

(Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General)

As far as the question of nuclear disarmament is concerned, I feel sure that the Committee will look closely at the various concrete proposals that have been made so far and devise appropriate procedures for a sustained consideration of that question. The other issues on your agenda deserve equally pragmatic handling, notably the negotiations on chemical weapons. The Committee has been conducting an in-depth review of technical issues relating to a chemical weapons ban. The time now seems ripe for political action leading to agreement on this question.

(Mr. Berg, Norway)

Norway recognizes the importance of the progress which was made during the 1982 session of the Committee on Disarmament in the negotiations concerning a multilateral convention on chemical weapons. We are indeed encouraged by recent developments and would like to welcome the new United States initiative announced in this Committee by Vice-President Bush on 4 February. In a statement on the same day, the Norwegian Foreign Minister expressed the hope that this move would provide a new impetus in these negotiations. The document which Ambassador Fields presented on 10 February certainly provides the Committee with a fresh opportunity to intensify the negotiations on such a convention. Given this document, together with the basic provisions which Foreign Minister Gromyko of the USSR introduced during the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, it seems that a sound basis has now been established for real negotiations with a view to concluding a convention containing adequate provisions for on-site inspection. Energetic efforts should now be made to prepare a draft convention at the earliest date, while solving all outstanding issues.

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