

(Mr. Adelman, United States)

In addition, the Soviet Union has violated its obligations under the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and under international law as embodied by the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Thankfully, there have been no confirmed attacks with lethal chemical toxin weapons in Kampuchea, Laos or Afghanistan in 1984. If those kinds of activities have indeed stopped, and we hope they have, that is all to the good and constitutes a testimony to the policy -- practiced here today -- of being forthright in raising arms control violations. The goal is not aimless accusations of another country but stopping such violations. It is a testimony to the outcry of people everywhere that such sentiments can and do stop such unacceptable activities.

This underscores the fact that compliance is not just a bilateral concern. To be serious about arms control is to be serious about compliance.

This Conference is, I know, serious about arms control and thus must be serious about the twin issues of compliance and verification. In this regard, the United States delegation today is introducing the President's message to the Congress of the United States, and his unclassified report on Soviet non-compliance with arms control agreements, as a Conference Document.

It is now clear that provisions of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, which regrettably contains no verification provisions, have been violated at the cost of many lives of innocent peoples in less developed, and non-aligned countries. The United States recognizes that it was one of the States that did not fully appreciate the danger of the lack of adequate compliance provisions. It now sees a need to fashion such provisions.

Negotiations on the issues the Conference deals with must factor in whether the activities to be limited can be effectively verified. Just as we dare not sit by and permit our past efforts to be debased through violations, we likewise need to take the past compliance record fully into account as we seek to formulate new agreements. Each of us must tackle this urgent task. Better still, we can tackle it together.

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