

prohibition of chemical weapons and the destruction of all stockpiles of chemical weapons and of the very infrastructure for manufacturing such weapons, and that it has been calling for the process of chemical disarmament to take place under the most stringent international control, including mandatory on-site inspections upon request without the right of refusal. The USSR is in favour of confidence-building and openness in the field of chemical weapons. Our specific proposals for a reciprocal exchange of data on chemical weapons even before the signing of a convention have been submitted to the American side. The Soviet Union has stopped manufacturing chemical weapons and has never used such weapons, or placed them in others' hands or deployed them outside its own borders. In preparation for the conclusion of a convention, work is actively being undertaken in our country to set up facilities for destroying the entire chemical arsenal.

All these facts show that the start of binary chemical weapons manufacture in the United States is nothing less than an attempt to torpedo the process of chemical disarmament and a sign of contempt for the efforts of the States participating within the Conference on Disarmament in the multilateral negotiations on the prohibition of this type of weapon of mass destruction and for the repeated calls by the United Nations General Assembly to accelerate those negotiations. The United States binary weapons programme runs counter to the aspirations of the world's peoples, who are hoping that, after the conclusion of the Treaty between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles, the cause of real disarmament will be advanced on all fronts.

The Soviet Union condemns this action by the United States and believes that it creates a new situation in the field of chemical weapons which may require the adoption of appropriate measures. At the same time, the USSR will continue to do everything in its power to prevent a breakdown of the negotiations in Geneva, an outcome which the United States is promoting by its deeds.

The Soviet Union counts on the understanding and support of all countries that are in favour of ridding mankind of the barbaric phenomenon of chemical weapons.