

Mr. FRIEDERSDORF (United States of America):

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Our delegation also bids farewell to our departing colleagues, Ambassadors Dhanapala of Sri Lanka and Tonwe of Nigeria. We wish them every success in their new endeavours. In addition, I want to convey to Ambassador Cromartie, through our friends on the delegation of the United Kingdom, our deep regret at the announcement of his departure from this Conference. Ian Cromartie worked long and hard with the delegations in this Conference to advance our shared objectives. The significant progress recorded in the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons under his able leadership will stand as eloquent testimony to his dedication to the cause of peace. To him and his family we send our heartfelt thanks and best wishes.

Today I would like to devote my statement to the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons. Looking back for a moment, much important and useful work was accomplished during the spring part of the 1987 session under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Rolf Ekéus of Sweden. The Ad hoc Committee developed text on the activities of verification and monitoring of chemical weapons stocks and production facilities. Additional text was developed outlining the makeup and functions of the technical secretariat, preparatory commission and modalities for revision of lists. Work began on elaborating the composition and tasks of an inspectorate. This new material, along with other texts, was appended to the rolling text to serve as the basis for further discussion. The rolling text itself was updated and revised in April to reflect the work in the spring. This valuable, detailed work, and important changes in the positions of some delegations, generated a sense of momentum. The spring part of the session ended with an air of optimism.

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