

Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria):

During recent plenary meetings most of the speakers have paid special - I might even say exceptional - attention to the negotiations on a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. That is quite natural. The end of the summer session is at hand; that calls for an assessment of one more annual session of the Conference, whose work has concentrated to a great degree on the negotiations for a chemical weapons ban. That is why my delegation would like to set out its attitude by dwelling upon some major problems of these negotiations.

As a whole the negotiations have proceeded in a favourable political climate. No one questions the need to finalize the convention as soon as possible. This was made explicitly clear in the statements of all foreign ministers who spoke in the Conference during its spring session. The joint Soviet-United States summit statement in Moscow confirmed "the importance of efforts to address, as a matter of continuing urgency, the unique challenges of a chemical weapons ban and to achieve an effective convention". A wide consensus was reached at the third special session that the elaboration of a convention on a chemical weapons ban is a particularly important and urgent task for the Conference on Disarmament. The Warsaw communiqué of the Political Consultative Committee of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty again pointed out that one of the priority goals in the field of disarmament is to conclude a convention on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons and their destruction.

The urgent character of the task of eliminating for ever a whole category of weapons of mass destruction which were considered almost extinct after the First World War is being reinforced by their use and the danger of their

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