

(Mr. Raimond, France)

Today, Europe sees its security assured in a very real way by nuclear deterrence. It cannot, therefore, consider any evolution in the opposite direction, which would make conventional and chemical war once again possible and no doubt probable one day, taking into account the asymmetry in the forces involved, as well as geography. There is, then, no purely conventional deterrence which could ensure the security of our continent.

None the less we consider that, as the Prime Minister, Mr. Jacques Chirac, recalled, as long as we are confronted with the overarmament of the two super-Powers at the same time as the imbalance in conventional forces in Europe, our security will lie in nuclear deterrence. My country will therefore never accept that its nuclear forces should be included, directly or indirectly, in negotiations in which it does not intend to participate as long as the conditions it has set have not been met. France, through the voice of the President of the Republic, made known in September 1983 and June 1984 the conditions which would enable it to make its contribution to an effective and verifiable process of nuclear disarmament:

First, that the gap between the nuclear arsenals of the two Great Powers, on the one hand, and that of France, on the other, shall have changed in nature. Second, that the great imbalances existing in conventional arms shall have been corrected and the elimination of the chemical threat become a

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reality. And third, that no new defensive system leading to a destabilization of the present foundations of deterrence and therefore of peace, shall have been brought into use.

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The reason why I have talked at length about the "post-Reykjavik" prospects and nuclear disarmament negotiations is that I know how much attention is being given to these issues by delegations at the Conference. But the Conference equally has its own concerns and tasks, I mean nuclear testing, chemical weapons and space.