

(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

I also wish to clarify that the document has been submitted in a constructive spirit not only with a view to presenting our preferences on the various issues involved in fact-finding but also to stimulating discussion on this important question.

(Mr. Renton, United Kingdom)

Our goal in the negotiations on chemical weapons -- a global and verifiable ban on their development, production or stockpiling -- is ambitious. It will be a new milestone in arms control agreements. We therefore regard our present task as immensely important. Many delegations -- among them, I am glad to say, that of the United Kingdom -- have put forward detailed ideas and concepts designed to contribute to a solution. All delegations are agreed on the goal of a complete ban on chemical weapons which is set out in the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee. As a result of the painstaking efforts of this Committee over the last four years, we may now be better placed to resolve the outstanding problems. In particular, there is general agreement on the basic framework of the Convention and on a considerable amount of substantive language for its content.

We welcome the joint commitment by President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev that they will accelerate efforts to conclude an effective and verifiable international convention on this matter. We can all surely take heart from