

(Mr. Nazarkin, USSR)

Warsaw Treaty States regarding the prohibition of chemical weapons is well known. Let me just recall the communiqué on the Session of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty States held in Berlin on 28 and 29 May this year:

"The States participating in the session favour the earliest possible elimination of chemical weapons. They reiterate their preparedness to complete the preparation of an international convention banning chemical weapons and providing for the destruction of the stockpiles of such weapons and the industrial basis for their production by the end of this year."

During the summer session of the Conference the Soviet delegation intends to work resolutely for accelerated progress towards this goal.

At the plenary meetings of the Conference many representatives have also emphasized the need to speed up the preparation of a chemical weapons convention. We note with satisfaction the desire of Norway to do its utmost to contribute to the multilateral negotiations on the chemical weapons convention, which was expressed by Director-General for Security and Disarmament Affairs in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bjørn Kristvik, in his statement on 30 June this year.

The Soviet delegation shares the view expressed early last month by the representative of Sweden, Mrs. M.B. Theorin, that the progress already made in the negotiations shows that a convention is within reach and that compromises will now have to be made and difficult decisions taken. We have studied with interest the analysis of the situation at the negotiations contained in the statement by the distinguished representative of Pakistan, Ambassador Ahmad, on 16 June, as well as his ideas and assessments on specific aspects of the convention which is being drafted. Neither did we ignore the statement by the NATO member States at the June 1987 session of the NATO Council to the effect that those countries are determined to reach in the very near future an agreement on a comprehensive, global, and effectively verifiable treaty providing for a complete destruction of the existing arsenals within agreed time limits and the prevention of continued production of these weapons. We hope that this stated determination will be translated here, at the Conference, into concrete deeds, into real policies, into a search for compromises, into agreements.

It was with particular interest, therefore, that we learned several days ago that the newly appointed head of the United States delegation would address the Conference on 30 June. We expected Ambassador Freidersdorf to outline the United States' attitude towards what is taking place at the chemical weapons negotiations, and to make his own contribution to their successful advancement. I will not conceal the fact that we were a little bit puzzled by his words that the United States was seeking "equitable arms control agreements in the areas of nuclear testing, chemical weapons and conventional forces". Puzzled, because the issue of banning chemical weapons has been put on the same footing as the problem of nuclear testing, towards