

(Mr. Qian, China)

... The United States and the Soviet Union are applying the most sophisticated scientific and technological achievements to the development of space weaponry. This will inevitably extend the current arms race on land, at sea and in the air to a new arena - outer space - thereby adding a new threat to the world peace. It should be stressed, in particular, that many of the justified wishes and demands of the third world and small and medium-sized countries on the question of disarmament have not been given due attention. In the eyes of some big Powers, multilateral disarmament efforts seem to be negligible. More often than not, their significance and role are deliberately underestimated. Consequently, in the multilateral field, including this Conference, progress on a number of important disarmament questions is not satisfactory and in some cases has simply stalled. In recent years there have been obvious attempts to shift the pressure onto the third world by exploiting such issues as conventional disarmament and the prevention of nuclear and CW proliferation.

(Mr. Qian, China)

... China, as a non-chemical-weapon State that has historically suffered immensely from the scourge of chemical weapons, has consistently stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of CW and the early conclusion of a convention to this effect, so that the world will be genuinely free from chemical weapons. This year and the next will be of vital importance to the negotiations for a convention on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons. The United States and the Soviet Union have now indicated their intention to cut their chemical weapons by a big margin. This is a welcome development. In our view the key to the final solution of the problem of chemical weapons lies in the total destruction of existing chemical weapons at the earliest date by the countries possessing the largest chemical arsenals, and moreover in their refraining from producing or developing new types of chemical weapons.

With regard to the verification régime in the future convention on CW, our basic position is that we are in favour of an effective, reasonable and feasible verification régime under the convention, including challenge inspection. In the mean time we maintain that challenge inspection should not go beyond the purposes, objectives and scope of the convention, and that its