

(The President)

requests, 33 in all, a decision which, in my view, is a good augury for the development of our work. This is particularly the case in our negotiations on chemical weapons, in which all 33 States have been invited to participate. We are all aware of the outstanding contributions made by non-members in previous years and, as our negotiations on that subject intensify, I am sure that we shall continue to benefit from such participation.

... As I have had occasion to point out before, the Conference is a specialist body, engaged in the negotiation of agreements of universal scope. The fact that by now there are, in all, 73 members and non-members taking part in the work of the Conference augurs well for our efforts to achieve universally acceptable agreements. In making this comment, I have in mind of course, first of all, the negotiations on the prohibition of chemical weapons. As I said, our chances for success in the conclusion of a CW convention are better than ever. I said so with reference to external factors. But there is also an internal element of encouragement: the fact that the stewardship over the ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons is in the safe and trusted hands of Ambassador Hyltenius of Sweden and that the three working groups are being coached by such competent leaders as Mr. Lamazière of Brazil, Mr. Meerburg of the Netherlands and Mr. Krutzsch of the German Democratic Republic. I would like to express once more our full confidence in this most dynamic team to which we have entrusted the leadership over the CW negotiations.