

(Mr. Chnoupek, Czechoslovakia)

We believe - we are convinced - that the establishment of the proposed chemical-weapon-free zone would be a universal beneficial step of indisputable political importance. Both at present, when it might make a contribution to a global solution, and after the conclusion of the Convention, when it might become the prologue to its implementation in our region.

It is our opinion that while pursuing the priority task of elaborating a convention on chemical weapons, the Conference should focus in a much more purposeful fashion on the entire set of problems of nuclear disarmament. This is where the Conference should demonstrate most clearly its ability to be the centre of, and the generator of, the practical internationalization of disarmament negotiations, with the participation of all nuclear States and the whole international community. Thus playing a decisive role in the process of building a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world, as a fundamental pre-condition for the survival and development of civilization.

We consider that in this year's negotiations, important tasks lie ahead in the field of the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests. We are ready to work flexibly and constructively towards the solution of problems relating to the establishment and the mandate of the relevant working body of the Conference. The time is truly ripe for starting substantive consideration of the future treaty, whose basic provisions are on the table. Progress in such talks would be facilitated by the setting up of a special group of scientific experts to prepare without delay practical proposals for a system of verification of the non-conduct of nuclear tests. We believe that the drafting of such an overall agreement within the framework of the Conference, and the full-scale Soviet/United States talks that have opened in accordance with the understanding reached in Washington, will be mutually complementary and lead to the same objective.

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26

(Mrs. Theorin, Sweden)

The important role of the Conference on Disarmament was underlined by the six, as well as the urgency of concluding a convention banning all chemical weapons.

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