

(Mr. Lowitz, United States)

of the areas in which blanks, or bracketed text, are present. Again, I believe that this should apply at least as much to the crucial issue of verification of compliance with the convention as to other issues.

I want to make one additional point about the chemical weapons agenda item. The United States maintains the view it has held from the outset, that the conclusion and implementation of a comprehensive chemical weapons convention is our primary objective in the field of chemical weapons. We see our bilateral discussions with the Soviet Union on all aspects of a chemical weapons ban as complementary to the multilateral negotiations and in no way intended to supplant them. It is our intention to use these discussions as a means of providing assistance to the task of reaching agreement on a multilateral convention. All of us in this Conference should join together to accelerate our work in the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. We should review the efforts we made last year, follow up on areas where progress was made, and do what we can to eliminate obstructions to further progress.

The problem of the use and dangerous spread of chemical weapons is an item of continuing concern to us and recently has been the subject of considerable press reporting, some of it confused and confusing as concerns the United States view. Achievement of a comprehensive chemical weapons ban is our first priority and the focus of my delegation's efforts in Geneva. Until that agreement becomes a reality, other measures, such as the control of the export of chemicals used in the manufacture of chemical weapons, may be useful. Indeed, a number of States have enacted such measures. However, the United States is opposed to a formal treaty -- as some have suggested -- such as one that would mirror the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We are also opposed to any attempts to hinder legitimate, peaceful, trade and development. Let me repeat: the focus of our efforts is and must remain a comprehensive agreement that eliminates forever the scourge of these terrible weapons.

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(The President)

As announced at the opening of this plenary meeting, we shall now proceed to adopt the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons contained in document CD/651, which has been circulated to the members today. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Conference adopts the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

It was so decided.