

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

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The "Statement on the Issue of a Ban on Chemical Weapons" adopted by the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Warsaw Treaty member States as a separate document emphasized that the allied States regard a speedy completion of the talks on a total and global ban on chemical weapons as one of the principal objectives of their foreign policy. The Statement calls on all States to help create the necessary conditions for a speedy conclusion of a convention on the subject.

The initiatives on chemical weapons put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev in his Statement in Prague on 10 April translated this call into practical action. We hope that these steps by the Soviet Union will contribute to building confidence among the States parties to the CW negotiations and expect other States to join this process.

To ensure decisive progress towards agreement on eliminating the chemical arsenals, it is now particularly necessary that all participants in the negotiations exercise political will, realism and a high sense of responsibility.

The line of action of those countries in America and Western Europe, which, while stating their commitment to chemical disarmament and