

Mr. MOREL (France): All delegations have stressed, from the very beginning of this session, how much the recent improvement in the international situation is helping to revive the negotiations on arms control and disarmament. We, of course, share that view. But how can we fail to notice at the same time that there is no reason at all for euphoria? We can see still more clearly in these favourable circumstances that disarmament will not come about by itself. Now that we have got past the stage of breaking the political deadlock, we have entered upon another period which may be, which ought to be, a period of consolidation. If I hesitate, it is because we realize every day that an unceasing effort is required to equip ourselves for future success. This applies to the major negotiations under way in the nuclear, chemical and conventional fields, but also to space, and to the other items on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament.

Nothing can be gained in the field of disarmament without stubborn effort. The international community is too big, the challenges of security are too complex and the progress of technology is too disconcerting for us merely to sit back and say the wind is in our favour. Let me add here that being at present Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, I am made very directly aware of the chances and risks involved in disarmament negotiations. The process of drafting the future convention banning chemical weapons, which I will not discuss today, speaks volumes, more perhaps than might be thought, on the opportunities and difficulties involved in the present situation. The Paris Conference has given an unprecedented boost to our negotiations. But it has not freed us from the difficulties inherent in

(Mr. Morel, France)

this unique exercise, and we realize every day that to "redouble our efforts" is not just an empty phrase or a useful formula, but a practical necessity. In a little over a month I shall be introducing the Committee's report to the Conference, that is to say, the new version of the "rolling text", and at that time I shall have to review all aspects of the chemical negotiations. Today I will just say that the remaining month's work we have to do on the substance is of the greatest importance. I believe all delegations are aware of the fact. They have all in various ways indicated their availability, and the Committee has put itself in a position to make progress. It is now up to each of us to play his part.

... Returning for a moment to the negotiations on a convention banning chemical weapons, I note that without fixing a deadline, the Paris Conference emphasized in its debates, and also in the Final Declaration of 11 January, how essential it was to achieve success within the next few years.

What all this means is that we are faced with an exceptional set of circumstances implying the conclusion within a brief stretch of time of major negotiations in three fields - nuclear, conventional and chemical - and three separate exercises - bilateral, regional and multilateral. The most remarkable thing, perhaps, is that this is not a prearranged plan; this triple