

(Mr. Friedersdorf, United States)

In this connection, I refer to comments made by officials of the United States just this week. On 28 July, Assistant Secretary of State Redman referred to the recent Security Council resolution, noting that the United States wants the war to end and both parties to facilitate the Secretary-General's efforts to make the resolution work. He added that the United States welcomes steps by both Iran and Iraq to decrease the tension and the level of violence on land, sea and air. The same day, Assistant Secretary of State Murphy told the United States Congress that while the United Nations Secretary-General works to implement the initial resolution urging a cease-fire, the United States will press for a second resolution containing enforcement measures should either party refuse to comply under the first resolution.

The United States opposes the use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war, as well as opposing the war itself. Our position is clearly on the side of peace.

In my previous statements I have tried to clarify the content of our proposal, according to which the elimination of chemical weapons should be achieved by banning the production of chemical weapons. Such an order would be subject to the same conditions as other arms control measures. This approach is based on the fact that the production of chemical weapons is a complex process involving many steps and a large number of people. It is therefore essential to ensure that the production of chemical weapons is completely stopped. In keeping with the principles of the Conference, we would like to express appreciation and thanks for the efforts made by the Chairman of the Conference, Ambassador Evans, and the co-ordinators of the reporting groups. As this very important task of the Conference, all possible efforts should be made to find constructive and mutually acceptable solutions to all unresolved problems. It is our hope that the spirit of the Conference will be maintained in the future convention which is being negotiated. We would like to express our appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Conference.

In formulating our proposal, we proceeded from the main principle of ensuring the security of all States during the entire reconstruction period.