(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherlands)

As you all know, the Netherlands, as a member of the Conference on Disarmament, has, from the beginning, actively participated in the chemical weapons negotiations. Numerous contributions have been made in the form of technical and other working papers and in the form of chairmanship of working groups. CW research in the Netherlands has been geared towards the achievement of the convention. We were the first to organize a trial inspection in 1986, followed by an international workshop.

We sincerely hope that members of the Conference will take all these elements into account when deciding on the seat of the future Organization.

Mr. REESE (Australia):

... In making a farewell statement to the Conference on Disarmament I am conscious that my time here has been short. Nevertheless, I have experienced two years of intensive negotiations in the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons aimed at completing the chemical weapons convention. In the second of these two years my delegation co-ordinated the Western Group in the negotiations.

The energy put into negotiations following the Paris Conference in 1989 resulted in progress being made on many parts of the convention. This should have brought us closer to the completion of the convention. Yet I leave Geneva concerned that this summer we are still some distance from the conclusion of the convention and that there is apprehension that the negotiations are faltering.

We have made valuable progress this year in areas of importance to the convention, such as the main legal aspects, the order of destruction of chemical weapons and a number of technical aspects.

At the beginning of this year, however, we were all aware that progress needed to be made on the central issue of the convention - verification. At the end of this session any assessment would have to conclude that we have failed in this objective. We have failed because of the time it has taken some delegations to put their policies forward and because the differences in approach to the issue are still too wide to bridge. Related to the

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