

(Mrs. Theorin, Sweden)

... A lesson to be learned from the military build-up in the region is that the international arms trade has to be limited. International control of all arms trade is urgently called for. All States, both arms exporters and importers, must comply with such control. Another lesson to be learned from the acute menace of chemical warfare is that chemical weapons must be destroyed once and for all and that a total ban on chemical weapons must be concluded urgently. Considerable progress has been made in the past year. However, the political breakthrough continues to elude us. It must come now. The world cannot wait any longer.

Mr. MARIN BOSCH (Mexico) (translated from Spanish):

... During last year the question of a comprehensive nuclear test ban was examined in detail by the international community. Here, it was at last possible to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on this priority item and in the General Assembly there were extensive consultations aimed at merging the two texts that have been adopted year after year. Moreover, at the fourth NPT review conference the item was the subject of intense discussions and over the past two weeks the Moscow Treaty Amendment Conference examined in detail several aspects of the question, including that of the verification of a comprehensive test ban. On the other hand, in 1990 it was not possible to advance substantially towards the conclusion of a convention on the elimination of chemical weapons, notwithstanding continual meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on the matter and the persevering efforts of its Chairman, Ambassador Hyltenius of Sweden.

(Mr. Marín Bosch, Mexico)

... Let us hope that this Conference will at last make the contribution which everyone expects from it. It is not a matter of finding a way to "get through another year", or seeing whether or not we can conclude the convention on the elimination of chemical weapons this year, while we pass the time discussing other items knowing full well that in August we shall not have achieved much. Let us re-establish the ad hoc committees on all our agenda items at once, avoiding an unnecessary waste of time. And let us give clear proof of political will by giving them negotiating mandates. That is why this body was created and that is why we are here.