

(Mr. Kosin, Yugoslavia)

... Without neglecting any of the issues, in the immediate future we see three priority areas on which our efforts should be focused. I would begin with the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons as a most immediately attainable task. Its accomplishment would give our Conference, and the multilateral negotiations as well, unparalleled impetus. In this domain the Conference is, in many ways, doing a pioneer's job in creating a new model of international co-operation and communication in the scientific, technical, legal, political, economic and, of course, security fields.

As regards the work before us, we believe that the following are the key points. First, international political consensus has been significantly strengthened, together with an explicit pledge regarding the conclusion of a comprehensive convention as soon as possible. This was the outcome of the Conference in Paris, the United Nations resolutions, the ninth summit of the non-aligned countries, the bilateral contacts between the two biggest chemical weapons possessors, the talks with chemical industry representatives in Canberra, etc.

Second, there has been a fundamental rapprochement of views on the relativity of the military efficiency of chemical weapons. We have proof of this in agreements on the destruction of the bulk of the two big Powers' stockpiles, as well as the ever-increasing recognition that the possession of chemical weapons offers only an illusion of security.

Third, we are in the process of a continuous convergence of views on many important technical and political issues, including the essential verification aspects. It may be said that we now have an outline of the structure of the convention, and that even for more important controversial issues we can discern an infrastructure of political convergence.

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