

(Mr. Donowaki, Japan)

... The chemical weapons convention, after so many years' hard work in this forum, is approaching completion, and Japan takes the strong view that this year should indeed become a critical year in settling remaining major substantive issues for negotiation, as was declared at the Canberra Conference last September.

When we reflect upon various factors which may have led us to the present fairly successful outlook, it should be noted that the sound progress of our negotiations owes much to the two successful meetings held to promote a total ban on chemical weapons, in Paris and Canberra. We should also pay due regard to the bold steps taken by the United States and the USSR in declaring their chemical weapons stocks, accepting the principle of on-site intrusive inspections as a means of verification, and, most recently, announcing their readiness to destroy the bulk of their stocks down to equal low levels, pending the adoption of the international convention. An agreement to this effect is expected to be signed at the United States-Soviet summit meeting in June this year.

My delegation also supports the strong appeal made by the United States to all CW-capable States to follow the United States and the USSR in declaring basic data concerning their CW stocks as early as possible, because by so doing in the spirit of more transparency and mutual confidence-building we should be able to better secure the universality and success of the CW convention.

The chemical weapons convention, which might not have been achievable if we still lived in the days of East-West confrontation at its darker stage, may well turn out to be the first significant multilateral convention of the new

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