

(Mr. de Rivero, Peru)

contrary: this thought is designed to bring some symmetry to the approach and strategy of our work. At the same time as we are revitalizing other priority issues, we should make an effort so that within a year at most we can come up with the text of a convention on the total prohibition of chemical weapons.

But, thinking aloud again, if we do not manage to do this, if we do not manage to produce this convention text after excessively focusing our work on chemical weapons, the Conference will be faced with a doubly difficult situation, having succeeded neither in finalizing a convention on chemical weapons nor in revitalizing and making headway in other important aspects of disarmament. How could we face the international community and justify these two consecutive years of concentration on chemical weapons without any results? Let us move ahead on chemical weapons, but let us also tackle other fronts. And here I wish to thank and congratulate Ambassador Morel of France for the way in which he chaired the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. Ambassador Morel has summed up the present status of the negotiations on chemical weapons with a strategic metaphor and a felicitous expression. In his strategic metaphor he says that "the front has moved" and that if the momentum is maintained we can finalize the convention within a year. His felicitous expression tells us that we are "firmly committed". I think that he is right in both aspects, and that the situation being handed on to us by Ambassador Morel, if we can make full use of it, is promising. I certainly believe that my dear colleague Ambassador Hyltenius, to whom we offer our full co-operation, will have a major responsibility to make sure that the front not only moves, but is broken, and that our full commitment leads to our goal.

In order to do this, it seems to me that we must pursue intensive work on the structural and basic aspects of the convention and not get entangled in a great deal of detail, precision and technicalities. Some sort of choice must be made with the elements we have before us, in order to construct the convention as rapidly as possible. Let us not strive to build it in baroque style. Let us make some sort of choice in order to separate what is important from what is secondary and produce an acceptable convention within a year.

In my capacity as Vice Co-ordinator, I should like on behalf of our Group to place on record the following statement on the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. Our Group welcomes the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons and expresses its hope and belief that under the new Chairman, the intensive pace of negotiations towards the early conclusion of the chemical weapons convention will be continued. Once again, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Morel for the consistent and energetic manner in which he steered the work of the Committee last session. We look forward to the mandate for the Ad hoc Committee, we are

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