

**Conventional  
weapons**

Four-fifths of the \$400 billion spent on weapons each year is spent on so-called conventional weapons. In our opinion, the time has come for an examination of all aspects of the problem of conventional disarmament, including the transfer of arms. We are aware that such transfers are now the object of bilateral talks between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. We assume that these talks will involve, at a later stage, other major suppliers. However, it seems to us that this approach could usefully be complemented by multilateral and regional approaches involving importers. The Committee on Disarmament should give more attention to this subject. The objective would be to achieve the same security at a lower level of armaments and to introduce some qualitative and quantitative restraints on production as well as transfers.

We also hope that the Conference on the Prohibition or Restriction of the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons will be able to complete its task next year by producing meaningful agreements prohibiting or limiting the use of various weapons. Military and security considerations are legitimate, but they must also be weighed against humanitarian concerns. If we cannot prevent war, at the least we can try to limit its effects.

**Regional  
approaches**

The Latin American countries have given the rest of the international community a unique example in the field of regional approaches to disarmament. The Treaty of Tlatelolco has so far established the only nuclear-weapon-free zone in a populated area, and constitutes a rare success. We are particularly pleased by the willingness of all the nuclear-weapons powers to enter into the formal and binding obligations required by Protocols I and II of the treaty. We strongly hope that the few remaining countries of that zone who have not yet done so will ratify the treaty in the near future and waive the conditions for its entry into force for themselves also, so that the objectives of the treaty are completely and universally achieved.

Latin America is also to be commended for its efforts to agree on self-restraints in the field of conventional weapons. If the signatories of the Ayacucho Declaration succeed in their enterprise, they will have once more achieved another "first" in disarmament. I wish to reiterate our full support for this promising undertaking.

Another example of the regional approach is to be found in the confidence-building measures agreed to among the signatories of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. We hope that those measures so far agreed [on] can be extended and that other regions of the world will be able to initiate similar efforts.

**Chemical  
weapons**

The negotiation of a treaty on chemical weapons has been given high priority by this Assembly for many years. Intensive bilateral discussions are going on between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. to produce, as requested, a joint initiative for submission to the Committee on Disarmament. We understand that progress is being made but that it may take some time before the key elements of a treaty can be tabled in the Committee on Disarmament by their two co-sponsors. We should like to express here the strong hope that, when the Committee meets, it will start work on areas where there is already a large measure of agreement, such as the scope of a future treaty, whether

---