

(Mr. Vidas, Yugoslavia)

submitted to this negotiating forum. Although there are still some issues which need to be further elaborated, we consider that 1984 is the crucial year in which a determined effort should be made to resolve outstanding political issues. If we were to fail this year in initiating the long-awaited drafting process on those elements on which agreement does exist, this would then signify a further, very grave erosion of confidence in the importance of this negotiating forum. And on the contrary, if we are capable of submitting in our report to the United Nations General Assembly the first draft of an even incomplete text of the convention, whose final drafting would continue, this would be, after five years, the first more specific example of accord on a very important agreement in the area of disarmament. Such a development would certainly also have a broader beneficial impact.

Mr. ISSRAELIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian):  
Comrade President, today the Soviet delegation would like to touch upon the question of the prohibition of chemical weapons. The reason for this is that the Conference on Disarmament, having agreed in principle on the revised mandate of the subsidiary body on this subject, will, it is to be hoped, begin without delay a new important stage in the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons. This is unquestionably one of the priority items in the work of the Conference in 1984, and as before we intend to pay it our unabated attention.

The Soviet Union has always resolutely and persistently advocated and continues to advocate the comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons, for their withdrawal from the arsenals of States, and the physical elimination of this type

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