

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

•••

One further brief comment in connection with today's statement by Ambassador Friedersdorf, regarding his invitation to me to accompany some experts to a chemical weapon destruction facility in Utah. As I understood him, he stressed that this invitation, this visit is considered as a confidence-building measure. In fact it can certainly only be considered as a confidence-building measure, because if I do go to that facility I'm hardly going to derive anything useful there for the negotiations on banning chemical weapons. In any case our experts say that they have no difficulties with the destruction of chemical weapons. They know how to do it. Consequently, this can hardly be anything other than a confidence-building measure. But I think that there are, in fact, considerably more effective confidence-building measures. As I see it, the main point which undermines confidence at the negotiations on chemical weapons are plans to develop binary weapons. Tell me, why participate in the preparation of a convention to ban and eliminate chemical weapons and at the same time take practical steps to develop a new generation of chemical weapons? Do such steps demonstrate the sincerity of the participants in the negotiations? I think that shelving these plans, these steps, would be a true confidence-building measure.