

(Mr. Evans, Australia)

outstanding diplomat, Ambassador von Wagner, who will have the heaviest responsibility of all if we are to conclude a convention over the coming months. Australia places trust in the German Ambassador and we look forward to working very closely with him. We in Australia have been developing, and very actively pursuing in recent weeks, some ideas which we believe will help us to conclude the convention rapidly. But we are acutely conscious that it will not be possible to carry those ideas forward without inspired leadership from Ambassador von Wagner, and indeed without inspired support from all of you for his efforts.

Let me preface my description of our text by making clear what it is not. Australia has not sought to establish an alternative or parallel negotiating process to that which you in Geneva have pursued, and over which you have laboured so diligently and for so long. And our text does not seek to be in any way an alternative to, or substitute for, the remarkable achievement which the "rolling text" represents. The production of a model compromise text was begun as an exercise for ourselves - designed to test amongst Australian officials the validity of the claim that a convention, which we want very much for our own national security reasons, was indeed within our grasp. Was it really close enough to conclusion to justify a major diplomatic effort to help close the remaining gaps? We did not begin our exercise, nor have we pursued it since, for the sake of headline-grabbing. We have not been trying to raise our international profile or to enhance our stature - just making hard-headed judgements about our national self-interest.

A great deal of effort did eventually go into our drafting exercise - and I want here to acknowledge the skill and stamina of my own team of officials who have worked immensely long and hard on this issue, in Canberra and around the world - visiting some 33 CD capitals in the process in recent weeks - over the last few weeks and months. But the result of that effort was to prove, at least to our own satisfaction, that a convention really is within the world's grasp. I now believe strongly that if the international community is able to make the same relatively small leaps of imagination that we have done, and to grapple in the same spirit of compromise with the few remaining unresolved issues, then we can indeed have an instrument which will materially and significantly contribute to the security of us all. And we can have that convention soon.

A great deal of our text, Mr. President, should be very familiar to you and the other ambassadors here. Fully 80 per cent of it is drawn directly and unambiguously from agreed language in the "rolling text". Moreover, no part of the "rolling text" - save in cases of redundancy or repetition - has been omitted from our text. The previous achievements of the CD are all represented in our work: nothing that has been so far agreed (recognizing of course that in negotiations of this kind nothing is finally agreed until everything is agreed) has been altered or subtracted in the text before you.

So our text is not an alternative to the "rolling text". Our text is no more, and no less, than an accelerated refinement of the "rolling text". Eighty per cent of it is an embodiment, in treaty format, of all the achievements of the CD to date. The remaining 20 per cent is our response to