

Mr. RAJAKOWSKI (Finland): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me the floor and may I say first of all how happy I am to address this distinguished Committee today.

Mr. Chairman, in his important intervention before this Committee last Tuesday, the distinguished Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, gave a graphic description of the importance of the disarmament issue and the role of the Committee on Disarmament in multilateral disarmament negotiations. He pointed to the mounting concern among peoples all over the world at the threat of nuclear war and set in very clear terms the rather poor record of negotiations within the United Nations in response to this concern. The Finnish Government very much concurs with his view that efforts should not be spared in using the growing momentum towards agreement in the field of disarmament. It is also our view that negotiations on chemical weapons seem to offer such an opportunity.

Since the views of the Finnish Government were expressed at length in the First Committee of the General Assembly last autumn, I should like in this intervention to make only a few remarks on disarmament negotiations generally. I will then elaborate on certain more specific prospects in the field of chemical weapons.

Despite the virtual lack of progress in most fields, some noteworthy developments are discernible in certain sectors of disarmament. Problems relating to the verification of arms limitation measures command increasing attention.

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