

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

International tension has diminished, and the world has become a quieter and safer place. The "cold war" is on the way out and real prerequisites are being created for humanity to enter a peaceful era in its history. The Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles is being implemented. Prospects are fair for reaching agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on the reduction of strategic offensive arms. The agreement in Vienna on a significant Final Document, along with the mandate for negotiations on conventional armed forces in Europe, are indicators of the effectiveness of the new, realistic approaches to international affairs. There are grounds to expect a successful outcome at the negotiations on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons (I shall be referring to this issue in greater detail later on). There is a shift towards putting an end to regional conflicts. These first real steps in improving the international situation in the field of disarmament have become possible because understanding of the need for a period of peace is gaining momentum and is becoming the dominant trend. To consolidate this sound trend it is necessary to promote all the positive achievements of the past few years, to develop and intensify political dialogue, aiming at the search for solutions to problems rather than confrontation, the exchange of constructive ideas rather than recriminations.

Today's realities are such that this dialogue requires continuing and active participation by all countries and all regions of the world. The internationalization of the dialogue and the negotiating process is necessary to bring harmony to international relations and put them on a more stable basis. To us the above-mentioned ideas are not just abstract notions. The Soviet delegation to the Conference on Disarmament draws its inspiration from these ideas and will continue to do so, both at the negotiations on a chemical weapons ban and in discussing other agenda items.

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... Before I turn to the state of affairs at the negotiations on a chemical weapons ban, I would like to dwell upon the importance the Paris Conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons has for these negotiations. The Paris Conference occupies a prominent place in the 1989 chronicle, which has just begun to be written. This is demonstrated by the number of its participants - 149 - by the record time by world standards required for its organization, and by the preparedness of the world community manifested at the Conference to reach agreement on complex military/political issues. In fact the Conference became a world assembly on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

Without belittling the importance of the other provisions of the Paris Final Act, I would especially point out the call for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on the complete prohibition and destruction of