

(Mr. Somogyi, Hungary)

... Undoubtedly the viability of multilateral disarmament can best be proved by the speedy elaboration and conclusion of the chemical weapons convention. This appears to be the only issue on which the Conference on Disarmament is conducting substantive negotiations with the well-founded hope that, despite existing political, military, industrial, legal and other problems, the agreement can be concluded soon.

It is an arduous task to summarize the efforts of the past two years as regards the banning of chemical weapons and the destruction of their stockpiles. Work in this area has become increasingly intensive over the years. Last year the Ad hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament dealing with the question of chemical weapons accomplished an unprecedented amount of work, which was also reflected in the inter-sessional meetings of the Committee. Thus, the general desire expressed at the Paris Conference for a redoubling of efforts aimed at concluding the chemical weapons convention has, in the literary sense of the word, been fulfilled. At the same time we cannot ignore the fact that, despite the enormous amount of work accomplished, no agreement has been reached on the key elements of the draft convention.

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