/L.57) to draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.1, which consisted of the following:

A. In the preambular part of the draft resolution:

1. The third paragraph should read:

"Noting that the Protocol does not provide for the establishment of any machinery for investigating reports about activities prohibited under the Protocol."

2. As a new fourth paragraph insert:

"Deeply concerned over the fact that certain States have recently reported facts of the use on their territories of chemical weapons,"

3. To the existing fourth paragraph add:

"and to their harmful effects, both immediate and long-term, to humans and to the environment of the victim countries and to the military personnel of the belligerent parties."

4. In the existing fifth paragraph, after the word "Noting", insert "the use of chemical weapons in recent wars and"

5. Delete the existing sixth paragraph and as new seventh, eighth and ninth paragraphs insert:

"Expressing profound regret that certain States directly interested in the clarification of reports pertaining to the actual or alleged use of chemical weapons which have submitted appropriate proposals or suggestions in that matter had not been given the opportunity to present their views in the Committee on Disarmament during its session in 1980,"
"Concerned over the fact that a convention on the complete and effective prohibition of chemical weapons and on the destruction of their stockpiles which would fully exclude the danger of their use has not yet been concluded,

"Gravely concerned over the continued research and development programmes in the field of chemical weapons, especially the development of binary and multicomponent weapons whose field deployment could compromise the ongoing effort to prohibit the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and trigger a chemical arms race,"

6. To the existing seventh paragraph add:

"and, in particular, to determine the harmful effects of the use of chemical weapons to human beings and environment,"

B. In the operative part of the draft resolution:

1. In paragraph 1, after the words "bacteriological methods of warfare", delete the existing text and replace it with the following:

"to observe strictly all provisions of the Protocol without any exceptions or exemptions"

2. As new paragraphs 4 and 5 insert:

"4. Believes it necessary for all States, and, in particular, militarily significant States, to refrain from any action which could impede multilateral negotiations on banning chemical weapons;

"5. Urges all States to refrain from the development, production and deployment of new types of chemical munitions, in particular, binary and multicomponent munitions;"

3. Renumber paragraph 4 as paragraph 6 and after the words "to carry out" insert ", with the consent of the countries concerned,.". At the end of the same paragraph add "and to assess the size of the damage caused by the use of chemical weapons to human beings and environment".

4. Renumber paragraph 5 as paragraph 8 and reword it to read:

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to carry out such investigation, taking into account proposals advanced by States victims of the use of chemical weapons;"

5. As new paragraph 8 insert:

"8. Invites the Governments of States where chemical weapons were used to provide the Secretary-General with all relevant information they may have in their possession;"

6. Renumber paragraph 6 as paragraph 9 and add:
"in particular, calls upon the States responsible for such use of chemical weapons to contribute to the healing of the damage caused to human beings and environment."

7. Renumber paragraph 7 as paragraph 10 and replace the words "on his investigation" by "on this matter".

11. At the 45th meeting, on 26 November, New Zealand submitted, on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.1, a new revised draft resolution (A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2) which incorporated parts of the amendments contained in document A/C.1/35/L.57 (see A/C.1/35/PV.45, pp. 18-26). The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, which was signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925 and entered into force on 8 February 1928,

"Noting that the States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction have reaffirmed their adherence to the principles and objectives of that Protocol and called upon all States to comply strictly with them,

"Noting that the Protocol does not provide for the establishment of any machinery for investigating reports about activities prohibited under the Protocol,

"Believing that the continued authority of the Protocol and relevant rules of customary international law require that full and proper attention be given to all reports regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons and to their harmful effects,

"Noting reports alleging that chemical weapons have been used in recent wars and certain military operations in various regions of the world,

"Noting also recent reports from certain States concerning the use of chemical weapons on their territories,

"Noting the difficulty of ascertaining, through generally available information, the facts relating to the alleged use of chemical weapons,

"Expressing profound regret that certain States directly interested in the clarification of reports pertaining to the actual or alleged use of chemical weapons and which have submitted appropriate proposals or suggestions in that matter had not been given the opportunity to present their views in the Committee on Disarmament during its session in 1980,

"Concerned over the fact that a convention on the complete and effective prohibition of chemical weapons and on the destruction of their
stockpiles which would fully preclude the danger of their use, has not yet been concluded,

"Believing it necessary for all States, and in particular militarily significant States, to refrain from any action which could impede multilateral negotiations on banning chemical weapons,

"Convinced of the need to ascertain the facts pertaining to these reports to determine the harmful effects of chemical weapons in these cases,

"1. Calls upon all States parties to the 1925 Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous, or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare to reaffirm their determination to strictly observe all their obligations under the Protocol.

"2. Calls upon all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Protocol.

"3. Appeals to all States to comply with the principles and objectives of that Protocol;

"4. Decides to carry out an impartial investigation to ascertain the facts pertaining to these reports regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons and to assess the extent of the damage caused by the use of chemical weapons;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to carry out such investigation, inter alia, taking into account proposals advanced by the States on whose territories the use of chemical weapons has been reported, with the assistance of qualified medical and technical experts who shall:

"(a) Seek relevant information from all concerned Governments, international organizations and other sources necessary; and

"(b) Collect and examine evidence, including on-site with the consent of the countries concerned, to the extent relevant to the purposes of the investigation.

"6. Invites the Governments of States where chemical weapons were used to provide the Secretary-General with all relevant information they may have in their possession.

"7. Calls upon all States to co-operate in this investigation and to provide any relevant information they may have in their possession regarding such reports.

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on this matter to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session."
Preambulary part

1. Add to paragraph 4 the following:

"both immediate and long-term, to humans and to the environment of the victim countries".

2. Replace the present paragraph 7 with the following:

"Noting also the statements of various international organizations in particular of the International Committee of the Red Cross concerning these reports."

3. Insert after present paragraph 9 the following:

"Gravely concerned over the continued research and development programmes in the field of chemical weapons, especially the development of binary and multicomponent weapons whose field deployment could compromise the ongoing effort to prohibit the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and trigger a chemical arms race."

4. Insert the following new paragraph 11:

"Urging all States to refrain from the development, production and deployment of new types of chemical munitions, in particular, binary and multicomponent munitions."

5. In present paragraph 11 delete the text after the words "to these reports" and replace it with the following: "and in particular, to determine the harmful effects of the use of chemical weapons to human beings and environment of the victim countries".

Operative part

6. In paragraph 1, after the words "bacteriological methods of warfare" delete the existing text and replace it with the following: "to observe strictly all provisions of the Protocol without any exceptions or exemptions."

7. In paragraph 4 after the words "to carry out" insert "with the consent of the countries concerned". At the end of the same paragraph add the following: "to human beings and the environment".

8. Reword the present paragraph 5 to read as follows:

"Requests the Secretary-General to carry out such investigation on the basis of proposals advanced by States victims of the use of chemical weapons."

9. In paragraph 7 after the word "reports" add the following:

"in particular, calls upon the States responsible for such use of chemical weapons to contribute to the healing of the damage caused to human beings and environment".

/...

14. At its 47th and 48th meetings, on 28 November and 1 December, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2 and on the amendments thereto as follows:

(a) At the 47th meeting, paragraphs 1 to 5 of the amendments contained in document A/C.1/35/L.61 (see para. 12 above), which referred to the preambular part of the draft resolution, were adopted by a recorded vote of 34 to 25, with 58 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Benin, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Oman, Poland, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam.

**Against:** Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

**Abstaining:** Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

(b) At the same meeting, paragraphs 6 to 9 of the amendments contained in document A/C.1/35/L.61, which referred to the operative part of the draft resolution, were rejected by a recorded vote of 35 to 30, with 52 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic,
Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Poland, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam.

Against:
Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

(c) At the 4th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution
A/C.1/35/L.43/Rev.2, as amended, by a recorded vote of 62 to 17, with 32 abstentions (see para. 15, draft resolution C). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Zaire.

Abstaining: Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Burma, Congo, Cyprus, Ecuador, Finland, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

15. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2826 (XXVI) of 16 December 1972, in which it commended the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and expressed the hope for the widest possible adherence to that Convention,

Recalling that in paragraph 73 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly the opinion is expressed that all States which have not yet done so should consider adhering to the Convention, 1/

Recalling that the States parties to the Convention met at Geneva from 3 to 21 March 1980 to review the operation of the Convention,

Noting with satisfaction that at the time of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction 81 States had ratified the Convention, 6 States had acceded to the Convention and a further 37 States had signed but had yet to ratify the Convention,

1. Welcomes the final declaration of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, in which the States parties to the Convention, inter alia:

(a) Reaffirmed their strong determination, for the sake of all mankind, to exclude completely the possibility of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins being used as weapons, their strong support for the Convention and their continued dedication to its principles and objectives and their commitment to implement effectively its provisions;

1/ Resolution S-10/2.
(b) Expressed the belief that article I had proved sufficiently comprehensive to have covered recent scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention;

(c) Considered that the flexibility of the provisions concerning consultations and co-operation on any problems which might arise in relation to the objective, or in the application of the provisions of, the Convention enabled interested States parties to use various international procedures which would make it possible to ensure effectively and adequately the implementation of the Convention provisions, taking into account the concern expressed by the Conference participants to this effect; these procedures include, inter alia, the right of any State party subsequently to request that a consultative meeting open to all States parties be convened at expert level and, having noted the concerns and differing views expressed on the adequacy of article V, believed that this question should be further considered at an appropriate time;

(d) Reaffirmed the obligation assumed by the States parties to the Convention to continue negotiations in good faith towards the recognized objectives of an early agreement on complete, effective and adequately verifiable measures for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and for their destruction;

(e) Noted that during the first five years of the operation of the Convention the provisions of articles VI, VII, XI and XIII had not been invoked;

2. Calls upon all signatory States which have not ratified the Convention to do so without delay and upon those States which have not yet signed the Convention to consider doing so at an early date as a significant contribution to international confidence.

B

The General Assembly.


Reaffirming also the necessity of strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of
Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, 2/ and of the adherence by all States to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, 3/

Having considered the report of the Committee on Disarmament, which embodies, inter alia, the report of its Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons, 4/

Taking note of the joint report on the progress in the bilateral negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons, submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to the Committee on Disarmament on 7 July 1980, which regrettably have not yet resulted in the elaboration of a joint initiative,

Considering it necessary that all efforts be exerted for the earliest successful conclusion of the negotiations on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction,

1. Notes with satisfaction the work of the Committee on Disarmament during its session held in 1980 regarding the prohibition of chemical weapons, in particular the work of its Ad Hoc Working Group on that question;

2. Expresses its regret that an agreement on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction has not yet been elaborated;

3. Urges the Committee on Disarmament to continue, as from the beginning of its session to be held in 1981, negotiations on such a multilateral convention as a matter of high priority, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives;

4. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to report on the results of its negotiations to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, which was signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925 and entered into force on 8 February 1928, 2/

3/ Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.
Noting that the States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction 3/ have reaffirmed their adherence to the principles and objectives of that Protocol and called upon all States to comply strictly with them,

Noting that the Protocol does not provide for the establishment of any machinery for investigating reports about activities prohibited under the Protocol,

Believing that the continued authority of the Protocol and relevant rules of customary international law require that full and proper attention be given to all reports regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons and to their harmful effects, both immediate and long-term, to humans and to the environment of the victim countries,

Noting reports alleging that chemical weapons have been used in recent wars and certain military operations in various regions of the world,

Noting recent reports from certain States concerning the use of chemical weapons on their territories,

Noting also the statements of various international organizations, in particular of the International Committee of the Red Cross, concerning these reports,

Expressing profound regret that certain States directly interested in the clarification of reports pertaining to the actual or alleged use of chemical weapons and which have submitted appropriate proposals or suggestions in that matter had not been given the opportunity to present their views in the Committee on Disarmament during its session held in 1980,

Concerned over the fact that a convention on the complete and effective prohibition of chemical weapons and on the destruction of their stockpiles which would fully preclude the danger of their use has not yet been concluded,

Gravely concerned over the continued research and development programmes in the field of chemical weapons, especially the development of binary and multicomponent weapons whose field deployment could compromise the ongoing effort to prohibit the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and trigger a chemical arms race,

Urging all States to refrain from the development, production and deployment of new types of chemical munitions, in particular binary and multicomponent munitions,

Believing it necessary for all States, in particular militarily significant States, to refrain from any action which could impede multilateral negotiations on banning chemical weapons,
Convinced of the need to ascertain the facts pertaining to these reports and, in particular, to determine the harmful effects of the use of chemical weapons to human beings and the environment of the victim countries,

1. Calls upon all States parties to the 1925 Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous, or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare to reaffirm their determination strictly to observe all their obligations under the Protocol;

2. Calls upon all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Protocol;

3. Appeals to all States to comply with the principles and objectives of the Protocol;

4. Decides to carry out an impartial investigation to ascertain the facts pertaining to these reports regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons and to assess the extent of the damage caused by the use of chemical weapons;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to carry out such investigation, inter alia, taking into account proposals advanced by the States on whose territories the use of chemical weapons has been reported, with the assistance of qualified medical and technical experts who shall:

   (a) Seek relevant information from all concerned Governments, international organizations and other sources necessary;

   (b) Collect and examine evidence, including on-site with the consent of the countries concerned, to the extent relevant to the purposes of the investigation;

6. Invites the Governments of States where chemical weapons were used to provide the Secretary-General with all relevant information they may have in their possession;

7. Calls upon all States to co-operate in this investigation and to provide any relevant information they may have in their possession regarding such reports;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on this matter to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.