

Mr. MOREL (France) (translated from French):

... The purpose of my statement as Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons is to try to give an overall assessment of the work of the Committee, a personal assessment which reflects only the Chairman's view. That was done specifically yesterday, in the Committee, through the introduction of a "statement by the Chairman" which all the delegations are familiar with. Today I would like to try to take a more detached view and consider the main elements of a political nature which may concern the Conference in its plenary meeting. I would like to say on this occasion that I was unable to produce a typewritten text of this statement, for which I would ask all delegations to excuse me. The main points are in the statement that I introduced yesterday in the Committee. It was designed to summarize the work done during the first part of the 1989 session, and it was drawn up in conjunction with the chairmen of the five working groups. It is an informal interim report on the deliberations of the Committee and the working groups, and the aim is to help delegations to do further work in their capitals during the recess on the questions taken up so that they can be settled during the second part of the session. In this statement, then, I will deal with the following three points: first of all a general assessment of the results of the work in the groups, to see how it stands today; next, an overall political evaluation of the state of the negotiations; and finally some comments on working methods.

With regard first of all to the results of the work in the groups, I will begin with Group No. 1, chaired by Mr. Lüdeking, which has undertaken an overall review of the verification machinery under the convention. I consider that sooner or later an integrated approach will have to be arrived at. The Committee in general, and Group No. 1 in particular, are still searching on this central issue, reconnoitring and identifying the key elements in the

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