

(Mr. Dolgu, Romania)

... I would now like to share a few ideas of a general nature with you on the state of disarmament negotiations and the problems therein, as well as on some avenues the Conference might pursue. Present-day international life, in our view, continues to be marked by the existence throughout the world of enormous quantities of nuclear weapons. Their destructive capacity has been only slightly affected by the Soviet-American Treaty on the prohibition of intermediate-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles, and may indeed be enhanced as a result of the modernization of tactical nuclear forces being contemplated by NATO. At the same time, there are substantial stocks of chemical weapons, which are to be supplemented by the production of binary weapons. Nuclear weapons and chemical weapons are an integral part of armament plans and combat tactics in certain countries. All this, together with the maintenance of the nuclear deterrent as the basis for military doctrines, is hardly likely to ensure peace and strengthen security, and stimulates the arms race and maintains the risk of war.

... We would also like to recall that a few years ago, when the idea of a new start in disarmament efforts was being mooted, Romania suggested the idea of a global integrated approach to disarmament. It spoke in favour of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, based on nuclear disarmament and also including measures to eliminate chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as substantial reductions in conventional weapons, troops and military expenditure. We had in mind that in the way people think, as in every day life - in doctrines, in the very conception of defence and armed forces, there was an indissoluble link between the various types of weapons. It took some time for this to be recognized. But although a step is going to be taken in that direction soon in Vienna, much remains to be done. Because the individual, separate, piecemeal approach to various types of weapons still prevails. It is high time to ask a question: is it possible to guarantee peace and independence for peoples and at the same time forge real and equal security for all if we continue to act in isolation to eliminate one or two types of weapons of mass destruction - nuclear weapons and chemical weapons?

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