

Mr. KOMATINA (Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations):

... I will now read the message of the Secretary-General addressed to the Conference.

... "In this context, 1989 has begun with an auspicious development. The recent Paris Conference on chemical weapons - and here I wish once again to express my gratitude to the Government of France for hosting that Conference - produced a Final Declaration which clearly affirmed the commitment not to use chemical weapons and unequivocally condemned their use. It addressed a number of subjects relating to the role of the United Nations with respect to the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons. In that connection, I have noted the wish of the participant States for early completion of the work undertaken to strengthen the

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efficiency of existing procedures for investigation of alleged violations. Let me assure you that the Secretariat will do its utmost to implement the relevant parts of the Final Declaration.

"At the opening of the Paris Conference, I appealed to the members of the Conference on Disarmament to quicken the pace of the Geneva negotiations and to conclude as promptly as possible a global convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons which can receive universal support. The Final Declaration of the Paris Conference, together with the resolutions adopted by consensus at the forty-third session of the General Assembly on the subject of chemical weapons, reflect the consensus of the international community on the need to conclude, at the earliest date, a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction. Such an agreement, to be effective, must be of world-wide scope, and consequently it is the responsibility of your Conference to proceed, in the words of the Paris Final Declaration, 'to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues' requiring agreement. I very much hope that this commitment, undertaken at such a high political level, will accelerate the pace of your negotiations.