

(Mrs. Theorin, Sweden)

... A militarily epochal bilateral super-Power agreement on 50 per cent cuts in strategic nuclear weapons is under way. Likewise, an agreement on significant conventional arms reductions in Europe is expected to materialize this year. The super-Powers are negotiating a bilateral agreement to cut back most of their chemical weapon arsenals, as a step towards a global comprehensive ban on chemical weapons. In addition to negotiated disarmament measures, several countries in both East and West - including the Soviet Union and the United States - are now taking unilateral steps to reduce their military forces and restructure them in more defensive postures. Furthermore, President Bush has just proposed significantly larger conventional forces reductions in Europe than those that had been envisaged in Vienna, while some East European countries are negotiating with the Soviet Union on complete troop withdrawals this year.