

(Mr. van Schaik, Netherlands)

I wish to join others who have paid respect to the late Ambassador Ian Cromatie. As a predecessor of the current Chairman of the Chemical Weapons Committee, Rolf Ekéus, Ian Cromatie had a major influence on the negotiations. His personal qualities - his dedication to the work, his feeling for fair play, his good humour - have been adequately described by others, and I can only echo Ambassador Solesby's words concerning how much we would have liked him to witness the successful outcome of the negotiations.

I welcome colleagues who have recently joined the Conference. We look forward to close co-operation with them.

The reason I have taken the floor at this moment is that I wish to thank Ambassador Ekéus and the Swedish delegation for the excellent way in which, in a crucial period, the work on CW has been conducted and stimulated.

We are extremely grateful to Ambassador Ekéus and his staff for the work they have undertaken, for leading us to the point where we now stand. We often praise one another here in this room, and that makes it more difficult to differentiate in our laudatory comments. But I think we all agree that what Rolf Ekéus and his staff have done has been exemplary. We also wish to thank Mr. Nieuwenhuys, Mr. Macedo and Mr. Krutzsch for the good, solid and important work they have done as item co-ordinators in their respective areas.

This morning Ambassador Ekéus has given an interesting overview and evaluation of the situation. It is now up to us members of the Conference to use the building-blocks that have been prepared to continue on the road leading to our common goal, a comprehensive and effectively verifiable ban.

Mr. NAZARKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from the Russian): I would not like to begin with polemics on the first day of the work of the session of the Conference on Disarmament this year, and I shall try not to do so. I am obliged to take the floor because the statement by the Ambassador of the United States, Ambassador M. Friedersdorf, contained several inaccuracies, to put it mildly.

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