

(Mr. Tindemans, Belgium)

By way of conclusion, I should like to say that it is heartening to see encouraging progress in our work. Permit me, also, to repeat, for the point is essential, that Belgium considers the definitive elimination of chemical weapons to be an urgent priority and will spare no effort to achieve it. To

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that end, it readily endorses the suggestions that have been made for a possible prolongation of the work outside the official sessions of the Conference on Disarmament.

I should like to make a strong appeal for the elimination, through reciprocal political will, of everything that may still impede the conclusion of a convention on chemical weapons. The credibility of the Conference on Disarmament and, beyond that, the credibility of all the efforts in the sphere of disarmament are at stake.

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Mr. FORTUNE (New Zealand):

... It is important that the CD fulfil the expectation of the international community that it will negotiate effective measures of arms control, and also complement and support the steps being taken to this end by the nuclear-weapon States, particularly the super-Powers. Nowhere is the need for urgent and effective action more evident today than in the area of chemical weapons. My delegation is reassured by the progress that has been made this year towards agreement on a treaty prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, but much remains to be done.

The need for such a treaty is not in dispute. It is only two months since the Secretary-General issued the report of his mission of specialists confirming that chemical weapons were continuing to be used in the conflict between Iran and Iraq. As the Secretary-General noted, the unanimous findings of the specialists -- that there has been repeated use of chemical weapons against Iranian forces by Iraqi forces, that civilians in Iran have also been injured by chemical weapons, and that Iraqi military personnel have sustained injuries from chemical warfare agents -- must add new urgency to the grave concern of the international community.

We cannot too strongly condemn this continuing use of chemical weapons and those repeated violations of the Geneva Protocol of 1925. The message and