

(Mr. Fortune, New Zealand)

law of the Protocol is that chemical poisons are cruel and barbarous, and that their use in war can never be justified. That Iranian civilians, including women and children, have been subjected to attacks with chemical weapons is a new and abhorrent aspect of recent reports. It is of profound concern to us that the appeals of the Secretary-General have been disregarded, as have the demands of the Security Council that the provisions of the Protocol be strictly respected and observed.

All this reinforces the need for a new convention that will strengthen and extend existing prohibitions against chemical warfare. The New Zealand delegation looks to the CD to give renewed impetus to its negotiations so that a comprehensive chemical weapons convention can be adopted soon.

Just as there is reason for optimism that chemical weapon negotiations can be brought to a conclusion before long, so are there grounds for hope that negotiations towards the elimination of intermediate range missiles from Europe -- perhaps even global elimination -- may be concluded even sooner. If the outstanding issues can be resolved, there will be a very real prospect of a summit later in the year and the signature by President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev of an intermediate range nuclear forces treaty. It goes without saying that this would be warmly welcomed by New Zealand.

(Mr. Meiszter, Hungary)

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This is why we welcome and attribute the greatest importance to the bilateral talks between the USSR and the United States of America on crucial issues of nuclear disarmament and on preventing an arms race in outer space. This is why we attribute equally great importance to the achievement by the Conference on Disarmament of tangible results on any of the items on its agenda. The possibilities are there. While we recognize the weight of the so-far-unresolved problems, a convention on the complete prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons would be within reach given the firm political determination of all parties concerned. A step towards a CTB would be of paramount importance in curbing the nuclear arms race. And finally, there are specific possibilities in the prevention of the arms race in outer space, a subject I would like to dwell on in some detail. But, before turning to the substance of the matter, I would not miss this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to the delegation and, through it, to the Government of Canada for arranging the Workshop in Montreal this May on issues related to outer space.