

(Mr. de Rivero, Peru)

... In this connection we will support all the efforts that Ambassador Donowaki of Japan is making in order to arrive at a mandate and establish this ad hoc committee at last. At present the United States/Soviet bilateral negotiations are proceeding on limiting the number and yield of tests. It is possible that protocols on this subject may be signed at the forthcoming June summit to be held in Washington between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev. Moreover, the fourth NPT review conference, which is very closely connected with progress made in limiting and halting nuclear tests, is to begin next August. As we can see, there are a series of bilateral and multilateral negotiations that link up with our Conference through the limitation and cessation of nuclear testing. How, then, can we fail to set up the ad hoc committee? Not to do so would offer the clearest proof that the work of the Conference was out of touch with the realities of international life. This is an issue which has as much priority as that of chemical weapons. To reactivate it is to give the work of the Conference political symmetry; I say political symmetry because the Conference is now focusing the bulk of its work on chemical disarmament, to such an extent that it has been said here that the Conference is in fact becoming a preparatory committee for the chemical weapons convention. This does not in any way mean that we should ease up on the work of the Ad hoc Committee on chemical weapons. Quite the

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