

(Mr. Calderón, Peru)

As stated repeatedly by the Group of 21, the goal of concluding a comprehensive convention compels the Conference on Disarmament to seek a total ban on the use of chemical weapons so as to free the world from the scourge of these weapons of mass destruction. The Group would like to emphasize the importance it attaches to all aspects of the mandate, and expresses its willingness to ensure the prompt resumption of the important work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons.

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Mr. von WAGNER (Germany):

... We have listened very carefully to the declaration just read out by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of 21. As co-ordinator for chemical weapons of the Western Group, on behalf of Western delegations, may I express the opinion of Western delegations that we agree completely with the declaration of the Group of 21 as far as it pronounces the need for the early establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee for Chemical Weapons? We have, at an early date of the new round of negotiations of the Conference on Disarmament, pointed to the fact that Western delegations are prepared to re-establish that Committee without any delay, and in order to be able to do so, we have said that the best way to do it is on the basis of the mandate which we had last year. That this mandate is sufficient is proven by the "rolling text" which has been elaborated during the past years on this and similar mandates, and which now contains more than 200 pages, most of them consensus language. So, as it was sufficient to establish that kind of consensus and that text, there is no reason to believe that it would not be sufficient to continue this very valuable task during the coming year. On that ground, we urge the Conference on Disarmament to agree as early as possible on the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons.

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Mr. LEDOGAR (United States of America): I would like to mention that we have with us today, as a guest of my delegation, Congressman Wayne Owens, a member of the United States House of Representatives, from the State of Utah. Congressman Owens is one of four Congressmen appointed by the Speaker of the House, Mr. Thomas Foley, as a special observer for the chemical weapons negotiations. He is in Geneva to familiarize himself with the CW negotiations.