

(Mr. Lowitz, United States)

The threats to international security posed by nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons today are real and they are large. The future is no less challenging for us than the past was for our predecessors. And so we keep trying, we keep searching for the peaceful solutions, for the steps to more stable ground. The United States has made far-reaching proposals to reduce and eliminate nuclear arsenals, both strategic and intermediate range. It has initiated a search for defensive technologies that would protect rather than threaten. Together with the Soviet Union it agreed in January 1985 to the present nuclear and space talks. My delegation is encouraged by recent developments affecting these negotiations. For the first time, as President Reagan stated on 29 July, "We are not only pointed in the right direction -- toward reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons -- we have begun to move down that road".

In the Conference on Disarmament and bilaterally with the Soviet Union, United States efforts to conclude a chemical weapons ban have intensified. In Stockholm and Vienna, negotiations respecting conventional weapons continue.

The United States is not satisfied with the present, any more than any other concerned State. It recognizes the slow pace of progress, and it regrets negative developments such as non-compliance with existing agreements, and, most recently, the rejection by the Soviet Union of President Reagan's call for establishing an interim framework of truly mutual restraint pending conclusion of a verifiable agreement on deep and equitable reductions in offensive nuclear arms.

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(Mr. Sutowardoyo, Indonesia)

Item 4, Chemical Weapons, is the one item in which most progress has been made, even though by common standards it has been slow. My delegation feels encouraged by the more truly businesslike exchanges which have characterized the discussions in the Ad Hoc Committee as well as in the Working Groups this year, enabling real, substantive work to be done.

Ambassador Cromartie of the United Kingdom as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee and the Chairmen of the three Working Groups should be commended for their excellent work and exemplary dedication. The important and valuable results which have been achieved through painstaking work under their guidance should be given due recognition.

We are also grateful to the Netherlands Government for organizing the workshop on verification of non-production of chemical weapons in Holland last June, which has been very instructive and useful and, I might as well say, has helped to advance our work on this important question. I should like to make use of this opportunity to express my Government's appreciation to the Dutch Government for having taken the much-needed initiative.

Some major issues still need to be resolved to justify optimism at this stage about the prospect of an early conclusion of our work on chemical weapons. Indeed the questions which remain are of a nature which might daunt