

(Mr. Omar, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

continual discussion with our allies and others and we intend to press ahead with those discussions in the coming days". Answering questions, the spokesman said: "We certainly would urge all countries to survey their internal situation, inventory their chemical production facilities and make their own judgements that they are not a source for any of these chemicals". The spokesman urged his questioners to focus not on who was giving the Libyans the chemicals but rather on the Libyan leader and on the country that was producing chemical weapons. When he was asked to define what he meant by vigorous efforts to stop the operation, Mr. Fitzwater replied that he was not willing to speculate on specific efforts, but that nothing was ruled out.

Immediately after the White House announcement, the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation issued a statement in Tripoli which denied all these allegations and reaffirmed the full commitment of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to all international instruments and efforts aimed at the prohibition of the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and expressed Libyan readiness to co-operate with any constructive international efforts to that end. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has repeatedly explained to the whole world the nature of the Rabta plant. In its statement issued in document CD/970, Libya invited States and companies throughout the world which were concerned with the production of pharmaceuticals to participate with us in the production of medicines and medical equipment. In fact, Libya took a further step when the General People's Congress, on the conclusion of its sixteenth session on 9 March declared its support for any measures that might be adopted by the international community in regard to the verification and inspection of chemical weapons, provided that those measures were applied to all States. The same statement was also made by our Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York on 8 March.

As you are aware, this is not the first time that the United States Administration has made such allegations against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Likewise, this is not the first time that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has denied these unfounded allegations by the United States Administration. However, the fact remains that these announcements and this intense propaganda campaign raise many questions concerning their nature and their real underlying motives.

I do not wish to prolong my statement. However, in view of our firm position to which I have already referred, I would like to question the reason why Libya has been singled out by the United States. The distinguished representative of the United States of America stated before this Conference, on 27 February 1990, that there are more than 20 States that have or are seeking chemical weapons. The question once again is: Why single out Libya? I would also ask him whether his list includes Israel. If so, could the United States Administration inform the Conference or international public opinion about the types of chemical weapons that Israel possesses or is producing, and whether the United States Administration dare say about Israel what it is alleging about Libya? The same questions can be raised regarding South Africa and its co-operation with Israel in this field. By what right does the United States Administration set itself up as prosecutor and judge