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If nuclear arms exterminate mankind and his civilization, chemical weapons torture him alive or kill him by torture. The international community is so impressed by the bitter experience of some nations who have fallen victim to this dreadful weapon that this item has long been included in the agenda. But the progress made in this field has, due to the obstacles created by the Superpowers, not been rapid enough to halt or at least to reduce the all too long use of the existing arsenals of chemical weapons and put an end to the production of these horrible weapons. And now the world is faced with such a situation that international merchants of death and their sinister clients feel no restriction in the sale and use of such weapons.

Unfortunately, today, the only use made of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 on the prohibition of the use of chemical and biological weapons and the 1972 Convention on the prohibition of production and stockpiling of biological weapons is the references made to them in statements of the representatives of various countries in international gatherings. These statements, when delivered by the representatives of countries themselves busily engaged in chemical weapons production, turn into a tiresome farce, which has now for many long years repeated itself in international gatherings on disarmament, and especially in this very place.

According to the reports presented to the Pugwash Conference held in Geneva last February, in the course of the year 1982, chemical and biological weapons were used in at least 13 different countries of the world. This bitter reality was being experienced by tyrannized peoples of the Third World at the same time as the Ad Hoc Working Group on Chemical Weapons was driving a hard bargain with the major producers of these weapons on the wording of some paragraphs of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Will such pitiful scenes not push any neutral observer to arrive at this conclusion: that the international fora are getting more and more distant from the realities and needs of the international community? At a time when arms producers do not pay the least attention to existing international agreements, and even create obstacles for the adoption of new agreements and regulations beneficial to the international community, the destiny of which, if they were ever adopted, would not be any different from the preceding ones, does the Third World not have the right to feel pessimistic about the negotiations conducted between the wolf and the sheep?

You have probably heard this exchange between the Superpowers. One Superpower declares that "the production of binary weapons is essential for our national interests". The other Superpower responds, "Our armed forces will certainly produce a counter-weapon for any weapon, including binary weapons".

If the inventors of the binary chemical weapon expect us to congratulate them on this achievement in the field of manslaughter technology, we should only be grateful to them for having so openly demonstrated their anti-human intentions.