

(Mrs. Theorin, Sweden)

... This spring we have perhaps a unique opportunity to prove the relevance of the Conference on Disarmament and to demonstrate the potential of multilateral disarmament negotiations. We can do so by achieving concrete results on the items on our agenda. Our achievements can give direction not only to the special session but to multilateral disarmament efforts in years to come.

Two steps would be particularly significant: agreement by the Conference on the outstanding elements of the chemical weapons convention, and a start by the Conference on practical work on all aspects of a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

These would be small steps for us, but could be one giant leap for the cause of disarmament.

Mr. EKEUS (Sweden): Allow me to associate myself with the words of welcome expressed to yourself by Ambassador Theorin, and the thanks to your predecessor, as well as with the words of welcome to our new colleagues.

I regret to be starting my intervention by expressing my condolences to the delegation of the United Kingdom on the death of my predecessor as Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Ian Cromartie. I had the opportunity in early October to visit Ian Cromartie in his apartment in London. During our long conversation Ian Cromartie demonstrated his grasp and insight in the negotiations and his strong belief in our efforts to conclude a complete ban on all chemical weapons.

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