

(Mr. Morel, France)

entails, for us here in Geneva, and for our Governments, and to do so in a very political sense, not to say a moral sense. It is time to say, with Blaise Pascal, "Nous sommes engagés" - we are firmly committed to a difficult task.

It remains for me to thank all the delegations for their stimulating contributions throughout this session, their striking readiness to co-operate, and their encouragement, which has been of great assistance to me. More particularly I should like to thank the delegations in the extended bureau, especially those of the co-ordinators, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Poland, who were my daily partners. My gratitude goes to the five Group Chairmen, Rüdiger Lüdeking, Mohammed Gomaa, Rakesh Sood, Johan Molander and Walter Krutzsch, who have become true companions and friends, as well as Dr. Rautio. I also publicly thank the secretariat of the Ad hoc Committee, Mr. Abdelkader Bensmail, Secretary of the Committee, Ms. Agnès Marcaillou, Mr. Michael Cassandra and Ms. Cheryl Darby, thanks to whom the convention takes shape each day, and I also pay tribute to their exemplary devotion. This is also true of the interpreters, the translators and the conference officers. Lastly, may I be permitted to express my gratitude to the French delegation as a whole - Olivier de la Baume, Pierre Canonne, Michel Pouchepadas, Marie-Thérèse Desbois and Malika Cheniti? All that we have done here in the Palais and the Villa des Ormeaux, we have done together in a true team spirit, without which nothing is possible.

The time has come to extend my warm wishes for success to the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee for this session, Ambassador Hyltenius. These wishes may be expressed in a few words which speak for themselves: continuity, experience, competence, rigour, ambition. The fate of our convention is in good hands.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for introducing the report of the Ad hoc Committee, as well as for the kind words he addressed to the Chair. I wish to express to Ambassador Morel our deep appreciation for the outstanding manner in which he has discharged his responsibilities as Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, "une expérience passionnante" in his own words. His diplomatic skill, experience and dedication have considerably advanced the work of that subsidiary body, and I wish also to extend our congratulations to him for the progress achieved since he was appointed Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee.