

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

The only issue which has been the subject of real negotiations is that of chemical weapons. It is of the greatest importance to the international community. Chemical weapons exist; they can be manufactured in numerous countries and, what is more serious, they are used. The experience of this year underlines the urgency of a treaty prohibiting chemical weapons; it underlines the need for international verification measures relating to the various aspects of chemical disarmament and to presumptions of use of chemical weapons.

I would like now to make a rapid assessment of the negotiations over this year and submit some suggestions for the future. But I must first pay tribute to Ambassador Ekéus, who presided over the work with great competence and skill; he never lost heart and his good-humoured patience made it possible to overcome many difficulties. The French delegation has pleasure in expressing to him its congratulations and its gratitude.

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