

(Mr. Batsanov, USSR)

... Whilst expressing regret at the lack of substantive results on many items on the agenda of the Conference, the delegations of the socialist countries at the same time welcome the further progress that has been achieved in the talks on a chemical weapons ban, although here too we feel that not all our expectations have been realized. The Conference on Disarmament received a strong political impetus from the Paris meeting on chemical weapons, where 149 States called for the conclusion of the convention at the earliest date. The increase in the number of observers in the Ad hoc Committee on CW this year as a result of the call made in the Paris Declaration is a positive development in our view. The creation of an appropriate organizational framework for considering questions relating to the chemical weapons ban at the Conference on Disarmament in the context of the Ad hoc Committee on CW also played a constructive role. Thanks to the able leadership of the Ad hoc Committee by Ambassador Pierre Morel of France, as well as the painstaking efforts made by the chairmen of the working groups, much valuable work was done. This not only covered important technical details which are vital for the convention, but also made it possible to expand the search for political agreement on a number of key problems. In the view of the socialist group, we now have all the requisite elements in the Ad hoc Committee on CW for a breakthrough in the very near future. We call upon all participants in the negotiations to step up their efforts, to display a constructive spirit and show reasonable compromise, and to make maximum use of the inter-sessional period in order that the many years' work on a CW ban should finally be crowned with success at the 1990 session of the Conference. In this connection the members of the group believe that an important role in speeding up work on the convention must be played by confidence-building measures.

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They welcome the continuing process of providing data in accordance with the USSR's draft memorandum of 18 February 1988 and the arrangements proposed by the Federal Republic of Germany, and also take an active part in it. Here, speaking as the representative of the USSR, I would like to inform the members of the Conference that the Soviet Union is finalizing the preparation of data for multilateral exchange along the lines proposed by the Federal Republic of Germany in CD/828, with a view to publication; information on the subject will be submitted to the Conference on Disarmament.