

(Mr. Vajnar, Czechoslovakia)

... Of course, the Conference on Disarmament today is working in substantially different international circumstances from those of its predecessors. Moreover, the international climate has been changing rapidly in recent years. Constructive dialogue, replacing confrontation, has already brought tangible results in the negotiations on disarmament, the easing of tensions and the solution of regional conflicts, as well as co-operation in the humanitarian field. The end of last year and the first weeks of this year were particularly promising in this regard. The Vienna follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe concluded its work, adopting important decisions. A number of member States of the Warsaw Treaty Organization announced their decision to reduce their armed forces and armaments unilaterally and significantly. The Paris Conference issued an unprecedented call for the prohibition and elimination of all chemical weapons at the earliest date.

... The Czechoslovak delegation considers the Conference on Disarmament sufficiently representative to address successfully the priority questions related to nuclear disarmament and the finalization of the chemical weapons convention. Naturally, while specific measures are being discussed and negotiated in this direction, arms must not be moved into outer space. Czechoslovakia does not see the tasks I have just mentioned as noble but distant goals. We are ready to contribute to their achievement through specific steps, including unilateral steps when there is a hope that they will lead to positive developments.

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