

(Mr. Dietze, German Democratic Republic)

... It is not presumptuous to express here my expectation that the Conference on Disarmament will conclude its most important work in the course of the next year and will agree on the convention on a global, comprehensive and effectively verifiable prohibition of chemical weapons. It is not only a must, it is also a want on our part. Nobody can relieve us of this task. As has become manifest during this year's disarmament session, this can only be achieved with each other and not without one another, but in no way against each other. Certainly, the prohibition of a whole category of weapons of mass destruction, the complete destruction of chemical weapons and their production facilities is not an easy exercise. However, the time is ripe for it. The idea of convening a Foreign Ministers' meeting on this matter, which is gaining ground, raises well-founded hopes that the last stage of negotiations

(Mr. Dietze, German Democratic Republic)

can be started. In a time of rapid change, in which chances and risks lie closely together, as recent developments show, the speedy conclusion of a CW convention would be a decisive contribution to lasting stability.

Such a Foreign Ministers' meeting - if possible, at the beginning of the 1991 session - could provide the urgently needed political impulse for it. If this meeting is to be of benefit, I am convinced it has to deal with the final negotiating package which contains the still pending essentials of a global CW ban. The meeting should agree on both the mandate and guidelines of negotiation and be in a position to set a date for the conclusion of the negotiations. It could also confirm what has already been agreed and could come to an understanding concerning the date of the final round at Foreign-Minister level.

I know about the concerns, I also know about the prejudice and the existing scepticism. But we have to do it, if we do not want to dash the people's hope of peace and a secure future.