

(Mr. Kosin, Yugoslavia)

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The Conference should devise ways to assure continuity in dealing with all issues on its agenda in a substantive manner. A phased approach to a chemical-weapons ban discussed during the course of the 1986 session is an obvious example of the evolution of our activities. Practical approaches to substantial issues should thus, in our view, be given priority over procedural discussions on the mandates of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference, i.e. the ad hoc committees. The negotiating mandates of these bodies stem from the mandate of the Conference itself and cannot be questioned. Briefly, the methods of work should be improved in order to enable successful deliberations at the Conference as a whole. In doing so, the Conference should always keep in mind its principal objective: the reaching of a disarmament agreement. The debate on the negotiating mandates should, as appropriate, be replaced by efforts to intensify the work of the Conference by elaborating concrete programmes of work for the conclusion of agreements or for their drafting. That would help bridge the differences and ensure the convergence of views, enhancing the role of our Conference in international dialogue.

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9

(Mr. Hansen, United States)

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On 5 February, the Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Ambassador Kenneth Adelman, addressed the Conference, conveying a message from President Reagan. In addition to reaffirming our commitment to negotiations on a complete and verifiable ban on chemical weapons, the President stated that the United States is committed to working with the members of this Conference in achieving responsible solutions to the problems of reducing the world's arms. Mr. Adelman discussed the importance of real openness to the success of these efforts.

Three basic themes are contained in the President's message and in the remarks of Mr. Adelman: first, the significance of furthering the negotiations on a chemical-weapons ban; second, finding responsible solutions to the problems of reducing the world's arms; and third, the importance of real openness in achieving progress.

Today, I would like to note that the work of the Chemical Weapons Committee is off to a good start under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Ekéus of Sweden. It is important as well to express appreciation to Ambassador Cromartie of the United Kingdom for his efforts in guiding the work of the Committee during the 1986 session. Ambassador Cromartie also gave impetus to an extended period of inter-sessional work last fall as well as during the January meetings of the Committee. His endeavours and achievements were substantial; we commend him and his delegation.

My delegation has taken note of the important statement made at the 17 February plenary meeting by the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union, Ambassador Nazarkine. We judge it to be an important contribution to the work of the Conference, and will return to issues related to the banning of chemical weapons in a future intervention.