

Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

... I should like to offer some brief comments on the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. In his statement at the opening of the summer session my Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Waldegrave, reiterated the commitment of the British Government to a comprehensive, global and effectively verifiable ban on chemical weapons, and underlined the need for a clear, practical problem-solving approach to remove the remaining obstacles. He stressed the importance attached by the United Kingdom to the achievement of such a ban as early as possible and the need for our approach to be marked by thoroughness and hard work.

The summer session, like its predecessor, has I think been to a large extent conducted in that spirit. The past year has been one of intense activity in these negotiations. The Paris Declaration urged us to redouble our efforts and we have done so. Our agenda has enabled us to consider the whole range of problems still outstanding. Many of us have conducted trial inspections. During the summer session my own authorities have submitted a report on our two practice challenge inspections of military installations - part of a longer series of challenge trials - and also a report on our civil national trial inspection. The result of all this work has been a good deal of solid progress. New issues have been developed, long-standing ones refined and the structure of the future convention has become clearer. Some of this progress is reflected in the report before us. More of it will, I trust, appear in the report to emerge from the inter-sessionals.

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