

(Mr. Afande, Kenya)

... Delegations in the Conference on Disarmament have informally and formally expressed positive projections that the Conference will be able to finalize a draft chemical weapons convention in its 1987 session and be in a position to present it to the forty-second session of this year's United Nations General Assembly. This optimism can only be manifested if all delegations work towards resolving the outstanding issues hampering the drafting of a chemical weapons convention.

The re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons will indeed hasten the consultations in this very important area. The keen interest of my delegation in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons stems from the conviction that chemical weapons, some of which do not require a sophisticated technological base to produce, and can, indeed, be produced by any country, should for ever be banned from the arsenals of States possessing these horrifying weapons.

My delegation would like to sincerely thank Ambassador Cromartie, the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom, for steering the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons as its Chairman for the 1986 session in a most commendable and satisfying manner. We also take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Ekéus, the distinguished representative of Sweden, on his being appointed as the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for the duration of the 1987 session of the Conference on Disarmament. We have great confidence in his experience and we trust that under his direction the Ad Hoc Committee will be in a position to continue and initiate new approaches to resolve all outstanding problems hampering the conclusion of a draft chemical weapons convention by the end of the 1987 session of the Conference.

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(Mr. Tonwe, Nigeria)

... To further improve the psychological and political environment for nuclear disarmament negotiations, the nuclear-weapon States should be prepared to give a legally binding undertaking not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States which do not possess such weapons. We make this proposal because we realize that some nuclear-weapon States will probably reject out of hand our previous suggestion that all States should renounce the use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances. The Nigerian delegation still cannot understand, having regard to the disastrous consequences of a nuclear war, nuclear winter and all that, that our proposal was rejected by some Powers, which, none the less, implore the Conference to give priority to negotiating a ban on chemical weapons. And yet nuclear weapons are a greater threat to human survival than are chemical weapons; and there is no choice to be made between death by physical annihilation and death by asphyxiation.