

(Mr. Antyukhin, USSR)

We feel bound to point out that the circumstances which helped to bring the negotiations to the very significant stage they have now reached did not come about by accident. A considerable personal contribution was made here by the distinguished representatives of States who have served as previous chairmen of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. In this connection, I would like to refer in particular to the last Chairman, the Ambassador of Sweden, Ambassador C.-M. Hyltenius, whose pragmatism, openness, intuition and, when necessary, stubbornness, played a substantial role during the 1990 session of the Ad Hoc Committee in the achievement of important results on the basis of which we now have to make the last breakthrough to the signing of the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

I would also like to inform you that the representative of the USSR to the Conference on Disarmament has received instructions from his Government to the effect that, if elected Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, he should actively promote negotiations, devoting special attention to finding solutions on key political issues leading to the completion of work on the multilateral convention.

In conclusion, S.B. Batsanov has asked me to inform the distinguished delegates that with the agreement of the secretariat of the Conference, the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons will be held next Tuesday, 19 February at 3 p.m. in room V.

Mr. HOU (China) (translated from Chinese):

... Under your able guidance, Mr. President, steady new progress has been made in the work of the Conference. In addition to other ad hoc committees, the ad hoc committees on an NTB, chemical weapons and outer space have been re-established today. New decisions have been taken on important agenda items such as nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war. In this connection, I wish to extend our congratulations to you as well as to the Conference. Our felicitations also go to Ambassador Chadha of India, Mr. Batsanov, head of the Soviet delegation, and Ambassador Moritán of Argentina on their appointment as chairmen of the three committees. We are convinced that with their outstanding skills and rich experience, they will guide the committees to new achievements. Here I would like to offer them as well as the officers of the Conference the close co-operation of the Chinese delegation. At the same time I would like to express once again our thanks to Ambassador Donowaki, Ambassador Hyltenius and Ambassador Shannon, the chairmen of the three ad hoc committees in 1990, and their officers, for their outstanding work and contributions.

The principled stands of the Chinese delegation on the nuclear test ban, the cessation of the nuclear arms race, the prevention of nuclear war, chemical weapons and outer space, including our position on the mandate of