(Sir Michael Weston, United Kingdom)

constructive atmosphere of discussions in the NTB Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) this year, and it will be important to build on the work already done. We believe the CD should have a key role in negotiations when they get under way, and we look forward to continuing to work together towards the attainment of our shared goals.

As a post-script, let me take this opportunity to confirm the accuracy, according to our records, of our distinguished Mexican colleague's statement that the United Kingdom has carried out a total of 44 nuclear tests.

Mr. GEHR (Austria).

... I would like to take the opportunity of today's commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the "Treaty banning nuclear-weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and underwater" (PTBT), to place once again on record the long-standing Austrian support for a comprehensive test-ban treaty (CTBT). Allow me also to remind you that on 14 April 1988 the Austrian Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Alois Mock, urged in this very room the conclusion of such an international and legally binding instrument. As to the PTBT itself, its signature by three nuclear Powers on 5 August 1963 was undoubtedly a major achievement on the way to the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time, a goal set by the more than 110 States that have ratified the treaty up to today. It is worth while noting, by the way, that back in the early sixties the PTBT already explicitly acknowledged that test explosions indeed lead to the contamination of man's environment and have therefore to be put an end to.

After 30 years of untiring efforts, we have now good reasons to be optimistic about an early conclusion of a CTBT. The most recent announcements made by the Presidents of the United States of America, the Russian Federation and France to extend the test-ban moratoria of their respective countries have clearly confirmed the trend towards the achievement of a CTBT.