

Mr. AZAMBUJA (Brazil):

... This spring session of 1989 begins under very good auspices. On 11 January the Paris Conference of States Parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and other interested States adopted an important Final Declaration, which my delegation expects will give further impetus to the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons and take us nearer a universal and non-discriminatory convention banning forever those terrible means of warfare.

I cannot let pass this opportunity to thank the French Government warmly for the kind hospitality and excellent conference services they provided, which undoubtedly were instrumental in facilitating the outcome of our collective endeavour. Ambassador Pierre Morel must be specially thanked for his untiring efforts in the preparations for the Paris Conference. This augurs well for his chairmanship of the Ad hoc Committee, a nomination that has pleased my delegation not only for very personal reasons, but also for the hopes it brings of a renewed impulse to the chemical negotiations during his tenure.

The Paris Conference helped to heal some of the wounds recent experience in multilateral conferences on matters of disarmament had inflicted on the international community. Consensus was reached, and this is surely something to be hailed. My delegation, however, regrets that consensus seems now possible only in certain specific areas of the disarmament agenda, those that

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