

Mr. BATSANOV: (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian):

... Although the session has just begun, we have already succeeded under your presidency, Sir, in solving a very important issue - the question of participation in the work of the Conference by non-member States. In the view of the Soviet delegation, your efforts and your contribution to the constructive solution of this issue deserve the highest appreciation. At the same time I should like to note that it proved possible to reach a positive solution to the issue of observers, as it is conventionally known, as a result of the flexibility and responsible approach displayed by a large number of members of the Conference. The Soviet delegation attaches due importance to this fact. I think that by adopting a positive decision on the requests submitted by non-member States of the Conference we are not simply helping to foster a favourable climate for the work of the Conference and the working bodies concerned - we are actually doing ourselves a service, because these are negotiations on disarmament, i.e. on the reduction and elimination of armaments which threaten all of us. To a considerable extent this relates to the problem of chemical weapons.

It is no accident that the Paris Conference stressed that all States wishing to contribute to the negotiations should be able to do so. The Soviet delegation has unswervingly supported and continues to support this appeal made by the Paris Conference, which is of fundamental significance in guaranteeing the universality of the future convention, and, to put it bluntly without beating about the bush, in order that none of us should ever become the victim of a chemical attack, that there should be no repetition of the

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