

(The President)

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Let me start with the positive. Early in this year's session we managed to re-establish the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, which then immediately resumed its intensive work aimed at the elaboration of a convention on the prohibition and destruction of CW. Further progress has been achieved and there is a practically unanimous view that efforts should continue persistently so that the convention could be finalized as soon as possible, preferably already in 1987. I am confident that the Ad hoc Committee, under the guidance of Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden, will do all in its power to speed up progress towards the convention.

Let me remind you, distinguished delegates, that just a week ago a political body of high importance -- the Committee of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Warsaw Treaty -- launched an appeal to all the participants of our Conference regarding the prohibition of CW. In the separate statement on this subject the ministers called upon all States to refrain from all steps that might complicate the achievement of a mutually acceptable agreement on the prohibition of CW and not to produce any CW, including binary or multi-component CW, not to deploy them in foreign countries and to withdraw them from those foreign countries where they are already present. The ministers expressed the belief that 1987 can and must be the year of the commencement of complete and general chemical disarmament. The statement I referred to reflects interest in the work of this Conference and the importance of our negotiations on the prohibition and elimination of CW.

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(Mr. Hacene, Algeria)

Following the same trend of thought, we think that the future convention would be all the stronger if it promoted international co-operation in the chemical industry, and here we must focus on the importance, in our view, of article II of the draft convention.