

(The President)

I would be remiss if I failed to recall at least some of the other outstanding issues. The multilateral effort to proscribe chemical weapons has now been going for over a decade. True, we have embarked of late on what appears to be a more substantive debate, leading, as has just been agreed yesterday, to a concrete negotiating process. I have no doubt in my mind that by now we would have had much more to show for our effort had we applied ourselves to the specific task of drafting and putting down the concrete provisions of a future chemical weapons convention.

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(Mr. Jaipal, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General)

"I would like also to make special mention of chemical weapons. The cruel effect of the utilization of chemical weapons was vividly illustrated in the First World War. And the world did something about it. The Geneva Protocol of 1925 gave significant proof that nations can unite in the common interest to prohibit the use of a particular category of weapons. For a number of years negotiations have been conducted on a ban on chemical weapons. Detailed consideration of technical issues has already taken place in the Committee on Disarmament and bilaterally between the Soviet Union and the United States of America. While the complexities involved are substantial, I believe that with a determined effort outstanding political issues can be resolved, thus paving the way for the conclusion of a convention, on which so much useful and promising work has already been accomplished.