

(Mr. Hyltenius, Sweden)

effective verification system. But it is of utmost importance that the parameters for the dialogue are right, otherwise a potentially useful contribution to the negotiating efforts may be turned into the opposite.

In summary I should like to state that my delegation is encouraged by the progress on some important issues made during the spring, and impressed by the energy and sense of purpose brought to the negotiations by the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee and his Bureau. At the same time, however, it is a matter of concern that so many basic problems are being put aside, and that new initiatives are lacking in some important areas. As has been pointed out on several occasions, time is not on our side. We have kept our promise to redouble our efforts. Let us come back to Geneva in June with the firm determination to resolve the remaining issues.

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(Mr. Kamal, Pakistan)

... Let me turn finally to the subject of chemical weapons, which is exercising us all so deeply these days. The use of chemical weapons in the First World War led to the adoption of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which outlaws the use in war of chemical and bacteriological weapons, but not their development, production, possession or transfer. Thereafter, chemical weapons were perceived to be principally a super-Power problem, and the international community paid scant attention to these agents of warfare. However, with the deterioration in respect for the norms embodied in the Geneva Protocol and the recent use of chemical weapons in some regions of the world with devastating effect, the need for a comprehensive, effectively verifiable and truly global chemical weapons ban has become apparent. This responsibility has been shouldered by the Conference on Disarmament, and we are gratified to observe that negotiations to conclude a chemical weapons convention are proceeding at a speed which is remarkable, but which nevertheless carries the real risk of marginalizing the concerns of developing countries.

Only the early conclusion of and universal adherence to a comprehensive convention, placing a total and verifiable ban on chemical weapons, provides a real solution to the danger posed by such weapons: no ad hoc, stop-gap, partial or discriminatory measures aiming at only selective fragments of this global problem can provide us with an effective solution. Above all, any attempts to divert the negotiations onto a side-track of "non-proliferation" which sanctions the production and possession of chemical weapons by some, while prohibiting them for others, would undermine these negotiations, and would delay the conclusion of a comprehensive convention.

Hopefully, such attempts will not be made, and we will be taking a major step in mankind's quest for general and complete disarmament by concluding a convention outlawing an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. Unfortunately, the entry into force of such a convention would not by itself make chemical weapons vanish. The goal of universal adherence, if realized, will only be achieved gradually and over a considerable length of time. As long as some countries with a chemical weapons capability remain outside the