

(Mr. Chirila, Romania)

In all the work of the session, the specific topics on which marked headway could be made include, above all, the elaboration of a draft convention on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons. We welcome the measures adopted by the Conference to ensure the requisite continuity and effective conditions of work in the intersessional period for the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons.

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Mr. TONWE (Nigeria): As we approach the end of the 1986 session of the Conference on Disarmament, I would like to make a few remarks in my capacity as Co-ordinator of the Group of Non-Aligned and Neutral States, the Group of 21.

Yesterday, the Conference on Disarmament adopted, thanks to your ingenious guidance, and the co-operation of delegations, several important elements of its report for 1986. Today, we have just adopted the entire report for the year. We may rejoice at what we have achieved, we may lament what we have left undone. It has not been all negative. We have achieved practically nothing in the areas to which the Group of 21 and, it must be said, the United Nations General Assembly, through its various resolutions, attach the greatest priority. We have nevertheless made some progress, which is discernible, for example, towards a chemical weapons convention.

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President: Mr. J. Allan Beesley (Canada)

Assessments of the results differ in any event, if they fell short of our hopes, and even our expectations, none the less there is a widespread view that there were some positive and substantive developments which can be noted. There was also less antagonism, the atmosphere was healthier, and, as a consequence perhaps, there was more business-like work, more in-depth discussions, and greater clarification of basic arms control issues, even on such questions as outer space and a nuclear test ban. There are positive signs even on these last two issues, although not, I am sure, as much as we would all wish. On the unresolved nuclear disarmament issues, deep divergencies remain, but we have at least begun to learn how to structure our work more successfully, which I hope can be further developed when next we meet. There is little, if any, disagreement that we have made significant progress in the negotiations on chemical weapons, and that we must not only maintain but accelerate the intensity and pace of our work. We leave it in good hands, having left a part of the work with our present Chairman, Ambassador Cromartie, and he will pass on the torch, of course, to Ambassador Ekéus.