

(Mr. Elaraby, Egypt)

The reasons why do not appear anywhere on the records. I must say that my delegation has difficulty in understanding this situation. Therefore, my delegation is raising this question once again for consideration. We hope that you could bring the loose ends together before concluding the 1989 session. It is our genuine hope that the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons will recommence its work in 1990 under a new mandate which would reflect the latest state of will and preparedness.

Mr. CALDERON (Peru) (translated from Spanish):

... I have requested the floor this morning to make a statement on the Canberra Conference on behalf of the Group of 21. I shall read this statement in English because that is the language in which we have worked on the text.

(Continued in English)

"The Group of 21 firmly supports and actively participates in the negotiations under way in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to conclude at the earliest date a multilateral convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction. The Group of 21 strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons and reaffirms its commitment to an early comprehensive ban as the only effective and non-discriminatory solution to the threat posed by chemical weapons. That threat, aggravated by recent developments, cannot be removed by non-proliferation measures but only by the total elimination of chemical weapons.

"The Government-Industry Conference against Chemical Weapons scheduled to take place in Canberra on 18-22 September 1989 must not seek to establish any alternative or parallel approach to the chemical weapons negotiations in the CD. Apprehensions of the Group of 21 about the relevance, objectives and structure of the Canberra Conference need to be clearly understood and addressed so that its outcome does not run counter to the current negotiations in Geneva.

"The Group of 21 is firmly opposed to any restrictive measures which may hamper the development of chemical industry, the transfer of technology and international co-operation for peaceful purposes in this field.

(continued)