

(Mr. Dumas, France)

seems to me to be crucial; it must address simultaneously the order of destruction of stocks, non-use as long as stocks continue to exist, assistance and protection, and penalties which could be applied to those holding back the process or evading their obligations.

It goes without saying, obviously, that this question of undiminished security is very closely connected to the nature of the verification régime that I referred to earlier on. Our task - your task - on all these points is immense: drawing the logical conclusions from France's decision to give up all possibilities of producing chemical weapons from the very entry into force of the future convention, we have just withdrawn from the "rolling text" the details of our proposal concerning security stocks. The negotiating text now contains only skeleton provisions which simply remind us of the need to devise a régime that will ensure the security of all when some still have stocks while others no longer have any. We see clearly what should be the essential elements of this future régime: the solution lies in particular in the rejection of any monopoly, even a temporary one; in the asymmetrical destruction of stocks by those who have the most and the others; and in the placing of production and stockpiling facilities under control. If we can reach a rapid understanding on such a régime, if we can supplement it with satisfactory provisions on assistance, if arrangements are made for the application of penalties to any party failing to observe the timetable for destruction, I think that we would have sound arguments to convince anyone who might still be hesitant about becoming party to the convention. It is in this spirit that France adopted the important shift in position you learned of when the President announced at the United Nations that France possesses no chemical weapons and will not produce any once the convention enters into effect.

If disarmament is pursued, there is no reason why France should not draw the consequences. We are resolved that it should be pursued and attain the sought-after result as quickly as possible: this is the purpose of my coming here today, and the meaning of my message to you; it is also the purpose of the effort that we made in convening the Paris Conference; and it is the message I would like to leave with you; it can be concluded, it must be concluded, and this presupposes - as was recognized by the 149 States in Paris - redoubled efforts in order to bring about a satisfactory solution on the five major issues that I have outlined to you.

The considerable work that the Conference on Disarmament has already accomplished, for which I wish to pay you a very special tribute, convinces me that success is within your reach.