

Mr. LINEHAM (New Zealand): It gives my delegation considerable pleasure to see you, the representative of Canada, as President of the Conference for this concluding month of the summer session. New Zealand and Canada share much in common, we have traditions of justice and equality and a common desire for peace. We are both members of the Commonwealth, both strongly committed to Western values and both Pacific countries. Although we are from different hemispheres we have the common interest in seeing our Pacific region continue to develop in harmony with prosperity and free from discord.

We are also grateful to the Ambassador of Burma, for the skilful way in which he guided the work of the Conference in the month of July.

The purpose of my intervention today is to reiterate my Government's support for the work of this Conference on chemical weapons.

I do not wish to speak for long. But I do wish to stress that my Government is concerned that the Conference work towards concluding a chemical weapons convention as soon as possible.

New Zealand took the opportunity to address this Conference in the first part of the 1986 session. We expressed the hope that the Conference on Disarmament should be able to make a better rate of progress. We focused on that occasion particularly on its work on a nuclear-test ban treaty.

The New Zealand Government has demonstrated its commitment to disarmament. Its disarmament policies have been based on the primary principle that effective disarmament measures must increase the security of all, not diminish the security of anyone.