

(Mr. Teja, India)

We can almost see the light at the end of the tunnel. In view of the widespread optimism, it would be worthwhile to look at our mandate which stops us short of the final drafting of the CW convention. We hope that the positive developments will enable the Conference to provide the Ad hoc Committee with a mandate which will remove the restrictions to enable the Conference to present to the world community a complete chemical weapons convention.

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Mr. FRIEDERSDORF (United States of America): Mr. President, I feel obligated to respond briefly to my good friend, the distinguished Ambassador from the German Democratic Republic, who laid a major share of the world's problems on the doorstep of the United States this morning. He mentioned the binary production start-up by the United States; he charged the United States with blocking the conclusion of a missile agreement with the Soviet Union because of the Pershings; and he charged that we were blocking a nuclear test ban. These are all old charges, of course, mentioned frequently here in this forum and responded to frequently, but I think I would like to remind my good friend the distinguished Ambassador that with regard to the binary programme, I think he knows that that is a modest response to an overwhelming Soviet build-up in chemical weapons that proceeded for 17 years despite a unilateral United States moratorium initiated in 1969.