

(Mr. Kostov, Bulgaria)

consider that the declaration of the Paris Conference concerning the redoubling of the efforts of the Conference on Disarmament should find adequate expression in the mandate of the Committee on Chemical Weapons. On the other hand, we wish to express our opinion that your efforts, Mr. President, should make it possible to resolve the question of procedure speedily in order not to take up much time on this point and to begin substantive work in the Conference. In that sense we support the statement of the Group of 21 and we hope that speedy consultations will be taken up in order to find a solution to this problem. We also think that the mandate of the Committee on outer space should be improved, and we are looking forward to discussing this question with you, Mr. President.

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Mr. DUMAS (France) (translated from French):

... I asked to take the floor today, at the opening of this new session of the Conference on Disarmament, in order to present to it officially the Final Act of the Paris Conference. You are all already familiar with this document - most of you because you personally took part in drafting it, in Paris. In passing, I wish to thank you very warmly for your support and your contribution, which helped to ensure the success of the international conference. But to bring it here, myself, I felt had a symbolic value: the purpose of my initiative is to encourage you to "convert the try", as sports enthusiasts would say, and to gather within your Ad hoc Committee that is drawing up the convention on the complete banning of chemical weapons, the fruits of the political impetus given to the work in Geneva by 149 countries that met in Paris.

With a month's hindsight, what sort of reading can one give to this document? I would say that it provides a point of reference, as well as a stimulus for your work. First of all, a point of reference. It really establishes firmly the indispensable foundations for your deliberations, by confirming the will of the entire international community to bring the endeavour of chemical disarmament to a successful conclusion. Some people doubted that this collective will still existed. Some said that the use of chemical weapons was commonplace now; others asserted that certain regional circumstances could justify their acquisition. The wager that we made in convening the January Conference was that no country, faced with the shared feelings of all the others, could deny that chemical disarmament was a just cause that it deserved to be pursued for itself to a prompt and successful conclusion. We won this wager, all of us together. The hope that I have