(Mrs. Theorin, Sweden)

. . .

Last year the negotiations in the Committee on Disarmament again confirmed that there exists a broad political consensus on the need to ban the development. production and stockpiling of chemical weapons. The Ad Hoc Working Group was able to make substantial progress on a number of technical and scientific issues relating to a possible convention on a complete ban on chemical weapons. On issues of a more political nature there was some progress with regard to the question of on-site inspection. This matter should be explored further, as the question of verification is one of the greatest problems in the negotiations. It is imperative that all delegations demonstrate the political will that is required in order to ensure such concrete progress that brings us closer to a generally acceptable agreement.

(Mr. Bush, USA)

Let me now turn, Mr. Chairman, to the work directly before this Committee, to which we also attach the highest importance.

The Committee is confronted with numerous important issues. None has a higher priority for the United States than the efforts to ban for ever an entire and different class of weapons from the world's arsenals. As the President has stated, the goal of United States policy is to eliminate the threat of chemical warfare by achieving a complete and verifiable ban of chemical weapons.

The nations of the world have already prohibited the first use of chemical and biological weapons in the Geneva Protocol, and have outlawed the possession of biological and toxin weapons in the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Like most other nations at the table, the United States is a party to these treaties, and, like most others, we are in full compliance with these provisions. Beyond the provisions of these treaties, there is an even broader moral prohibition against the use of these weapons. President Franklin Roosevelt perhaps expressed it best when he said that their use "has been outlawed by the general opinion of civilized mankind".