

(Mr. Fischer, German Democratic Republic)

providing for a 50 per cent cut in the strategic offensive weapons of the USSR and the United States, together with adherence to the ABM Treaty. In view of the rate at which science and technology are advancing today, any standstill in disarmament negotiations is bound to add to the arms build-up. As for SDI, it would not only bring no benefit to security, but would further destabilize it.

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Mr. FRIEDERSDORF (United States of America): I have asked for the floor today to commemorate an anniversary - an anniversary our delegation considers of signal importance. It was five years ago today, on 18 April 1984, that the United States introduced CD/500, a draft treaty for a comprehensive chemical weapons ban. We consider this an anniversary important for two reasons. One is that CD/500 introduced what was, at that time, an entirely new concept for overcoming the greatest obstacle in the path to a chemical weapons ban, that obstacle being verification. The concept we introduced on that date was mandatory, short-notice, on-site inspection. But this anniversary also serves as a sombre reminder that five long years have passed without the Conference on Disarmament reaching consensus that such a verification régime is necessary or acceptable.

Our delegation has felt some concern that more tangible results have not been achieved in chemical weapons negotiations thus far during the 1989 session. We returned to Geneva with expectations that significant inroads could be made in resolving the remaining unsettled issues with which we were confronted. I know that other delegations had similar expectations. Indeed, our delegation was concerned that, with the new United States Administration reviewing arms control and disarmament policy, progress in the chemical weapons negotiations might outdistance our delegation's instructions. That has

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