

(Mr. Beesley, Canada)

successful, this will be the first time in the history of multilateral arms control that a major disarmament agreement has been concluded that also involves the creation from scratch of an elaborate, permanent new institution to oversee the implementation of such an agreement (we might usefully recall that the International Atomic Energy Agency preceded the conclusion of the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty and that its responsibilities continue to embrace other than arms control questions). Moreover, the implementation of this agreement will necessarily involve an unprecedented degree of intrusiveness into both military and civilian sectors of our societies. We therefore need to proceed with care and deliberation. Several important issues remain unresolved. On the question of challenge inspections, for example, while some considerable progress has been made, we have not yet been able to reach agreement with the required degree of precision. There also remains much detailed work to be done not only on technical questions but also on matters relating to the establishment, operation and governance of the international authority which will be responsible for overseeing the implementing of the convention.

I emphasize these points not for the purpose of inducing pessimism or despair. We have already achieved very much and we should not be daunted by the heavy work-load that remains. It is essential, however that we get it right. No useful purpose can be served, therefore, by the invocation of unrealistic and artificial deadlines. Let us proceed expeditiously, by all means, but let it be with care and deliberation toward the creation of a convention whose authority will be self-reinforcing due to its demonstrable workability and efficacy.

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6

Mr. de la BAUME (France) (translated from French): . . .

When he spoke on 2 July last concerning the negotiations under way on the prohibition of chemical weapons, the representative of the Soviet Union devoted a very substantial part of his statement to a critical scrutiny of the working paper submitted by the French delegation on 16 June last in document CD/757 and entitled "Working paper on the maintenance of a security balance among all the parties to the Convention during the 10-year period of