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(Mr. Chňoupek, Czechoslovakia)

Another important statement made by the Soviet leader in Prague was that the Soviet Union had halted the manufacture of chemical weapons, that it did not have such weapons deployed outside its borders, and that it had started the construction of a special plant for their elimination. In this context I should like to emphasize once again before this forum that we attach particular importance to the question of the prohibition of chemical weapons and their elimination, which is also one of the key priorities in the negotiations of this Conference. I want to underline that its consideration during the recent session of the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Warsaw Treaty Member States in Moscow was marked by the determination to do everything for the elaboration already this year of a relevant international convention. There are realistic prospects at hand for precisely such a solution. To that end, however, we have to seek other necessary steps, particularly in the sphere of reasonable compromise. We already possess the experience we acquired from the steps we took just a year ago in the initiative for the elimination of the industrial base for the manufacture of chemical weapons. We can furthermore point to the proposals of last autumn for the reliable verification of the non-manufacture of chemical weapons in the civilian sector. We may also draw upon the recently submitted proposals concerning the declaration of chemical weapons stockpiles stating their location and relating to important aspects of verification.

Another positive fact in our view is that along with the German Democratic Republic we have been conducting a dialogue with the Federal Republic of Germany on chemical weapons. Making it more vigorous and productive would be a promising contribution to the elimination of the chemical threat both in Central Europe and with a view to the universal prohibition of these weapons.

However, one has to see that the process of their elimination cannot be an automatic one. There still exists the risk of the launching of a new dangerous round of chemical armaments.

One therefore cannot agree to the so-called "dual solution" which in one breath demands the elimination of chemical weapons and, at the same time, the deployment of binary weapons. Nor will the security of Europe benefit from

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the individualistic position hiding behind the theory about the allegedly limited and purely deterrent capacity of chemical weapons. Doubts are raised also by the scheme of a dual inspection régime imposing criteria that are stricter for some countries than for others.

We therefore deemed it necessary to respond to the situation that had been created in a joint appeal by the Committee of Ministers addressed from Moscow to all States as well as to this Conference: Not to take steps that would complicate the conclusion of a Convention. Not to deploy chemical weapons on foreign territory and to remove them from where they have already been deployed. This applies to Europe as well as to all other continents. It would, after all, be neither logical nor acceptable if one hand were working for the optimum solution of the complex problem of verification and the other were preparing the modernization of chemical weapons and yet further complicating such verification.