

(Mr. Semichi, Algeria)

banned by an international convention, it is tempting to agree with the sceptics who feel that the world will never be safe from weapons of mass destruction.

The dominant powers long interpreted multilateral treaties so as to legitimize their preeminence, which was often only that of their weapons. At the same time they refused to admit that the continuation of a race to develop ever more sophisticated arms with ever more "surgical" accuracy was less a reflection of real security or defence needs than of their inability to undertake the necessary conversion of their cumbersome arms industries. The pretext of the cold war no longer being valid, those with direct interests in the military-industrial complexes are now seeking among the upheavals of all sorts shaking the countries of the South elements which might serve as an excuse for their Governments to apply the old policies, either by intervention in the internal disputes of the weaker countries or by maintenance of a frantic rate of renewal of the military technologies that destabilize the balances needed for peace, revive the climate of uncertainty and suspicion and swallow up the funds needed for development. In this respect, my country feels that the excessive arms manufacturing capacity in certain countries and those same countries' propensity systematically to seek military uses for all the fruits of human genius fundamentally discredit their professed commitments to transparency or disarmament. Transparency must not, we feel, be used to distract attention from the need to put an end to the arms race and to undertake the conversion of the tools of arms production.

Mr. GOONETILLEKE (Sri Lanka):

... President Clinton's recent announcement extending the United States moratorium on nuclear testing has generated a worldwide response rekindling the long felt need to commence concrete negotiations of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban regime on a solid footing. This is a welcome sign in the field of disarmament. The Government of Sri Lanka welcomed the United States initiative with enthusiasm. Similarly, Sri Lanka is further encouraged by the announcements made by the Russian Federation and France, which reinforce international endeavours towards nuclear disarmament. My delegation sincerely welcomes similar commitments from the remaining two nuclear Powers, which will no doubt further consolidate the nuclear disarmament initiatives, including the conclusion of a CTB.