

(Mr. Dietze, German Democratic Republic)

... We all know how things stand at the moment. We know about the deficiencies. But we are also cognizant of the possibilities that need to be exploited to arrive at constructive solutions regarding the pending contentious issues. Meaningful steps have, in fact, been undertaken to intensify the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons. I share the views on this subject expressed this morning by Ambassador Kosin. In addition, however, we feel that it is now high time to focus more attention on the outstanding essential questions. In this respect, we are thinking in particular of the following: finalizing the provisions on challenge inspections, agreeing on the order of destruction of chemical weapons and chemical weapon production facilities, and reaching understanding on the composition and decision-making of the Executive Council of the future Organization. The German Democratic Republic is prepared to make a distinctive contribution during the summer session.

To ensure the speediest conclusion of the convention, as agreed upon in Paris, let me also refer to the suggestion for a meeting of the Conference at foreign minister level. If it is deemed possible to reach agreement in Vienna within six months or one year, then there is all the more reason to consider that the early conclusion of a chemical weapons convention constitutes a realistic goal.

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19

(Mr. Cámpora, Argentina)

... Despite this picture we have described in general terms, which prompts encouraging and well-founded hopes for world peace for the coming years, we cannot fail to express our concern at the lack of progress in the multilateral framework in which the question of disarmament is being dealt with. For many years there has been no concrete progress within the Conference on Disarmament. We recognize that intensive negotiations are taking place to conclude a convention which will ban chemical weapons once and for all, and we are certainly aware of the technical difficulties which have to be resolved. It is clear that, over and above their undeniable complexity, the technical problems will be overcome in so far as there is a real political will to conclude the convention. Strictly speaking, in sum, only these negotiations in the area of chemical weapons may be noted as a specific prospect in the multilateral field of the United Nations. But within a broader framework, and ominously, we must also note the failure of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, held a year ago at United Nations Headquarters in New York. To retrieve for the United Nations the exercise of competence in the field of disarmament is an aim which should be borne in mind by member States in their immediate actions.