

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 402nd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

As I assume the Presidency for the month of April, I should like to read out a message transmitted to the Conference by the President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Secretary-General of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Dr. Gustav Husák.

CD/PV.402

3

(The President)

(The President)

•••
We deem it especially important to achieve progress on the question of chemical weapons. If an agreement on general and complete prohibition of such weapons and on their elimination was formulated already this year, it would be a practical contribution to the strengthening of mutual trust and an inspiring example proving that multilateral talks on disarmament can produce significant concrete results in the form of real treaties, agreements or conventions.

Guided by our desire to do our utmost to facilitate that process, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic have been actively advocating the establishment of chemical and nuclear-weapon-free zones in central Europe, which would contribute to the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction from that sensitive area. Together with the German Democratic Republic, we have put forward concrete proposals to this end.