

The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I will now make my closing statement as President of the Conference.

... When I began my term of office as President of the Conference on Disarmament, I highlighted the progress made in the negotiation of the chemical weapons convention. Today, Ambassador Batsanov of the Soviet Union, who is chairing the work of that Committee with great skill, submitted the report on its work, which is a clear reflection of the progress achieved. Mention should be made of the improvements in the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as well as in various relevant articles, through the inclusion of specific provisions on the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons and guarantees with respect to their total destruction, as well as the decision to include various articles in the text of the draft convention. Article X, on assistance and protection against the use of chemical weapons, is particularly important, as well as article XI on economic and technological development. The Ad Hoc Committee will continue to work during the inter-sessional period, so as to give impetus to the negotiations with a view to final agreement on the convention in 1992. I also wish to express our gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for their invitation to visit The Hague. We are giving very serious consideration to the offer of the Government of that country to host the headquarters of the future chemical weapons organization.

