

(Mr. Stülpnagel, Federal Republic of Germany)

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Secondly, my Government seeks the earliest possible conclusion of a convention on the world-wide prohibition of chemical weapons. The negotiations at our Conference on Disarmament are so far advanced that the outstanding matters of verification should no longer be an obstacle to the final world-wide abolition of this category of weapons. It is encouraging that the final communiqué of the Warsaw Pact summit last week reiterated the view that the negotiations could be completed before the end of this year. We all now hope for further flexibility and purposeful negotiating. In view of the state of these negotiations, this is not the time to introduce new or geographically restricted approaches. It is essential to bear in mind Germany's particularly vulnerable position and the special threat which chemical weapons present to us. We therefore expect our primary interest in such a convention to be respected.