

(Mr. Králik, Czechoslovakia)

All these data serve as evidence of Czechoslovakia's interest in finalizing the CWC as soon as possible. More evidence of our real concern for chemical disarmament is provided by the withdrawal of our reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol, announced by Foreign Minister Dienstbier of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic at the forty-fifth United Nations General Assembly.

To illustrate further our efforts in preparation for the CWC, I also wish to inform you of the establishment of a working group for preparatory work on a national committee for the future CWC. We are now in the process of forming this committee, and following its initial activities we shall inform the CD of the practical results.

As far as practical verification is concerned, I would also like to point out that we are willing to invite interested delegations, on a bilateral basis, to visit the facility presented in document CD/1048, and we are able to extend the spectrum of facilities which can be visited at other Czechoslovak establishments dealing with CW-related topics.

My delegation looks forward to and counts on the completion of our CW negotiations as soon as possible, probably this year. The revised "rolling text" provides a unique basis for redoubling our common efforts. The regrettable consequences of the events taking place in the Gulf are pushing us towards the early conclusion of the chemical weapons convention. I would like to assure the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union, Serguei Batsanov, the new Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, of my delegation's full support and co-operation in its further deliberations and in his very important task. At the same time I would like to express appreciation and respect to Ambassador Hyltenius and his colleagues on the Swedish delegation for the excellent work they have done during the last year. In full awareness of the importance of the words of Albert Camus - "La vraie générosité envers l'avenir, consiste à tout donner au présent" - I wish the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons much success in its future activities.

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Mr. O'SULLIVAN (Australia): Mr. President, I am pleased to take the floor for the first time at this Conference under your presidency, in particular because of the friendly ties that have existed for so long between our two countries.

This is a sombre period in which to be assuming duties as Ambassador for Disarmament. But it is also a time when the opportunities and the necessity for disarmament and restraints on arms transfers are more apparent than ever. The war in the Gulf is a tragic reminder that the enormous improvement in the international environment which emerged in 1989 does not necessarily or inevitably lead to greater peace and stability in every region. On the contrary, one of the ironic effects of the ending of the cold war is that in regions outside Europe the security environment may well have become more complex and more difficult to calculate. The emerging world, one commentator