

(Mr. Ekeus, Sweden)

Furthermore it

"takes note with satisfaction of the work of the Conference on Disarmament during its 1987 session regarding the prohibition of chemical weapons and in particular appreciates the progress in the work of its Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons on that question and the tangible results recorded in its report", and

"expresses again none the less its regret and concern that notwithstanding the progress made in 1987, a convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons and on their destruction has not yet been elaborated."

Finally, the General Assembly

"urges again the Conference on Disarmament, as a matter of high priority, to intensify, during its 1988 session the negotiations on such a convention and to reinforce further its efforts by, inter alia, increasing the time during the year that it devotes to such negotiations, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives, with a view to the final elaboration of a convention at the earliest possible date, and to re-establish its Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for this purpose with the mandate to be agreed upon by the Conference at the beginning of its 1988 session".

I took the liberty of quoting at length because I think this resolution is an expression of a shared sense of urgency created by concern that the risks of chemical warfare are increasing. The international community expects us to live up to the responsibility assumed and to bring the negotiations conscientiously to a successful conclusion without delay.

The consensus resolution is also an expression of universal support for the draft Convention embodied in the "rolling text" and for our remaining work. The complete and effective prohibition of all chemical weapons is clearly a matter for all States. The truly multilateral character of the future Convention is at the same time the very prerequisite for the prohibition to become comprehensive, complete and effective. The report which I am submitting to the Conference today, on behalf of the entire Committee, goes a long way in achieving just that.

In handing over the task of carrying the work further to the incoming Chairman of the Committee, I wish to pledge to him my full support and that of my delegation.