

(Mr. O'Sullivan, Australia)

nations of the Pacific because of the operation of the CW destruction facility at Johnston Atoll. Australia supports that facility's operations on the basis that its scope is limited to the destruction of the stockpiles currently there and that its operation continues in a manner which is fully compatible with environmental safety. This is a matter on which the Australian Prime Minister has take a direct interest and to which he is personally deeply committed.

Stepping back from the actual provisions of the "rolling text" and ways to bring these negotiations to an early conclusion Australia believes the threat posed by the spread of chemical weapons is regrettably growing and not just in the Middle East. This concern underlines the urgency of the task before us and gives particular point to our security concerns which can only be met by a multilateral, verifiable, broadly supported convention. I am pleased to advise today that Australia will be an original signatory to such a convention.