

(Mr. Omar, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya expressed its overall views on the question of disarmament in the statement delivered by the Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation before the Paris Conference in January 1989. He said:

"Complete and comprehensive disarmament under effective international control is the ultimate aim which the peoples of the world are pursuing. All States, and particularly those which possess nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, have the obligation to strive resolutely and diligently to achieve this objective while totally respecting the purposes and principles expressed in the Charter of the United Nations, in accordance with the priorities defined in the Final Document of the tenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament, namely the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons and conventional weapons".

This comprehensive view, which is shared by many States, stems from a full awareness of the appalling dangers facing our planet as a result of the production, stockpiling and possible use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. In fact, the scenes of mass destruction caused by atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan still haunt the minds of present-day generations. Thousands of persons are still suffering from their painful and lethal effects. Moreover, we are still suffering directly from the scourge of two world wars and their residual legacy in the shape of minefields laid by belligerent armies in our territory. My country was the first in the African continent and in the world as a whole to fall victim to the use of chemical weapons after the First World War. It is a proven historical fact that, on 31 July 1930, the Fascist colonial forces dropped 24 mustard gas bombs, weighing 21 kilograms each, over the peaceful oasis of Tazirbou in central Libya, thereby causing considerable loss of life among men, women and children.

My country has given practical expression to its awareness of this danger through its endeavours, within the international community and the United Nations system, to ensure the adoption of measures to speed up the process of comprehensive disarmament, to consolidate and maintain international peace and security. As part of these endeavours, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has acceded to the following international instruments: the partial test-ban Treaty, the outer space Treaty, the Geneva Protocol for the prohibition of the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. Moreover, my country has worked for the conclusion, within IAEA, of a convention on the inspection of nuclear installations for peaceful purposes.

My country has followed with great interest the progress of negotiations on arms control and disarmament and is happy to note that these negotiations are being conducted actively at all bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. In the statement issued by the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation on 13 February 1990,