

Mr. GENSCHER (Germany) (translated from German):

... My visit today occurs during the initial phase of a very important annual session of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. In the next few months we must successfully conclude decade-long efforts to arrive at a global ban on a category of the most horrific weapons of mass destruction. This year we must succeed in finalizing a convention banning chemical weapons. That is an historic responsibility for the member States that here prepare new disarmament and arms control agreements on behalf of the international community.

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(Mr. Genschler, Germany)

... Germany itself has for decades renounced the manufacture and possession of, and access to, nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. But we know that real success can be achieved only through cooperative action by all States, since all of them are jointly concerned. The aim must be to safeguard and strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, whose central pillar is the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

... Mr. President, the central task of the Conference on Disarmament this year is the conclusion of a convention on a global, reliably verifiable ban on chemical weapons. The CD States have set themselves the goal of completing this task at the current session.